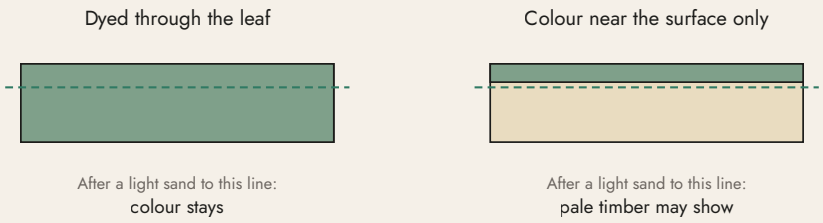
Dyed veneer: *lightfastness* and colour matching

Dyed veneer: ask how deep the dye goes, ask for a lightfastness result with its method, and match every lot to a signed sample.

AT A GLANCE

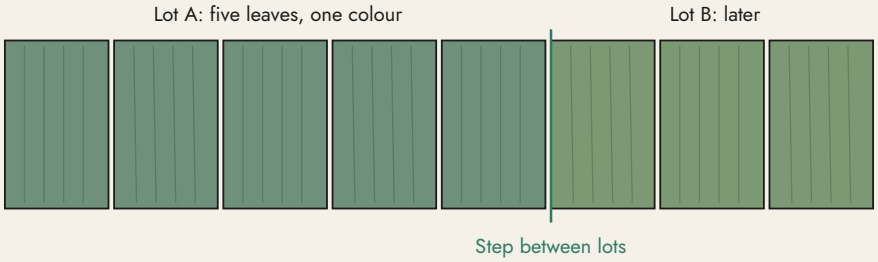
Type	What it is	Light and matching	Where it suits
Natural veneer, finished	Sliced leaf of one species	Colour changes with light and age; the change is normal and varies by species (general knowledge, not tested here)	Match to a sample; do not expect it to stay put
Dyed natural veneer	Real leaves of one species, colour changed by dye	Each leaf keeps its own figure, so matching is by leaf; fastness depends on dye and process, ask for data	Colours not found in nature; accept leaf variation
Reconstituted (multilaminar) veneer	Dyed leaves laminated into a block and re-sliced	Engineered to repeat, but the colour still depends on the dye lot	Large or repeated runs
Stained or toned on the surface	Colour applied to the face or in the finish	Wear or sanding can show pale timber; fastness is a finish question	Cheaper colour change; check wear and repair

Fastness figures for dyed veneer are not published in any source we found. Ask for the supplier's test result, its method and the exposure.



Schematic cross-section of a thin leaf. How far any product is dyed must come from its supplier. Original drawing.

Dye through the leaf compared with colour near the surface only, after a light sand. Schematic cross-section. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.



Schematic. Order the whole job from one lot where possible and approve a signed sample of each lot. Original drawing.

Leaves from one dye lot read as one colour; a later lot may step. Schematic. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

REMEMBER

- All colours change in light; ask for method, exposure and grade.
- Order the job and a reserve from one lot where you can.
- Approve every later lot against a signed sample in the room's light.
- No standard, fading data or lot tolerance was found.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

MATERIAL

Veneer [item ref]: [dyed natural veneer of species / reconstituted (multilaminar) veneer], colour [supplier code and name], cut [ ], leaf match [book / slip], supplier lot [ ], as per signed sample [ref]. Dye penetration [through the leaf / near the surface], stated by the supplier in writing.

LIGHTFASTNESS

[Supplier] provides, before approval, a lightfastness result for the finished specimen: method [ISO 105-B02 or equivalent, adapted use declared], exposure [ ], grade reached [ ] on the [blue wool scale / grey scale], finish on the specimen [ ]. Claims of lightfastness without method and grade are not accepted.

LOTS AND MATCHING

All veneer for [areas] is supplied from one lot [number], plus [ ] per cent reserve from the same lot held for repairs. A signed leaf from each lot is kept as the reference. Any later lot is approved against it in the room's own light before pressing. Colour is not guaranteed to match across lots; the rule applies, not a numerical tolerance.

FINISH AND EXPOSURE

Sample finish is made on the same veneer, with the finish system [ ]. Location [orientation, glazing, blinds]; exposure to direct sun [yes / no]. Client is told that all colours change in time, and the change is not a defect. Cleaning to the finish supplier's data only.

TERMS USED

Dye lot
A batch of material dyed together; a later batch may not match even when the colour code is the same.

Lightfastness
How well a colour resists change when exposed to light. For textiles it is rated against blue wool references 1 to 8.

Blue wool scale
Eight dyed wool references, each fading at a known rate, roughly twice as slowly as the one before, used to rate light exposure.

Multilaminar (reconstituted) veneer
Veneer made by laminating dyed leaves into a block and re-slicing it, so colour and grain can be designed and repeated.

Dye penetration
How far the colour goes into the thickness of the leaf.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- ISO 105-B02 (textiles, light fastness, xenon arc): public preview read 5 Nov 2026; catalogue summaries show the 2014 edition as current. A textile method: use for veneer is an adaptation. Confirm on BSI Knowledge.
- No standard found: We found no standard for lightfastness of dyed veneer, no published fading data and no tolerance for colour match between dye lots.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/dyed-veneer-lightfastness-and-colour-matching. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.