



Dimension Lumber – Grades and Uses

Grade Category	Size	Grades	Common Grade Mix	Principal Uses
Structural Light Framing	38 to 89mm (2" to 4" nom.) thick and wide	Select Structural, No.1, No.2, No.3	No.2 and Better	Used for engineering applications such as for trusses, lintels, rafters and joists in the smaller dimensions.
Structural Joists and Planks	38 to 89mm (2" to 4" nom.) thick and 114mm (5" nom.) or more wide	Select Structural, No.1, No.2, No.3	No.2 and Better	Used for engineering applications such as for trusses, lintels, rafters, and joists in the dimensions greater than 114mm (5" nom.).
Light Framing	38 to 89mm (2" to 4" nom.) thick and wide	Construction, Standard, Utility	Standard and Better (Std. & Btr.)	Used for general framing where high strength values are not required such as for plates, sills, and blocking.
Studs	38 to 89mm (2" to 4" nom.) thick and 38 to 140mm (2" to 6" nom.) wide and 3m (10') or less in length	Stud, Economy Stud		Made principally for use in walls. Stud grade is suitable for bearing wall applications. Economy grade is suitable for temporary applications.

Notes:

1. Grades may be bundled individually or they may be individually stamped but they must be grouped together with the engineering properties dictated by the lowest strength grade in the bundle.
2. The common grade mix shown is the most economical blending of strength for most applications where appearance is not a factor and average strength is acceptable.
3. Except for economy grade, all grades are stress graded which means specified strengths have been assigned and span tables calculated. Economy and utility grades are suited for temporary construction or for applications where strength and appearance are not important.
4. Construction, Standard, Stud, and No. 3 grades should be used in designs that are composed of 3 or more essentially parallel members (load sharing) spaced at 610mm (24") centres or less.
5. Strength properties and appearance are best in the premium grades such as Select Structural.
6. Economy and utility grades are only suitable for temporary construction or applications where strength and appearance are not important.