

## ***Dimensional Lumber Grading Information***

The purpose of this document is to help consumers understand the characteristics of dimensional lumber grades and what defines the minimum standard of each grade.

To begin, it is important to know some key terms with images for reference:

**Seasoning** – Process of drying timber to remove moisture contained in the wood.

**Bow** – Deviation flatwise from a straight line drawn from end to end of a piece.

**Checking** – A surface defect, separation (crack) of the wood running along the grain that does not go all the way through the piece. Usually from seasoning.

**Cup** – Deviation in the face of a piece from a straight line drawn from edge to edge of a piece.

**Crook** – Deviation edgewise from a straight line drawn from end to end of a piece.

**Shake** – Lengthwise separation of the wood which occurs between or through the rings of annual growth.

**Stained Wood** – Is a marked variation from the natural colour. It has no effect on the intended use of the piece.

**Twist** – Deviation flatwise, or a combination of flatwise and edgewise, in the form of a curl or spiral, and the amount is the distance an edge of a piece at one end is raised above a flat surface against which both edges at the opposite end are resting snugly.

**Wane** – Bark or lack of wood from any cause, except eased edges, on the corner of a piece of lumber.

**Knots** – A lengthwise separation of the wood which occurs between or through the rings of annual growth.



## **#2 & Better All Species:**

Characteristics permitted and limited provisions shall be:

**Checks** – seasoning checks are not limited. Through checks at ends are limited as splits.

**Knots** – well spaced knots of any quality are permitted in sizes not to exceed the following:

| <b>Nom. Width</b> | <b>At Edge Wide Face</b> | <b>Centreline Wide Face</b> | <b>Holes (Any Cause)</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2"                | 5/8"                     | 5/8"                        | 5/8"                     |
| 4"                | 1-1/4"                   | 2"                          | 1-1/4"                   |
| 6"                | 1-5/8"                   | 2-3/8"                      | 1-1/2"                   |
| 8"                | 2-1/2"                   | 3-1/2"                      | 2"                       |
| 10"               | 3-1/4"                   | 4-1/4"                      | 2-1/2"                   |
| 12"               | 3-3/4"                   | 4-3/4"                      | 3"                       |
| 14"               | 4-1/8"                   | 5-1/4"                      | 3-1/2"                   |

**Pockets** – pitch or bark not limited.

**Shake** – if through at ends, limited as splits. Away from ends through shakes up to 2' long, well separated. If not through, single shakes shall not exceed 3' long or 1/4 the length whichever is greater.

**Splits** – equal in length to 1.5 times the width of the piece.

**Stain** – stained sapwood. Firm heart stain or firm red heart not limited.

**Wane** – 1/3 the thickness and 1/3 the width full length, or equivalent on each face, if wane does not exceed 2/3 the thickness or 1/2 the width for up to 1/4 the length.

**Warp** – light.