



Explanation of Hardwood Plywood Grades

<u>FACE GRADE</u>	<u>VENEER QUALITY</u>	<u>DEFECTS ALLOWED</u>
A Grade – Premium Face:	A clear face veneer; all splices tight and sound. Occasional small burls and tiny pin knots. Most species are book-matched or slip-matched.	Minor, infrequent burls pin knots and inconspicuous small patches.
B Grade – Good Face:	Unmatched slices are permitted, but no sharp contrasts in color, grain or figure. An excellent panel for cabinet making.	Burls, slight color streaks pin knots and inconspicuous small patches.
Shop:	Includes downgraded A-2 panels and plywood suitable for cabinet cuttings with some waste.	Sand throughs, missing veneer, folded veneer, jagged edges.

<u>BACK GRADE</u>	<u>VENEER QUALITY</u>	<u>DEFECTS ALLOWED</u>
1 (Good)	Free from open defects. No color or grain match.	Smooth patches, sound knots, and varying color
2 (Smooth)	Has the same veneer on backside with no open defects. Sometimes mis-matched.	Sound, tight knots.
3 (Reject)	Some open defects, sound surface	repaired splits, joints, bark pockets, laps and knotholes.

Types of Veneer Cuts

Rotary Log is mounted centrally in a lathe and turned against a razor sharp blade, like unwinding a roll of paper. Since this cut follows the log's annual growth rings, a multi-patterned grain marking is produced.

Plain Sliced: Slicing is done parallel to a line through the center of the log.

Minimum National Grade Rules

FAS

Hardwood's best grade yields about 85 to 90% clear cuttings. Most boards are 6" and wider, 8' and longer.

Exceptions: Hickory is 4" and wider

Walnut and Butternut are 5" and wider, 6' and longer

Rough FAS lumber is graded from the board's poorer side.

FAS 1 FACE & BETTER

Subject to the same grading rule as FAS except that the board is graded from the better side and back side must grade at least No. 1 Common.

SELECTS & BETTER

Similar to FAS 1 Face and Better except that the minimum allowable board size is 4" x 6' and backside may grade No. 1 Common or Sound.

SELECTS

4" and wider, 6' and longer. Better side grades FAS.

Reverse side grades No. 1 Common, Short and narrow boards are usually clear.

NO. 1 COMMON

3" and wider, 4' and longer. Yields over two-thirds clear cuttings. This economical grade contains less sap than the clearer grades. Stock is generally long w/average widths. Exception: Walnut.

PRIME IMPORT QUALITY

Those woods which cannot be graded by NHLA rules carry the description Prime Import Quality. This term tells you that the wood is the best available in the world market.