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Plywood Grading Scale

Hardwood Plywood Grades

Hardwood plywood uses two alphanumeric characters to designate the grade of the panel. The face is normally graded using a letter, the back is normally graded using a number.

Face Grades

- A.** The veneer is smooth and free of large knots. Small pin knots, burls, or slight mineral streaks are permitted. This is the best grade for a plywood face.
- B.** This grade is similar to the "A" face, but some sound knots or repaired knots are permitted. Slightly rougher grain and mineral streaks are typical of this grade.
- C.** This veneer will contain sound knots and repaired knots as well as unlimited pin knots and small burls. Mineral streaks are readily evident.
- D.** This grade is similar to the "C" grade face but will permit more repaired knots, sound knots, and rough cut veneer.

Back Grades

- 1.** This veneer will have sound, tight knots up to 3/8" in diameter. Areas of rough grain and small splits may be permitted.
- 2.** This back face will have sound, tight knots up to 3/4" in diameter. Repaired knots, rough cut veneer, and mineral streaks are common with this grade.
- 3.** This grade permits 1/2" to 1 1/2" diameter knots on this face. Repaired knots, unlimited small defects, and streaks are also permitted.

Soft Plywood Grades

Softwood Plywood uses two letter characters to designate the grade of the panel. The face is normally graded using a letter and the back is also graded using a letter.

- A.** This veneer is smooth and free of pitch pockets, knots, and open splits. Repaired splits or wood patches may be permitted.
- B.** This grade is smooth and free from open defects, but sound knots up to 1" in diameter are evident. Wood repairs or repaired knots or splits are common in the veneer.
- C.** Unlimited tight knots up to 1 1/2" in diameter are characteristic to the grade. Open knots, splits, wood patches, and repairs are permitted.
- D.** This grade has no limit to the number of defects or repairs. Knotholes are permissible to 2 1/2" in diameter and open splits are common.

Safety: Do not use or handle this product until the Material Safety Data Sheet has been read and understood.

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