Grading Guide



A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING POPULAR HARDWOOD PLYWOOD FACE VENEER GRADES



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From the tree to works of art: A guide to understanding the hardwood plywood standard

An introduction from Ang Schramm

Trees are amazing. They provide us with shelter, warm our hearths, and shade us from the heat of the summer sun. But they also give us far more as they offer up their inner distinctiveness to serve us as one of the most functional and attractive of all materials for quality kitchen and bath cabinetry, fine furniture, architectural millwork, store fixtures, and wall furnishings, to name just a few.

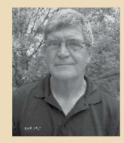
Wood is a unique material for decorative applications in that by its very nature no two pieces can ever be exactly alike. Its appearance may be consistent for a given species within a broad and generalized range, but even wood from the same tree can

vary in aesthetics and physical properties. Growth conditions such as geography and climate, availability of water and nutrients, adverse weather, genetics, pestilence, injury, competition for space, bacterial or viral infection, the presence of extraneous compounds contributing to the color of heartwood, the lighter color of sapwood, and the presence of limbs and their relationship to figure and knots, are but a few of the factors contributing to this phenomenon.

It is the purpose of this publication to help us give some order to this assortment of characteristics in a practical manner with an overview of the industry standard grading tables and other content, including veneer production, core options, and plywood manufacture. With a sound understanding of the inherent individuality of trees, we have the rare opportunity to make every project or job a signature work of art!

Our goal is to provide this information in a way that is easy to understand and that will give us a valuable tool to help enhance communication and ensure that all your expectations are met when you choose Columbia Forest Products' PureBond[®] Hardwood Plywood.

Grading



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HICKORY (Carya spp.)

Common names: Various common names, such as Pignut Hickory, Mockernut Hickory, Shellbark Hickory, Shagbark Hickory

Sources: USA and Canada

Characteristics: Pale yellow sapwood with light brown to reddish brown to gray brown heartwood. Some moderately coarse early wood, but otherwise hard and smooth. Some may contain color variation, color streaks, and rustic marks like worm track and bird peck. Same genus as Pecan

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Rotary

cut

Uses: Cabinetry, millwork, paneling, fine furniture, flooring, and molding.

Availability: Abundant

Price: \$\$







Hickory Plain Sliced A



Hickory Plain Sliced B

Natural Characteristics	A Grade	B Grade	Rustic
Small Conspicuous Burls & Pin Knots — Comb. Avg. Number	64 per 4 x 8' panel	No Limit	
Conspicuous Burls — Max. Size	3/8"	1/2"	1
Conspicuous Pin Knots Average Number Max. Size: Dark Part Max. Size: Total	2 per 1 sq ft 64 per 4 x 8' panel 1/8" 1/4"	No Limit 1/8" 1/4"	As agreed upon between buyer and seller
Scattered Sound and Repaired Knots Comb. Average Number Max. Size — Sound Max. Size — Repaired Avg. Number — Repaired	No	1 per 8 sq ft 4 per 4 x 8' panel 3/8" 1/8" 1 per 8 sq ft	
Mineral Streaks	Slight	Yes	
Bark Pockets	Small, Occasional	Few to 1/4" x 2"	1
Worm Tracks	Slight	Few	1
Vine Marks	Occasional	Yes	1
Cross Bars	Occasional	Yes	
Bird Peck	Slight	Yes	
Knife Marks	Knife marks may occur in these high density species		

Important Disclaimer

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