



## Glossary of Woodworking Terms

### A. General Terms

**d**—the abbreviation for “penny” in designating nail size; for example, 8d nails are 8 penny nails, 2½” long.

**fiber**—A general term used for any long, narrow cell of wood or bark, other than vessels.

**grain direction**—The direction of the annual rings showing on the face and sides of a piece of lumber.

**hardwood**—Wood from a broad leaved tree and characterized by the presence of vessels. (Examples: oak, maple, ash, and birch.)

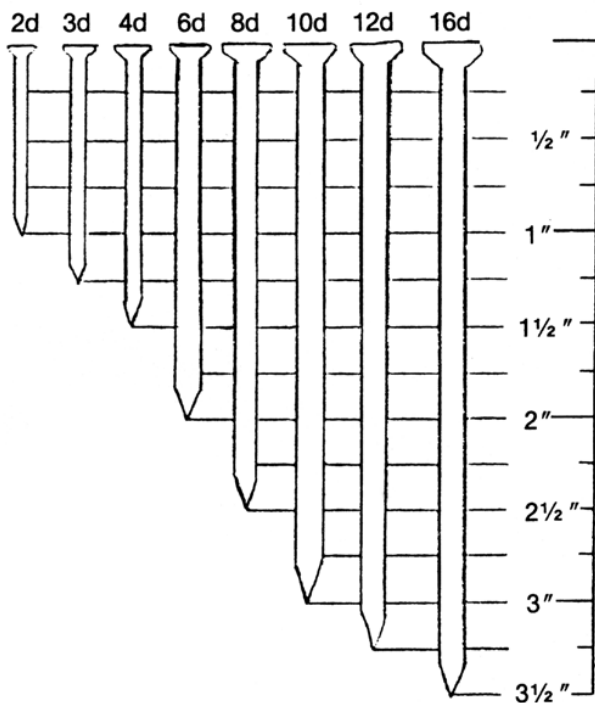
**heartwood**—The older, harder, nonliving portion of wood. It is usually darker, less permeable, and more durable than sapwood.

**kiln dried**—Wood seasoned in a humidity and temperature controlled oven to minimize shrinkage and warping.

**sapwood**—Wood immediately inside the cambium of the living tree that contains living cells. This wood is more permeable, less durable, and usually lighter in color than heartwood.

**softwood**—Wood from a coniferous or cone bearing tree and characterized by having needles, such as pine.

**vessel**—A series of cells having fused together to form a long tube. They extend longitudinally in the stem.



### B. Terms Used in the Lumber Industry

**boards**—Lumber less than 2 inches in nominal thickness and 1 inch and wider in width.

**board foot**—A measurement of wood. A piece of wood that is 1 foot long by 1 foot wide by 1 inch thick. It can also be other sizes that have the same total amount of wood. For example, a piece of wood 2 feet long, 6 inches wide, and 1 inch thick; or a piece 1 foot long, 6 inches wide, and 2 inches thick would also be 1 board foot. To get the number of board feet in a piece of lumber, measure your lumber and multiply Length (in feet) x Width (in feet) x Thickness (in inches). The formula is written:

$$T'' \times W' \times L' = \text{Board feet} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{T'' \times W' \times L'}{12} = \text{Board feet}$$

$$\text{or} \quad \frac{T'' \times W' \times L'}{144''} = \text{Board feet}$$

**dimension lumber**—Lumber 2 to 5 inches thick and up to 12 inches wide. Includes joists, rafters, studs, planks, girders, and posts.

**nominal**—Refers to the size of lumber by which it is known and sold in the market. Nominal size often differs from the actual size.

**timbers**—Lumber that is 5 inches or more in its least dimension. According to use in construction, they are classified as beams and stringers, girders, purlins, and posts.

**veneers**—A thin slice of wood cut from a log with a knife or saw. Veneers are also produced in a giant lathe, by turning a log on a horizontal axis against a long knife cutting the log into thin wood slices.

Note: Also refer to the glossary in each of the member manuals.

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