



Wonderful World of Wood Glossary

Annual rings

Rings or circles seen on the cut end of a branch, log, or stump. They resemble a bullseye and actually are showing the layer of wood produced by a single year's growth of the tree.

Bevel siding

A wedge-shape board or piece of wood, thicker along one edge than the other. One board edge has been cut and trimmed to an angle.

Board foot

A measurement of wood that is 1 foot long by 1 foot wide by 1 inch thick. It also can 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 of wood 1 foot long, 6 inches wide, and 2 inches thick also is 1 board foot of wood. To get the number of board feet in a piece of lumber, measure your lumber and multiply Length (feet) x Width (inches) x Thickness (inches) and divide by 12. The formula is written

$$\frac{L' \times W'' \times T''}{12}$$

Countersink

A tool used to make a tapered hole for the head of screws to fit into.

Grain

The lines, bands, or patterns that appear on the ends, faces, and sides of lumber. The grain is formed from the annual rings.

Grid

A graph-like square consisting of horizontal and vertical lines placed equal distances apart. It is used for plotting points to change the size of irregular-shape drawings. Drawings can be increased or decreased in size.

Kerf

A slit or notch made by saw teeth.

Kiln

An oven used to dry wood. The temperature and relative humidity are controlled to minimize shrinkage and warping.

Particleboard (chipboard)

A panel of wood, usually 4 x 8 feet and of several thicknesses, made of wood chips bonded together under pressure. It has a very high resistance to warping, shrinking, and expanding.

Pilot hole

The starting hole placed in wood to prevent a drill or auger bit from slipping, or to accommodate a screw. Pilot holes help prevent the wood from splitting when boring holes into wood. Pilot holes can be made with an awl or a hammer and nail when used to start a drill or auger bit, but should be drilled to proper size to match a screw.

Plane

A tool for smoothing and leveling wood.

Plywood

A building material consisting of wood glued or cemented together with the grains of the wood laying adjacent to each other at right angles.

Primary processing

The sawing, chipping, or slicing of the log into lumber or other raw wood products. Examples of primary processing are sawmilling to produce pulp and paper, veneer, plywood, or particleboard.

Secondary processing

Additional manufacturing of wood beyond the primary processing stage before the wood can be used, such as making furniture from lumber, particleboard, and plywood. Other examples include producing cardboard boxes and paper bags from paper or making flooring from lumber.

Torque

A turning or twisting force felt when using power tools. The motion is caused by the electrical force.

Veneer

A thin slice of wood cut from a log with a knife or saw.

Vise

A device for holding wood stationary while you work on it at the workbench.

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