



WOOD & GRADES

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WHAT ARE GRADES?

When selecting floors for one's new home or a new project, the buyer often finds themselves making various decisions as they get closer to making a choice. The first decision the buyer usually makes is the wood type or material for their engineered wood flooring; however, before choosing the stain or finish, the buyer would have to decide what grade they want for their floors.

Wood grades are industry standards set in place to distinguish one wood character from the other based on how the tree is cut. For example, some milling methods result in clean seamless, engineered hardwood floors, whereas others show some natural wood character.

We want to point out that wood grades do not concern the quality of the wood; the grading system is only in place to distinguish one look from another.

OUR GRADES

SELECT & BETTER GRADE (S & B)

A prime grade tops the list of grading systems in hardwood flooring. Also known as S&B grade. It is the best hardwood flooring as it features minimal color variations, almost no knots and lower sap content. In addition, the hardwood boards are cut from the center of the log, thus giving it a uniform look to your floors. It is the highest-end grade of flooring, ideal for places that need a perfectly finished appearance on their floors.



NATURE GRADE (ABC)



Select or ABC grade is the second-best grading of hardwood flooring. It features slightly lower characteristics compared to Prime grade. It contains natural attributes of wood such as small knots and minor color variations and has longer average plank lengths. These slight milling imperfections can be removed by regular sanding. The planks of this grade don't have finishing defects such as streaks, debris, chipping or blisters.

RUSTIC OR CHARACTER GRADE (CD)

Rustic shows natural characteristics of wood and color variations are common. Visible knots, pinholes, darker and lighter boards and shorter board length are the characteristics of Rustic grade hardwood flooring. This grade of flooring is ideal for showcasing the raw texture of wooden. However, there are increased chances of severe milling imperfections being visible such as rotten ends, deeply rooted dirt stains, split ends or shattered pieces.



WOOD CHARACTER MARKS

KNOTS

Knots are found of the outermost part of the tree, and it marks the region where the branches of trees are born from. Knots are nature's beauty marks on trees. These knots create beautiful and unique patterns that enhance the visual appeal of the hardwood floor.



MINERAL STREAKS

Dark brown to black mineral streaks in wood flooring is simply a natural work of art. These unique patterns are caused by the absorption of different minerals from the trees surrounding the environment.

CHECKS & SPLITS

These fine splits and cracks are like brush strokes on a canvas, emphasizing that the wood is alive. Splits and cracks, typically filled with matching or accenting fillers to enhance the look of the floors, create an authentic visual experience.



CUTS OF VENEER

PLAINSAWN/FLATSAWN

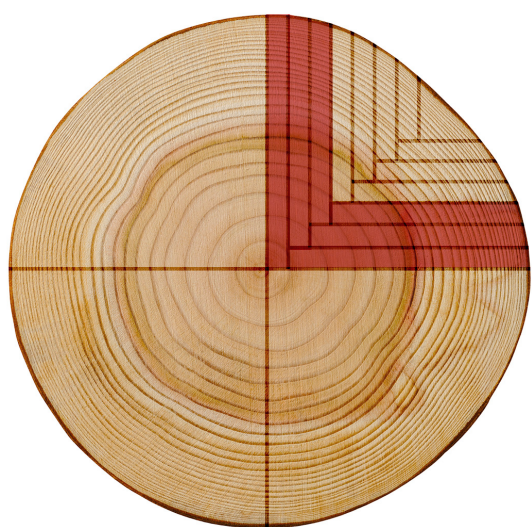
Plain sawn, also commonly called flat sawn, is the most common lumber you will find. This is the most inexpensive way to manufacture logs into lumber. In addition, plain sawn lumber is the most common type of cut. The annular rings are generally 30 degrees or less to the face of the board; this is often referred to as tangential grain. The resulting wood displays a cathedral pattern on the face of the board.



PLAIN SAWN ADVANTAGES

Although not as efficient as live sawn, plain sawmilling is still material-efficient and has beautiful grain patterns.

QUARTERSAWN



Quartersawn wood has a striking straight grain pattern that lends itself to design. Quartersawn lumber is defined as wood where the annular growth rings intersect the face of the board at a 60 to 90-degree angle. When cutting this lumber at the sawmill, each log is sawed at a radial angle into four quarters, which justifies the name. Dramatic flecking is also present in red oak and white oak.

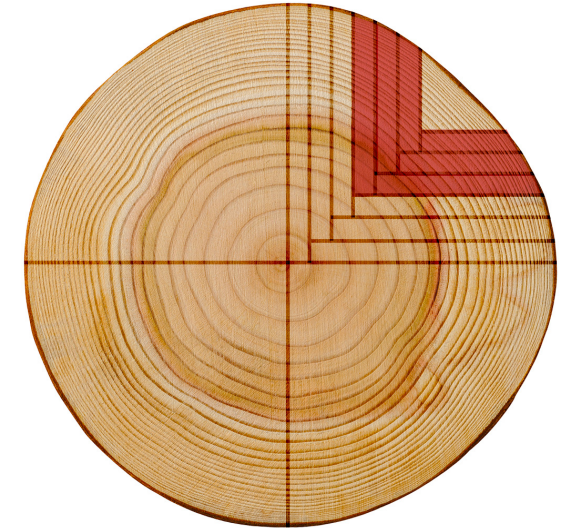
QUARTERSAWN ADVANTAGES

Quartersawn wood has a unique straight grain pattern that lends itself to design. Often used for cabinetry, flooring, high-end custom crafts and furniture, it is the traditional wood used in making mission-style furniture. Other wood species sought after in quarter sawn are walnut, maple and cherry.

CUTS OF VENEER

RIFT SAWN

The Riftsawn wood can be manufactured to complement quarter sawn lumber, or logs can be cut precisely as rift sawn. In rift sawn lumber, the annual rings are typically between 30-60 degrees, with 45 degrees optimum. They are manufactured by milling perpendicular to the log's growth rings, producing a linear grain pattern with no flecking. This method produces the most waste, increasing the cost of this lumber. Rift sawn lumber is very dimensionally stable and has a unique linear appearance.



RIFT SAWN ADVANTAGES

Riftsawn milling produces the most robust boards with the most consistent visual look of long and straight grain patterns.



LIVESAWN



Live sawn milling is the most efficient way to cut a log into flooring planks, and it is a newer milling method than the others. Each plank is cut straight off of the log in one direction without changing the orientation of the log. This method produces boards with a full range of angles of the log's rings, also known as the log's "grain." The angles range from 0 to 90 degrees. In addition, live sawn planks include a full range of the log's characteristics, from the sought-after heartwood where the ring patterns are tightest to the sapwood.



LIVE SAWN ADVANTAGES

An efficient material with beautiful mixtures of all milling methods included.



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