

Joining wood planks is essential if you want to make anything that is wider than the natural width of an average tree. Various techniques can be used for joining planks of wood together, depending on what you are making and the tools you have available.

Tools and supplies needed include wood glue, clamps, screws, nails, or bolts (if using mechanical fasteners), a drill and appropriate drill bits, a wood saw (for cutting joints), measuring tools (tape measure or square) and a biscuit joiner, pocket hole jig, or doweling jig (for specialised joints).

For stronger and more durable joints, consider using biscuits, dowels, or mortise and tenon joints. For quick and simple joints, pocket holes or edge glueing may be sufficient.



Common methods for joining wood planks

- **Biscuit joint** - uses oval-shaped wooden "biscuits" inserted into slots cut into the joining edges of the wood. To achieve this joint, you need to firstly cut slots using a biscuit joiner, apply glue to the slots and the biscuits, insert the biscuits and finally clamp the boards together until the glue dries.
- **Butt joint** - the simplest joint, where two pieces of wood are butted together and connected using nails, screws, or glue. This joint is not very strong on its own, so it may need reinforcement.
- **Dowel joint** - uses wooden dowels inserted into aligned holes drilled in each of the joining pieces. Firstly, you need to mark and drill holes for the dowels in both pieces of wood, then apply glue to the holes and dowels, and finally insert the dowels and join the pieces together, clamping until the glue dries.
- **Edge glueing** - simply applying glue to the edges and clamping the boards together. To achieve this, apply a bead of wood glue to the edge of one board, press the edges together and clamp firmly, wipe off excess glue and let it dry.
- **Metal fasteners** - metal brackets, braces, or plates can be used to reinforce joints. For this joint, you will need to align the boards and hold them in place and then attach the metal fastener with screws at the joint.



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- **Mortise and tenon joint** - a traditional, strong joint where a tenon, or projection, on the end of one piece of wood fits into a mortise hole in the other piece. To create this joint, cut a tenon on the end of one piece of wood, then cut a matching mortise hole in the other piece. Following this, apply glue to the joint and fit the tenon into the mortise and clamp until the glue dries.
- **Pocket hole joint** - a method using pocket hole screws driven into angled holes to join two pieces of wood. To create this type of joint you will need to drill pocket holes using a pocket hole jig, apply glue to the joint and then drive the screws into the pocket holes to secure the joint.
- **Spline joint** - uses a thin strip of wood (a spline) inserted into matching grooves cut into the joining edges of the pieces. Firstly, cut grooves into the edges of both pieces, then cut a spline to fit the grooves and apply glue to the grooves and spline. Finally, insert the spline and join the pieces, clamping until the glue dries.
- **Tongue and groove joint** - a joint where one piece has a protruding tongue and the other has a matching groove. Initially, cut the tongue on one piece and the groove on the other, then apply glue to the joint and finally fit the tongue into the groove and clamp until the glue dries.

For further advice on joining wood planks for a tabletop, use our [step-by-step guide to table construction](#).



Get In Touch

If you are looking for kiln dried planks or slabs of wood, visit our [online timber shop](#) and choose from our extensive range.

Or you can visit us in person, at our warehouse, where we can assist you with every aspect of selecting the perfect wood for your next woodworking project.



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