



LUMBER GRADES

KNOW YOUR LUMBER

LUMBER GRADES EXPLAINED

Lumber grades categorize wood based on strength and appearance to help you make the right decision according to your application.

DIMENSIONAL

Lumber for structural applications such as posts, pillars, beams, joists, etc.

#3

Appearance is no concern. Construction grade. Large knots, excessive wane*, some knot holes, and manufacturing defects.

#2

Appearance is moderate concern. Construction grade. Medium-sized knots (some unsound) and considerable wane.

#2 PRIME

Similar to #2 but virtually wane-free. When referencing fence boards, this grade is often called Appearance Grade.

#1

Improved appearance over #2 Prime. Smaller, fewer, sound, tight knots and less wane than #2 Grade.

#1 PRIME (SELECT)

Characteristics similar to #1 Grade but virtually wane-free.

DENSE (PREMIER AND PLATINUM)

Superior density and strength with excellent appearance. Similar wane as #1 Grade but tighter growth rings and smaller and fewer knots.

CLEAR

Appearance is paramount concern. Virtually knot-free and no wane. Warm, rich, distinctive wood grain and good density.

** Wane is the presence of bark or lack of wood fiber along the edge of a piece of lumber.*

DECKING

Lumber for deck surfaces.

STANDARD

Appearance is moderate concern. Larger, more frequent knots but virtually wane-free.

GOLD

A step up from Standard and a step down from Premium.

PREMIUM

Appearance is important. Far fewer and smaller knots than Standard and virtually wane-free.

SELECT

A step up from Premium and a step down from Clear.

CLEAR

Appearance is paramount concern. Virtually knot-free and no wane.

BOARDS

Flat thin lumber for a variety of uses.

#2

Appearance is moderate concern. Medium-sized knots and considerable wane. For sheathing and where fine finish is not required.

#2 PRIME/APPEARANCE GRADE (APG)

A step up from #2. Similar characteristics as #2 but virtually wane-free. No ink stamp or grade mark.

D GRADE

Appearance is important. Smaller, fewer, tight, sound knots and virtually wane-free. For flooring, wall paneling, and where fine finish is required.

C GRADE

Appearance is paramount concern. Virtually knot-free and no wane. For applications requiring a fine finish.