

DIMENSION LUMBER

Grades and Uses

| Nominal Size (in) | Grade | Common grade mix ¹ | Principal uses |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 2 to 4" thick 2" and wider | Select Structural No. 1 No. 2 | No. 2 & Better (No. 2 & Btr.) | Used in most construction. High strength, stiffness, good appearance. Preferred for trusses, rafters and joists. |
| | No. 3 | ———— | Used when high strength and appearance are not important. |
| 2 to 4" thick 2 to 4" wide | Construction (Std. & Btr.) | Standard & Better (Std. & Btr.) | Common mix used in general framing. Have less strength and shorter spans than No. 2 & Btr. structural light framing. |
| 2 to 4" wide | Utility ¹ | ———— | Used most where high strength is not important – studs & plates in partition walls, blocking, braces. |
| | Economy ² (Design values not assigned) | ———— | Temporary or low cost construction where strength and appearance is not important. |
| 2 to 6" wide | Stud | ———— | Most common grade use for studs. |
| | Economy Stud ² (Design values not assigned) | ———— | Used most economically where high strength is not important. |

1. For ease in grade sorting, the higher grades are combined and sold as a grade mix. Pieces in the grade mix are still individually grade stamped.

2. Except for economy grades, all are grades stress graded.

For additional information on wood species use in construction, visit the Canadian Wood Council website @ www.cwc.ca, the Southern Pine Marketing Council @ www.southernpine.com or the Western Wood Products Association @ www.wwpa.org

GRADE STAMPS

Lumber is stamped with a grademark to show its grade. The American Lumber Standard Board of Review sets the standards and qualifies grading agencies. Each grade stamp shows the name or symbol of the agency, the number of the mill, the species group, the grade and the classification S-DRY or S-GRN. S-DRY indicates that the lumber has a moisture content of 19% or less after being kiln dried. S-GRN has a moisture content greater than 19%. The following is a facsimile of a grade stamp.

Building codes require that grade-marked lumber be used for structural applications. Most grade stamps contain the five basic elements shown and defined below.



a. WWPA Certification Mark: Certifies Association quality supervision ® is a registered trademark

b. Mill Identification: Firm name, brand or assigned mill number. WWPA can be contacted to identify an individual mill whenever necessary

c. Grade Designation: Grade name, number or abbreviation

d. Species Identification: Indicates species by individual species or species combination.

e. Condition Of Seasoning: Indicates condition of seasoning at time of surfacing – MC-15 - 15% maximum moisture content

S-DRY - 19% maximum moisture content

S-GRN - over 19% moisture content (unseasoned)

Publisher is not liable for errors or omissions in this book. Always check your local building codes.