

# DIMENSION LUMBER

## Grades and Uses

Nominal Size (in)	Grade	Grade Mix <sup>1</sup>	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. Has less strength and shorter spans than No. 2 & Btr. structural light framing.
2 to 4" wide	Utility	—————	Used most where high strength is not important - studs & plates in partition walls, blocking and braces.
	Economy Stud (Design values not assigned)	—————	Temporary or low cost construction where strength and appearance are not important.
2 to 6" wide	Stud	—————	Most common grade used for studs.
	Economy Stud (Design values not assigned)	—————	Used most economically where high strength is not important.


- 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.

For additional information on wood species used in construction, visit the Canadian Wood Council website @ [www.cwc.ca](http://www.cwc.ca), the Southern Pine Marketing Council @ [www.southernpine.com](http://www.southernpine.com) or the Western Wood Products Association @ [www.wwpa.org](http://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.



- WWPA Certification Mark:** Certifies Association quality supervision.  is a registered trademark.
- Mill Identification:** Firm name, brand or assigned mill number. WWPA can be contacted to identify an individual mill whenever necessary.
- Grade Designation:** Grade name, number or abbreviation.
- Species Identification:** Indicates species by individual species or species combination.
- 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 responsible for errors or omissions in this book. Always check your local building codes for updated information.