

Architectural  
Woodwork Standards

**GLOSSARY**

# GLOSSARY

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Glossary portion of the *Architectural Woodwork Standards* provides definitions of words and is intended to clarify terms and usage with regard to specific application within the standards. The Design Ideas portion includes an additional Historic Woodwork Glossary, listing terms and definitions relating to ornamental woodwork and architectural moldings.

**1 MIL:** A mil is 1/1000" or 0.001" (0.00254 mm).

**ABRASION RESISTANCE:** Resistance to friction wear.

**ABS:** Abbreviation for "Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene," a synthetic decorative coating or edgebanding.

**ACRYLIC LACQUER:** In finishing, a high quality clear system for finishing furniture.

**ADHESION:** The degree of attachment between a finish step and the underlying material.

**ADHESIVE:** A substance capable of bonding materials together by surface attachment. It is a general term and includes all cements and glues.

**ADHESIVE, COLD PRESS AND HOT PRESS:** "Cold press" means no heat is applied to the press and will include the use of pinch rollers. "Hot press" means heat is applied at the time the press is in operation.

**ADHESIVE, TYPE I FULLY WATERPROOF:** Forms a bond that will retain practically all of its strength when occasionally subjected to a thorough wetting and drying; bond shall be of such quality that specimens will withstand shear and the two cycle boil test specified in ANSI/HPVA HP (latest edition).

**ADHESIVE, TYPE II WATER RESISTANT:** Forms a bond that will retain practically all of its strength when occasionally subjected to a thorough wetting and drying; bond shall be of such quality that specimens will withstand the three cycle cold soak test specified in ANSI/HPVA HP (latest edition).

**ADJACENT:** When one surface is directly next to or touching another surface with no other surfaces in between the two.

**ADJACENT PANEL:** When one panel surface is within 6" (152 mm) of another panel surface on the same plane within a room.

**ADJUSTABLE SHELVES:** Generally accomplished through the use of multiple holes with either plastic or metal pins to hold the shelves. Some metal or plastic shelf standards are still in use. The adjustment method is the manufacturer's option unless otherwise specified.

**AGROFIBER:** Refers to core products made from the residual material from a grain crop similar in composition to particleboard.

**AIR DRIED:** Seasoned by controlled exposure to the atmosphere, in the open or under cover, without artificial heat.

**ALL HEART:** Of heartwood throughout; free of sapwood.

**ANCHOR STRIPS:** Used to mount woodwork; other names include nailers, mounting cleats, hanging strips, and wall cleats.

**ANCHORAGE FASTENER:** Installation screws used to attach casework to walls. Screw requirements are as described in section 10.

**ANILINE DYE:** A synthetic dye often used to impart enhanced clarity of color to wood.

**APRON:** For purposes of these standards, means a horizontal trim member below the countertop typically at knee spaces or open sink areas.

**ARCHITECTURAL WOODWORK:** Custom woodworking, so varied in design and complexity that it becomes difficult to define; specified for special applications and functions by design professionals and created by manufacturers. It includes all exterior and interior woodwork exposed to view in a finished building (except specialty items of flooring, shingles, exposed roof decking, ceiling, siding, structural wood trusses and rafters, and overhead type doors), including all exposed wood, plywood, high and low pressure decorative laminates, and doors. Items made of other materials are included only if called for in the specifications. Finishing may be included if specified. Site installation may also be included if specified.

**ARRIS:** In architecture, a sharp edge formed by the meeting of two flat or curved surfaces.

**ARTICULATED JOINT:** In architectural paneling, joint details that allow for field variations.

**ASSEMBLY-1:** A wall mounted method of decorative laminate back and end splash countertop construction.

**ASSEMBLY-2:** A deck mounted method of back and end splash countertop construction.

**B-STAGE CURING:** Is a process that utilizes heat or UV light to remove the majority of solvent from a substance, thereby allowing application to be "staged." In between application, coating and curing can be held for a period of time, without sacrificing performance.

**BACK:** The side reverse to the face of a panel, or the poorer side of a panel in any Grade of plywood calling for a face and a back.

**BACK PRIMING:** A finish coating typically applied to concealed surfaces of architectural woodwork to minimize moisture penetration.

**BACK VENEER:** The veneer placed on the semi-exposed or concealed face of a veneered panel construction to balance the construction. Also, the side reverse to the face of a panel, or the poorer side of panel in any Grade calling for a face and a back.

**BACKED OUT:** Wide, shallow area machined on the back surface of wide solid moldings and some frames. Allows the item to span irregular surfaces.

**BACKER MATERIAL:** A sheet product with performance properties determined by its material composition. Because material composition types vary then backer sheet types accordingly vary in performance properties. Which backer sheet material is used should be based on overall product demands. When used as a balancing sheet a backer must have performance properties equal to an opposing surface with a similar adhesive and application process as the face sheet. (See BALANCING SHEET) Otherwise a backer sheet need not have performance properties equal to an opposing surface.

**BALANCED CONSTRUCTION:** To achieve balanced construction, panels should be absolutely symmetrical from the center line; i.e., use materials on either side that contract or expand, or are moisture permeable, at the same rate. Balanced finishing coats on the back of veneered panels are also highly recommended. Balancing sheet requirements for decorative laminate fabrication vary with the product. Doors and panels should have a balancing sheet on the back side and be applied in the same machine direction. Countertops or cabinet members, on the other hand, merely require some form of balancing material.

**BALANCED MATCH:** A common term in book matching that uses two or more leaves of uniform width on the face of a panel, wherein the two outermost leaves in a panel or face are of the same width.

**BALANCING SHEET:** A sheet product with performance properties equal to an opposing surface. A balancing sheet is laminated to the secondary surface of a core with the same adhesive and application process as the primary surface material (i.e., face material) to maintain the panel's flatness. Typically a balance sheet is used to balance a panel that will not be captured or restrained (e.g., doors).

**BALANCING SPECIES:** A species of similar density to achieve balance by equalizing the rate of moisture absorption or emission.

**BALUSTER:** One of the repetitive vertical members below a handrail or guardrail to provide support and a functional barrier.

**BALUSTRADE:** The assembly of newels, balusters, and rails that make up the safety barrier along balconies and open sides of stairways and ramps.

**BANDED:** Usually refers to the application of a similar material to the edge of a built up member to cover or hide the otherwise exposed core, such as on plywood.

**BARBER POLE:** An effect in book matching of veneers resulting from tight and loose sides of veneers causing different light reflections when finished.

**BARK POCKET:** Bark around which normal wood has grown.

**BEDDING IN PUTTY:** Glazing whereby a thin layer of putty or bedding compound is placed in the glass rabbet, and the glass is inserted and pressed onto this bed.

**BEVEL:** A machine angle other than a right angle; e.g., a 3 degree bevel, which is equivalent to a 1/8" (3.2 mm) drop in a 2" (50.8 mm) span. Also, in flooring or wall paneling, a V shaped groove between strips, planks, or panels.

**BEVELED EDGE:** An edge of the door that forms an angle of less than 90 degrees with the wide face of the door, such as a 3 degree beveled edge.

**BIRD'S EYE:** Decorative figure due to small conical depressions in the outer annual rings, which appear to follow the same contour in subsequent growth rings, probably for many years. Rotary slicing cuts the depressions crosswise, exposing a series of circlets called bird's eyes.

**BISCUIT SPLINE:** A concealed oblong shaped spline used to join adjacent members.

**BLEACHING:** The chemical process used to remove color or whiten solid wood or wood veneered panels. This process may be used to lighten an extremely dark wood or to whiten a lighter colored wood. Most woods do not turn completely white when bleached.

**BLEEDING:** When the color of one coating material migrates up through the finishing layer to the succeeding coat, imparting some of its characteristics.

**BLENDING:** Color change that is detectable at a distance of 6' to 8' (1829 mm to 2438 mm) but that does not detract from the overall appearance of the panel.

**BLIND CORNER:** The space created by abutting cabinets at an approximate 90 degree angle.

**BLISTERING:** The formation of bubbles on the surface of a coating, caused by trapping air or vapors beneath the surface; an area where veneer does not adhere; a figure resembling an uneven collection of rounded or blister like bulges caused by the uneven contour of annual growth rings.

**BLOCKING:** Commonly understood as the wooden support material placed within or upon gypsum board and plaster walls to support casework.

**BLUEPRINT SEQUENCED PANELS AND COMPONENTS:** Each panel for walls and components (e.g., desk, doors) is custom manufactured to the specific size required. All panels are balance matched and sequenced to the adjacent panels.

**BLUSHING:** The whitish, cloud like haze that occurs in fast drying finishes, especially lacquer, when they are sprayed in very humid conditions. Blushing is most often due to moisture (water vapor) trapped in the film or to resin precipitating out of solution.

**BOARD:** A piece of lumber before gluing for width or thickness.

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**BOARD FOOT:** A unit of measurement of lumber represented by a board 12" (305 mm) long, 12" (305 mm) wide, and 1" (25.4 mm) thick. Abbreviated BF, Bf, bf. When stock is less than 1" (25.4 mm) thick, it is usually calculated as if it were a full 1" (25.4 mm) thick.

**BOOK MATCH:** Matching between adjacent veneer leaves on one panel face. Every other piece of veneer is turned over so that the adjacent leaves are "opened" as two pages in a book. The fibers of the wood, slanting in opposite directions in the adjacent leaves, create a characteristic light and dark effect when the surface is seen from an angle.

**BOW:** A deviation, flatwise, from a straight line drawn from end to end of a piece. It is measured at the point of greatest distance from the straight line.

**BOX STRINGER:** See closed stringer.

**BRASHNESS:** Condition of wood characterized by low resistance to shock and by abrupt failure across the grain without splintering.

**BUCKS:** In wall blocking used for the installation of door/window jambs and other woodwork in conjunction with metal framing and/or block walls.

**BUGLE HEAD SCREW:** Is similar to countersunk; however, there is a smooth progression from the shaft to the angle of the head, similar to the bell of a bugle. This term is generally used in referencing drywall screws.

**BULLNOSE:** A convex, rounded shape such as the front edge of a stair step.

**BURL:** A figure created by abnormal growth or response to injury that forms an interwoven, contorted, or gnarly mass of dense woody tissue on the trunk or branch of the tree. Burls are usually small and characterized by eye like markings surrounded by swirls and clusters of distorted tissues. The measurement of the burl is the average of the maximum and minimum dimensions of the burl.

**BURL, BLENDING:** A swirl, twist, or distortion in the grain of the wood which usually occurs near a knot or crotch but does not contain a knot and does not contain abrupt color variation. A blending burl is detectable at 1.8 m to 2.4 m (6 feet to 8 feet) as a swirl or roundel.

**BURL, CONSPICUOUS:** A swirl, twist, or distortion in the grain of the wood which usually occurs near a knot or crotch. A conspicuous burl is associated with abrupt color variation and/or a cluster of small dark piths caused by a cluster of adventitious buds.

**BUTCHER BLOCK:** Generally refers to face laminate hardwoods (usually Maple) forming a work surface in which the edge grain is exposed to wear.

**BUTT JOINT:** A joint formed by square edged surfaces (ends, edges, faces) coming together; end butt joint, edge butt joint.

**CABINET FACE:** The outermost surface of a cabinet unit that allows access to the interior of the cabinet unit, including door faces, drawer faces or false front faces. Does not include ends, sides, top, bottom or back. If the cabinet is an open cabinet the cabinet face is the outermost front exposed edges of the cabinet box.

**CABINET LINER:** As used within these standards, shall describe 0.020" (0.5 mm) high pressure decorative laminate (HPDL).

**CABINET UNIT:** A single manufactured case typically consisting of two ends, a top, a bottom, and may include back, stretchers, anchor strips, shelves, doors, drawer fronts, drawers, dividers, and hardware.

**CANTILEVER:** A projecting structure that is attached or supported at only one end, such as an extended countertop.

**CANT STRIP:** A triangular shaped or beveled strip of material used to ease the transition from a horizontal plane to a vertical plane.

**CAPTURED:** A component whose perimeter is mechanically fastened or joined to other components so that it's not allowed to warp independent of those attached components.

**CASEWORK:** Base and wall cabinets, display fixtures, and storage shelves. The generic term for both "boxes" and special desks, reception counters, nurses stations, and the like. Generally includes the countertops and work surfaces.

**CATALYZED:** In finishing, an ingredient added to a basic product to provide additional performance characteristics.

**CATHEDRAL GRAIN:** A grain appearance characterized by a series of stacked and inverted "V" or cathedral type of springwood (early wood)/summerwood (late wood) patterns common in plain sliced (flat cut) veneer.

**CAULK:** Either the action of making a watertight or airtight seal between two adjacent surfaces by filling the area between the surfaces with a sealant, or the sealant itself.

**CENTER MATCHED:** A form of veneer matching that uses two or more even numbered leaves of equal width, matched with a joint occurring in the center of the panel. A small amount of the figure is lost.

**CHAIN OF CUSTODY:** A method of tracking the handling of a wood product from forest to delivery of a finished product. Each step of transportation and manufacturing is documented for verification of the handling process.

**CHAMFER:** To cut away the edge where two surfaces meet in an exterior angle, leaving a bevel at the junction.

**CHARACTER MARK:** As an element of nature, a distinctive feature in a hardwood surface produced by minerals and other elements that are absorbed as a tree grows.

**CHARACTERISTICS:** The natural irregularities found in wood, whether solid or veneered. Their acceptance is a function of each particular Grade.

**CHATTER:** Lines appearing across the panel or board at right angles to the grain, giving the appearance of one or more corrugations resulting from bad setting of sanding equipment or planing knives.

**CHECKING:** Cracks that appear in a finishing film due to lack of cohesion, often caused by too heavy of a coat being applied or a poor grade of finish being used. Also called cold checking.

**CHECKS:** Small slits running parallel to the grain of wood, caused chiefly by strains produced in seasoning and drying.

**CHIP MARKS:** Shallow depressions or indentations on or in the surface of dressed lumber caused by shavings or chips getting embedded in the surface during dressing.

**CLIMATE:** Conditions found inside or outside a building that include temperature, humidity and barometric pressure.

**CLIMATE CONTROLLED:** Referring to the inside areas of a building where heat or air conditioning systems are installed and actively used for environmental controls.

**CLOSED GRAIN AND OPEN GRAIN:** The size and distribution of the cellular structure of the wood influences the appearance and uniformity. Open grain hardwoods, such as Elm, Oak, Ash, and Chestnut, are "ring porous" species. These species have distinct figure and grain patterns. Close grain hardwoods, such as Cherry, Maple, Birch, and Yellow Poplar, are "diffuse porous" species. Most North American diffuse porous woods have small, dense pores resulting in less distinct figure and grain. Some tropical diffuse porous species (e.g., Mahogany) have rather large pores.

**CLOSED STRINGER:** In stairwork, a stringer that boxes in the treads and risers.

**COFFER:** A sunken, decorative panel in a ceiling.

**COMB GRAIN:** A quality of rift cut veneer with exceptionally straight grain and closely spaced growth increments resembling the appearance of long strands of combed hair.

**COMBINATION CORE:** Panels are a hybridization of veneer and composition cores offering the advantages of both. Typically these cores have internal layers which are constructed of three or five plies of veneer or a center layer of wafer board (randomly oriented wafers) or other wood fiber which are sandwiched between thin laminations of a composite product like MDF, particleboard, hardboard, etc. Typically these products result in stronger, lighter weight, dimensionally stable panels with increased screw holding ability and superior surface flatness.

**COMPATIBLE FOR COLOR AND GRAIN:** For purposes of these standards, means members shall be selected so that:

- Lighter than average color members will not be adjacent to darker than average color members, and there will be no sharp contrast in color between the adjacent members, and
- The grain of adjacent members shall not vary widely or be dissimilar in grain, character, and figure.

**COMPATIBLE SPECIES:** For purposes of these standards, means different species which are able to exist in a harmonious combination of color and grain.

**CONCEALED SURFACE:** Surface not normally visible after installation.

**CONSPICUOUS:** Detectable; readily visible with the naked eye when observed in normal light at a distance stated within these standards.

**CONTACT ADHESIVE:** Normally used for bonding high pressure decorative laminates to a core.

**CONTRACTOR:** A general contractor, normally holding the legal agreement for construction of an owner's building project.

**CONVERSION VARNISH:** In finishing, a class of coatings that are tough and exhibit excellent resistance to household chemicals.

**COPE/COPED:** To cut the end of one member to match the profile of another molded member.

**CHORD SEGMENTATION:** The process of cutting short lengths of straight molding and joining them around a curve core which is not permitted under these standards.

**CORE:** The material (typically, veneer, lumber, particleboard, medium density fiberboard, or a combination of these) on which an exposed surface material (typically, veneer or decorative laminate) is applied.

**CORE, HOLLOW:** A core assembly of strips or other units of wood, wood derivative, or insulation board with intervening hollow cells or spaces that support the outer faces.

**CORE, MINERAL:** A fire resistant core material generally used in doors requiring fire rating of 3/4 hours or more.

**CORE, SOLID:** The innermost layer or section in flush door construction. Typical constructions are as follows:

- **PARTICLEBOARD** - A solid core of wood or other lignocellulose particles bonded together with a suitable binder, cured under heat, and pressed into a rigid panel in a flat platen press.
- **STAVE** - A solid core of wood blocks or strips.
- **WOOD BLOCK, LINED** - A solid core of two parts; a central wood block core bonded to two core liners of wood or other lignocellulose materials.

**CRATERING:** The formation of small depressions in a finish, sometimes called fish eye. Often caused by the contamination of the finish material or the core with silicone, oil, or other substances.

**CREEP:** The deflection over time of loaded or unloaded adjustable shelves, which fluctuates with temperature, humidity and load stress.

**CROOK:** A deviation, edgewise, from a straight line drawn from end to end of a piece. It is measured at the point of greatest distance from the straight line.

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**CROSSBANDING:** A ply placed between the core and face veneer in 5 ply construction, or a ply placed between the back and face of a 3 ply skin in 7 ply construction. When the crossbanding has directional grain, it is placed at right angles to the grain of the face veneer. When used with laminate face doors, crossbanding may consist of more than one ply.

**CROSS BAR:** Irregularity of grain resembling a dip in the grain running at right angles, or nearly so, to the length of the veneer.

**CROSS GRAIN:** Applied to wood in which the grain is not running lengthwise of the material in one direction. The irregularity is due to interlocked fiber, uneven annual rings, or to the intersection of branch and stem.

**CROTCH:** Comes from the portion of a tree just below the point where it forks into two limbs. The grain is crushed and twisted, creating a variety of plume and flame figures, often resembling a well formed feather. The outside of the block produces a swirl figure that changes to full crotch figure as the cutting approaches the center of the block.

**CUP:** A deviation in the face of a piece from a straight line drawn from edge to edge of that piece. It is measured at the point of greatest distance from the straight line.

**CURB STRINGER:** See closed stringer.

**CURING:** The complete drying of a finish to the ultimate development of its properties.

**CURLY:** Figure that occurs when the fibers are distorted, producing a wavy or curly effect in the lumber or veneer. Primarily found in Maple or Birch.

**CUSTOM GRADE:** The middle or normal Grade in both material and workmanship, and intended for high quality, conventional work.

**CUT HEART:** See split heart.

**DADO, BLIND, OR STOPPED JOINT:** A dado that is not visible when the joint is completed.

**DADO JOINT:** A rectangular groove across the grain of a wood member into which the end of the joining member is inserted; also a housed joint. Variations include "mortise and tenon" and "stopped or blind dado" joints.

**DECAY:** Disintegration of wood due to the action of wood destroying fungi; "doze", "rot", and "unsound wood" mean the same as "decay."

**DECORATIVE COMPOSITE PANELS:** For the purposes of these standards, a thermally fused panel flat pressed from a thermoset polyester or melamine resin impregnated paper (minimum 30%); see low pressure decorative laminates.

**DEFECT:** Fault that detracts from the quality, appearance, or utility of the piece. Handling marks and/or grain raising due to moisture shall not be considered a defect.

**DEFECT, OPEN:** Open joints, knotholes, cracks, loose knots, wormholes, gaps, voids, or other openings interrupting the smooth continuity of the wood surface.

**DEFLECTION:** When weight is applied to a flat panel supported at two opposing ends in a horizontal position, such as a shelf, and the weight causes the shelf surface to become concave. Deflection is affected by the weight applied as well as the shelf core and finish materials.

**DELAMINATION:** Separation of plies or layers of wood or other materials through failure of the adhesive joint.

**DESIGN PROFESSIONAL:** An architect, interior designer, specification writer, or other individual qualified by virtue of education and/or training to provide services for the design of buildings, interiors, and furnishings.

**DIE WALL:** A millwork assembly, typically vertical, that includes sub framing and a finish face on one or more sides. Die walls are commonly used at reception desks, nurse stations and low walls dividing areas within a larger room. They are typically self supported or attached to floors or walls. A die wall typically allows other millwork items to be attached, such as countertops, transaction countertops and casework.

**DIMENSION LUMBER:** Material that is precut in width and thickness to a standard size.

**DIRECTIONAL PATTERN OR VENEER GRAIN MATCH:** (see Veneer Grain or directional pattern Match).

**DISCOLORATIONS:** Stains in wood substances. Common veneer stains are sap stains, blue stains, stains produced by chemical action caused by the iron in the cutting knife coming in contact with the tannic acid of the wood, and those resulting from exposure of natural wood extractives to oxygen and light, to chemical action of vat treatments or the adhesive components, and/or to the surface finish.

**DISTRESSING:** In finishing, either a mechanical or chemical special effect.

**DISTRIBUTOR:** A person or organization that provides products on a wholesale basis to a manufacturer of woodwork.

**DIVISION:** A cabinet component that is not one of the two sides, top or bottom. A division divides a cabinet into sections. Divisions may be horizontal or vertical.

**DOOR FURNISHER:** As used in PRODUCT of section 09, is defined as the party responsible for the taking off, ordering and supplying of the doors to a project.

**DOVETAIL JOINT:** A joint formed by inserting a projecting wedge shaped member (dovetail tenon) into a correspondingly shaped cut out member (dovetail mortise); variations include the "dovetail dado" and the "blind dovetail dado."

**DOWEL:** Cylindrical peg used to strengthen a wood joint.

**DOWELED JOINT:** A joint using "dowels" (doweled construction); also "doweled edge joint."

**DOUG FIR:** Referring to Douglas Fir. Douglas fir is a common name for softwood evergreen coniferous trees of the genus *Pseudotsuga* in the family Pinaceae. Also known as Douglas Tree, False Hemlock and Oregon Pine. The heartwood of Doug Fir is moderately resistant to decay and is often used in exterior applications that require a smooth finish. The grain is typically straight and used as small parts for millwork where straightness is a consideration.

**DOZE:** A form of incipient decay characterized by a dull and lifeless appearance of the wood, accompanied by a loss of strength and softening of the wood substance.

**DRAWINGS:** Part of a project's design documents which, in combination with written specifications, define the scope, quality assurance, requirements, submittals, dimensions, product handling, and product specifications to the manufacturer. See Shop Drawings.

**EASED EDGES:** For the vast majority of work, a sharp arris or edge is not permitted. Such edges are traditionally "eased" by lightly striking the edge with a fine abrasive. Less often, or as a design element, such edges are machined to a small radius.

**EASEMENTS:** Short curved segments of handrail that provide for changes in pitch, elevation, or direction.

**ECONOMY GRADE:** The lowest Grade in both material and workmanship, and intended for work where price outweighs quality considerations.

**EDGEBANDING:** The process of attaching a finished material to the edge of panels. Typically machine applied with hot melt glue, however hand attachment is allowed. Edgeband application is subject to tolerances found in these Standards.

**EDGE GRAIN (EG) OR VERTICAL GRAIN (VG):** A piece or pieces sawn at approximately right angles to the annual growth rings so that the rings form an angle of 45 degrees or more with the surface of the piece.

**EDGE JOINT:** When the edges of boards are glued together to increase the width.

**EFFECT:** The final result achieved in a finished wood surface, after the application of a clearly specified series of finishing procedures (steps) have been completed. Successfully achieving a specified "effect" requires the active participation of the design professional and the woodwork finisher.

**ELEVATION:** As used within these standards, a view of the front, back or end of an assembly or grouping of architectural woodwork components.

**END BUTT JOINT:** When:

- One end is glued to an edge or face of another board to form an angle (e.g., stiles and rails of a face frame)
- The end of one board is fastened to the end of another to increase its length (e.g., running trim).

**END GRAIN:** The grain seen in a cut made at a right angle to the direction of the fibers in a board.

**END MATCH:** Butting adjacent veneer leaves on one panel end to end in sequence. Veneer leaves are book matched end to end. Generally used for very long panels or for projects in which only short length veneers are available.

**EQUILIBRIUM MOISTURE CONTENT:** The moisture content at which wood neither gains nor loses moisture when surrounded by air at a given relative humidity and temperature.

**ESCUTCHEON:** A protective fitting around a keyhole; also a shield like ornament.

**EXPOSED EXTERIOR SURFACES:** For purposes of these standards, specifically casework, means all exterior surfaces exposed to view.

**EXPOSED FASTENERS:** Any mechanical fastening device, filled or unfilled, that can be seen on exposed or semi-exposed surfaces of woodwork.

**EXPOSED INTERIOR SURFACES:** For purposes of these standards, specifically casework, means all interior surfaces exposed to view in open casework or behind transparent doors.

**EXPOSED SURFACES:** Surfaces normally visible after installation.

**EXTERIOR (Building):** That portion of the structure that is outside of the weather proofing of the building, including the weather proofing (non climate controlled).

**FACE:** The better side of any panel in which the outer plies are of different veneer grades; also either side of a panel in which there is no difference in veneer grade of the outer plies.

**FACE FRAME CONSTRUCTION:** A type of construction, where the front edge of the cabinet body components is overlaid with a frame.

**FACE VENEER:** The outermost exposed wood veneer surface of a veneered door, panel, or other component exposed to view when the project is completed.

**FASTENER, MECHANICAL:** The generic term for securing devices that are used in the fabrication and/or installation of architectural woodwork, such as dowels, dowel screws, splines, nails, screws, bolts, shot pins, etc.

**FEW:** A small number without regard to their arrangement in the panel.

**FIBER:** One of the long, thick walled cells that give strength and support to hardwoods.

**FIBERBOARD CORE:** Manufactured from wood reduced to fine fibers mixed with binders and formed by the use of heat and pressure into panels.

**FIDDLEBACK:** A fine, strong, even ripple figure as frequently seen on the backs of violins. The figure is found principally in Mahogany and Maple, but occurs sometimes in other species.

**FIELD:** With reference to work location, meaning in the field or jobsite versus in the manufacturing plant or shop.

**FIGURE:** The natural pattern produced in the wood surface by annual growth rings, rays, knots, and natural deviations from the normal grain, such as interlocked and wavy grain, and irregular coloration.

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**FILLER:** In finishing, ground inert solids specifically designed to fill pores or small cavities in wood as one step in the overall finishing process. In casework, paneling, ornamental work, stairwork, frames, and some other architectural woodwork applications, an additional piece of trim material between woodwork members or between woodwork and some other material used to create a fill or transition between the members.

**FINGER JOINT:** When the ends of two pieces of lumber are cut to an identically matching set. Used most commonly to increase the length of the board. A series of interlocking fingers are precision cut on the ends of two pieces of wood that mesh together and are held rigidly in place with adhesive.

**FIRE RETARDANT TREATMENT:** Only a few species are treated with chemicals to reduce flammability and retard the spread of flame over the surface. This usually involves impregnation of the wood, under pressure, with salts and other chemicals. White Oak is untreatable.

**FIRE RATED DOOR:** A door that has been constructed in such a manner that when installed in an assembly and tested will pass ASTM E-152 "Fire Test of Door Assemblies," and can be rated as resisting fire for 20 minutes (1/3 hour), 30 minutes (1/2 hour), 45 minutes (3/4 hour) (C), 1 hour (B), or 1-1/2 hours (B). The door must be tested and carry an identifying label from a qualified testing and inspection agency.

**FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP:** For architectural woodwork, the finest or highest class of workmanship for the Grade specified, and shall be free of manufacturing and natural defects covered under grading rules in these standards.

**FLAKE:** See "Fleck, Ray".

**FLAKEBOARD:** See "particleboard."

**FLAME SPREAD:** Fire retardant particleboard is available with an Underwriters' Laboratory (UL) stamp for Class 1 Flame Spread 20 (Smoke Developed 25). Fire Rated doors are available with particleboard and mineral cores for ratings up to 1-1/2 hours. It is the responsibility of the specifier to indicate which fire retardant classification is required for a particular product. In the absence of such a specified rating, the manufacturer may supply unrated product.

**FLAME SPREAD CLASSIFICATION:** The generally accepted measurement for flame spread rating of materials. It compares the rate of flame spread on a particular species with the rate of flame spread on untreated Red Oak.

**FLAT GRAIN (FG) OR SLASH GRAIN (SG):** A piece or pieces sawn approximately parallel to the annual growth rings so that all or some of the rings form an angle of less than 45 degrees with the surface of the piece.

**FLAT SLICING:** See "Plain Slicing".

**FLATNESS:** A panel face having an even or smooth surface in one plane without depressions or projections.

**FLECK, RAY:** Portion of a ray as it appears on the quartered or rift cut surface. Fleck is often a dominant appearance feature in Oak.

**FLITCH:** A hewn or sawn log made ready for veneer production or the actual veneer slices of one half log, kept in order, and used for the production of plywood panels.

**FLUSH INSET:** Cabinet construction in which the door and drawer faces are set within and flush with the body members or face frames of the cabinet with spaces between face surfaces sufficient for operating clearance.

**FLUSH OVERLAY:** Cabinet construction in which door and drawer faces cover the body members of the cabinet with spaces between face surfaces sufficient for operating clearance.

**FLUTE:** One of a series of parallel, lengthwise channels or grooves in a column, cornice molding, band, or furniture leg.

**FRAMELESS CONSTRUCTION:** A type of construction, where no frame is attached to the front edge of the cabinet body components which are typically edgebanded.

**FRENCH CLEAT:** A method of concealed panel or trim hanging where one component is screwed to the wall and the other component is screwed to the back of a millwork product. Each cleat has an opposing 45 degree edge, causing the two pieces to interlock. French cleats may be used for cabinet hanging provided it has been independently tested to show compliance to the Wall Cabinet Structural Integrity Test shown in Appendix.

**FURRING:** Material added to a building surface to create a true plane in order to install woodwork plumb and level.

**GABLE:** Aside from the traditional usage referring to the end of a building, in casework the end or side of a cabinet.

**GAP:** An unfilled opening in a continuous surface or between adjoining surfaces.

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** See contractor.

**GLAZING:** In finishing, an added step for achieving color or to heighten grain appearance.

**GLOSS:** See sheen.

**GLUE BLOCK:** A wood block, usually triangular in cross section, securely glued to an angular joint between two members for a greater glue bond area.

**GLUE SPOTS:** The discoloration or barrier to finish penetration caused by the bleed through or unremoved glue on an exposed or semi-exposed wood surface.

**GLUED, SECURELY:** The bonding of two members with an adhesive forming a tight joint with no visible delamination at the lines of application.

**GRADE:** Unless otherwise noted, this term means Grade rules for Economy, Custom, and/or Premium Grade.

**GRADING RULES:** Most hardwoods are graded utilizing the rules established by the National Hardwood Lumber Association. Softwoods, on the other hand, are graded by several grading associations. The three primary softwood grading associations are Western Wood Products Association, Southern Pine Inspection Bureau, and Redwood Inspection Service.

- Although lumber must be purchased by the manufacturer according to these grading rules, these rules should not be used to specify lumber for architectural woodwork. Specify the Grade of Work for the fabricated products under these standards.
- Softwood plywood is graded by the American Plywood Association (APA, The Engineered Wood Association). Grade markings are stamped on the back or edge of each sheet.
- Hardwood plywood is made under the standards of the Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association (HPVA). These Grades are rarely marked on the panels.

**GRAIN:** The fibers in wood and their direction, size, arrangement, appearance, or quality. When severed, the annual growth rings become quite pronounced and the effect is referred to as “grain”:

- **FLAT GRAIN (FG) or SLASH GRAIN (SG)** - lumber or veneer is a piece sawn or sliced approximately parallel to the annual growth rings so that some or all of the rings form an angle of less than 45 degrees with the surface of the piece.
- **MIXED GRAIN (MG)** - is any combination of vertical or flat grain in the same member. Vertical grain lumber or veneer is a piece sawn or sliced at approximately right angles to the annual growth rings so that the rings form an angle of 45 degrees or more with the surface of the piece.

- **QUARTERED GRAIN** - is a method of sawing or slicing to bring out certain figures produced by the medullary or pith rays, which are especially conspicuous in Oak. The log is flitched in several different ways to allow the cutting of the veneer in a radial direction. Rift or comb grain is lumber or veneer that is obtained by cutting at an angle of about 15 degrees off of the quartered position. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the exposed surface area of each piece of veneer may contain medullary ray flake.
- **OPEN GRAIN AND CLOSED GRAIN** - The size and distribution of the cellular structure of the wood influences the appearance and uniformity. Open grain hardwoods, such as Elm, Oak, Ash, and Chestnut are “ring porous” species. These species have distinct figure and grain patterns. Close grain hardwoods, such as Cherry, Maple, Birch, and Yellow Poplar, are “diffuse porous” species. Most North American diffuse porous woods have small, dense pores resulting in less distinct figure and grain. Some tropical diffuse porous species (e.g., Mahogany) have rather large pores.
- **GRAIN RAISE** - When moisture in a finish swells and lifts wood fibers away from the surface of the wood being finished. The wood surface should be further sanded to eliminate grain raise.
- **RAISED GRAIN** - Roughened condition of the surface of dressed lumber on which hard summerwood is raised above the softer springwood, but is not torn loose from it.

**GRAIN CHARACTER:** A varying pattern produced by cutting through growth rings, exposing various layers. It is most pronounced in veneer cut tangentially or rotary.

**GRAIN FIGURE:** The pattern produced in a wood surface by annual growth rings, rays, knots, or deviations from natural grain, such as interlocked and wavy grain and irregular coloration.

**GRAIN RAISE:** See Grain.

**GRAIN SLOPE:** Expression of the angle of the grain to the long edges of the veneer component.

**GRAIN SWEEP:** Expression of the angle of the grain to the long edges of the veneer component over the area extending one-eighth of the length of the piece from the ends.

**GROOVE:** Rectangular slot of three surfaces cut parallel with the grain of the wood.

**GROUND:** A narrow strip of wood that serves as a guide for plaster as well as a base to which trim members are secured. Grounds are applied to rough interior openings especially doors and windows; along interior walls at the finish floor line; and wherever wainscot may be installed. The thickness of a ground is that of the combined lath and plaster, while the width varies from 1” (25.4 mm) to 3” (76.2 mm), which is often called plaster grounds (around interior or exterior openings) and base grounds (when used around base of rooms).

**GROWTH RINGS:** The layer of wood added by a tree in a single growing season, the markings of which contribute to the figure in finished woods. Annual growth rings include both summer and winter growth.

**GUM POCKETS:** Well defined openings between rings of annual growth, containing gum or evidence of prior gum accumulations.

**GUM SPOTS AND STREAKS:** Gum or resinous material or color spots and streaks often dark brown, black or golden, caused by prior resin accumulations sometimes found on veneer or lumber surfaces.

**HAIRLINE:** A thin, perceptible line showing at the joint of two pieces of wood.

**HALF LAP JOINT:** A joint formed by extending (lapping) the joining part of one member over the joining part of another.

**HALF ROUND:** A method of cutting veneers on an off center lathe that results in modified characteristics of both rotary and plain sliced veneers; often used in Red and White Oak.

# GLOSSARY

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**HALF ROUND SLICING:** A method of veneer cutting similar to rotary cutting, except that the piece being cut is secured to a “stay log,” a device that permits the cutting of the log on a wider sweep than when mounted with its center secured in the lathe to produce rotary sliced veneer. A type of half round cutting is used to achieve plain sliced or flat cut veneer.

**HANDLING MARKS:** Scratches, dents, blemishes, mars, or scuffs left or created by physical handling or packaging.

**HANDRAIL:** See “Molding”.

**HAND RUBBED FINISH:** In finishing, a manual step performed to smooth, flatten, or dull the topcoat.

**HARDBOARD:** A generic term for a panel manufactured primarily from inter felted lignocellulose fibers consolidated under heat and pressure in a hot press and conforming to the requirements of ANSI/AHA A 135.4 (latest edition).

**HARDBOARD, TEMPERED:** Hardboard that has been coated or impregnated with an oil and then baked to give it more impact resistance, hardness, rigidity, tensile strength, and more resistance to scratches and moisture. Tempered hardboard is typically smooth on both sides and may have a dark smooth finish.

**HARDNESS** (in finishing): The property of a coating that causes it to resist denting or penetration by a hard object.

**HARDWOOD:** General term used to designate lumber or veneer produced from temperate zone deciduous or tropical broad leaved trees in contrast to softwood, which is produced from trees that are usually needle bearing or coniferous. The term does not imply hardness in its physical sense.

**HEARTWOOD:** The non active or dormant center of a tree, generally distinguishable from the outer portion (sapwood) by its darker color, sometime referred to as heart.

**HEAT RESISTANCE TEST:** See “Appendix.”

**HIGH DENSITY OVERLAY:** The standard grades of high density overlay shall be as listed in PS 1, latest edition. The surface of the finished product shall be hard, smooth, or uniformly textured, although some evidence of underlying grain may appear. The surface shall be of such a character that further finishing by paint or protective coating is not necessary.

**HIGH PRESSURE CABINET LINER:** Conforms to NEMA LD-3 (latest edition), has a color or pattern sheet to enhance its appearance, and is intended for use in cabinet interiors.

**HIGH PRESSURE DECORATIVE LAMINATE (HPDL):** Laminated thermosetting decorative sheets intended for decorative purposes. The sheets consist essentially of layers of a fibrous sheet material, such as paper, impregnated with a thermosetting condensation resin and consolidation under heat and pressure. The top layers have a decorative color or a printed design. The resulting product has an attractive exposed surface that is durable and resistant to damage from abrasion and mild alkalies, acids, and solvents, meeting the requirements of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) LD-3 (latest edition).

**HOLE:** Applies to holes from any cause.

**HOLES, WORM:** Holes resulting from infestation by worms greater than 1/16” (1.6 mm) in diameter.

**HONEYCOMB DOOR CORE:** A method of using lightweight paper, wood or other material based products to form a door core. The honeycomb provides some structural integrity and is a base for attachment of back bands or cross bands.

**HONEYCOMB IN RED OAK:** A structural defect found in Red Oak caused by bacterial heartwood infection resulting in abnormal odors in kiln dried lumber and an appearance of voids within the lumber.

**HOUSED CABINET BACK:** When a cabinet back is set in a three sided groove such as a plow or groove.

**HPDL:** See “high pressure decorative laminate.”

**HPDL COMPACT:** See “Solid Phenolic”.

**HUMIDITY:** The common term for relative humidity; the amount of moisture in an atmosphere in relation to temperature.

**INCONSPICUOUS:** Not readily visible without careful inspection (as a measurement of natural or machining characteristics).

**INDENTATIONS:** Areas in the face that have been compressed as the result of residue on the platens of the hot press or handling damage through the factory.

**INNER PLIES:** Plies other than face or back plies in a panel construction. Crossbands and centers are classed as inner plies (see core).

**INSTALLER:** A person or organization that regularly engages in the practice of installing architectural woodwork.

**INTERIOR** (Building): That portion of a building that is inside the building weather proofing, not including the weather proofing (can be climate controlled).

**INTUMESCENT COATINGS:** Can be applied to the surface of flammable products to reduce flammability.

**JOINT:** The line of juncture between the edges or ends of two adjacent pieces of lumber or sheets of veneer, such as butt, dado (blind, stopped), dovetail, blind dovetail, finger, half lap, lock, miter (shoulder, lock, spline), mortise and tenon (blind slotted, stub, or through), rabbet, scarf, spline, and tongue and groove joint.

**JOINT, OPEN:** Joint in which two adjacent pieces of lumber or veneer do not fit tightly together.

**JOINTS TIGHT, FACTORY:** Any joints or a combination of joints and/or mechanical fasteners, that are used to join two members in the shop. Distance between members shall not exceed those set forth in these standards.

**JOINTS TIGHT, FIELD:** Any joints or a combination of joints and/or mechanical fasteners that are used to join two members in the field. Distance between members shall not exceed those set forth in these standards.

**KCPI:** Stands for “knife cuts per inch”; generally used when describing the result of molded profiles or S4S materials.

**KERF:** The groove or notch made as a saw passes through wood; also the wood removed by the saw in parting the material.

**KILN DRIED:** Lumber dried in a closed chamber in which the removal of moisture is controlled by artificial heat and usually by controlled relative humidity.

**KNIFE MARKS:** The imprints or markings of the machine knives on the surface of dressed lumber.

**KNOCKED DOWN (KD):** Unassembled, as contrasted to assembled.

**KNOT:** Cross section of tree branch or limb with grain usually running at right angles to that of the piece of wood in which it occurs

- **CONSPICUOUS PIN** - Sound knots 6.4 mm (1/4 inch) or less in diameter containing dark centers.
- **HOLES** - Openings produced when knots drop from the wood in which they were embedded.
- **OPEN** - Opening produced when a portion of the wood substance of a knot has dropped out or where cross checks have occurred to produce an opening.
- **SOUND TIGHT** - Knots that are solid across their face and fixed by growth to retain their place.
- **SPIKE** - Knots cut from 0° to 45° to the long axis of limbs.

**LACQUER:** A coating composed of synthetic film forming materials such as nitrocellulose, ethylcellulose, natural and synthetic resins, which are dissolved in organic solvents and are dried by solvent evaporation.

**LEAF:** The individual pieces of wood veneer that make up a flitch.

**LEED®:** An environmental building rating system created by United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to encourage and certify the environmental and energy saving attributes of a building and its operations.

**LIFTING:** In finishing, the softening of a dried film by the solvents of a succeeding coat, which causes raising and wrinkling of the first coat.

**LIGHTS (LITES):** In door construction, openings to receive glazing.

**LIPPAGE:** Variation in the height of adjoining stone or epoxy resin counter top joints. The differences in elevation between edges of adjacent tile modules.

**LISTING:** A tabular method of describing materials or methods that do not require drawings.

**LOCK BLOCK:** A concealed block the same thickness as the door stile or core that is adjacent to the stile at a location corresponding to the lock location and into which a lock is fitted.

**LOCK JOINT:** Interlocking machine joint between two members.

**LOOSE SIDE (of leaf):** In knife cut veneer, that side of the leaf that was in contact with the knife as the veneer was being cut, and containing cutting checks (lathe checks) because of the bending of the wood at the knife edge.

**LOUVER:** A slat or slats installed in a panel or door at an angle to the panel allowing various degrees of light, air or sound passage. May be constructed as adjustable.

**LOW PRESSURE DECORATIVE LAMINATE:** A general term referring to a variety of melamine or polyester enhanced surface papers and foils laminated to a core, typically referred to as melamine or polyester overlays.

**LPDL:** See “low pressure decorative laminate.”

**LUMBER:** Pieces of wood no further manufactured than by sawing, planing, crosscutting to length, and perhaps edge machining.

**LUSTER:** See “Sheen”.

**MADE TO ORDER SEQUENCED PANELS:** All panels are manufactured to width and/or height according to each elevation. All panels are balanced matched and sequenced to the adjacent panels.

**MAHOGANY:** The term “Mahogany” should not be specified without further definition. It must be understood that there are different species of Mahogany that should be specified.

African, Central and South American, or Tropical American, including American Mahogany, are genuine and true Mahoganies. American Mahogany varies in color from light pink to light red; reddish brown to golden brown or yellowish tan. Some Mahogany turns darker and some lighter in color after machining.

The figure or grain in American Mahogany runs from plain sliced, plain stripe to broken stripe, mottled, fiddleback, swirl, and crotches. As uniform color is not a natural characteristic of this species, if a uniform color is desired it is recommended that the finishing specification include a statement that toner or tint must be applied so that color variation shall be kept to a minimum.

Lauan White and Red, Tanguile, and other species are native to the Philippine Islands and are sometimes referred to as Philippine Mahogany. Those species are not a true Mahogany.

When only the word “Mahogany” is specified, it usually (but not always) means a true Mahogany as selected by the manufacturer unless a specific species is called for in the specifications. When Philippine Mahogany is specified, it nearly always means Lauan, Tanguile, and other natural Philippine species of wood.

**MANUFACTURER:** A person or organization that regularly engages in the practice of manufacturing, prefinishing, and/or installing architectural woodwork.

**MATCHING EDGE BAND:** See “self edge.”

**MECHANICAL FASTENER:** The generic term for securing devices that are used in the fabrication and/or installation of architectural woodwork such as dowels, dowel screws, splines, biscuit splines nails, screws, bolts, pins, etc.

**MEDIUM DENSITY FIBERBOARD (MDF):** See particleboard for a basic description. As used in these standards, whether as MDF alone or as core material, the MDF shall meet the requirements of ANSI A-208.2 (latest edition).

# GLOSSARY

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**MEDIUM DENSITY OVERLAY (MDO):** A panel product particularly well suited for opaque (paint) finishes; most versions are highly weather resistant.

**MEDIUM DENSITY PARTICLEBOARD:** Generally refers to particleboard manufactured to an approximate density of 45 lbs per cubic foot (20.41 kg per cubic cm); the type of particleboard used for architectural woodworking cores.

**MEDULLARY RAY:** Extends radially from the center of a log toward the outer circumference. These rays serve primarily to store food and transport it horizontally. These rays vary in height from a few cells in some species to an excess of 4" (102 mm) in Oaks. In Oak, it produces the flake effect common to quarter sawn lumber.

**MELAMINE:** Resin impregnated paper used in decorative composite panel products (see thermally fused decorative laminate panel).

**MEMBER:** An individual piece of solid stock or plywood that forms an item of woodwork.

**METAMERISM:** An apparent change in color when exposed to differing wavelengths of light; the human perception of color (see Barber Pole and Book Match).

**MILL RUN:** Molding run to pattern only, not assembled, machined for assembly, or cut to length. The terms "material only" and "loose and long" mean the same as "mill run."

**MILLWORK:** See "architectural woodwork."

**MINERAL STREAK:** An olive to greenish black or brown discoloration of undetermined cause in hardwoods.

**MIRROR POLISH FINISH:** In finishing, several steps of wet sanding, mechanical buffing, and polishing.

**MISMATCH:** An uneven fit in worked lumber when adjoining pieces do not meet tightly at all points of contact or when the surfaces of adjoining pieces are not in the same plane.

**MITERFOLD:** Made from a single panel in one machining process; includes placement of tape, machining, application of adhesive, folding, glue, clamp, and clean.

**MITER JOINT:** The joining of two members at an angle that bisects the angle of junction.

**MITER, LOCK JOINT:** A miter joint employing a tongue and groove to further strengthen it.

**MITER, SHOULDER JOINT:** Any type of miter joint that presents a shoulder, such as a lock miter or a splined miter.

**MOCK UP:** A sample made by the manufacturer to demonstrate materials, assembly, finish and/or tolerances proposed for a project. A mock up does not eliminate the requirements found in section 1 for shop drawings. Mock ups, if approved, may be allowed to become part of the finished project.

**MODULAR CASEWORK:** Casework produced from a manufacturer's standard details adapted to use for a particular project.

**MODULUS OF ELASTICITY (MOE):** As referenced in this standard, the theoretically recoverable longitudinal deflection value of a material from an applied load.

**MODULUS OF RUPTURE (MOR):** The maximum load carrying capacity of a member under bending load.

**MOISTURE CONTENT:** The weight of the water in the wood expressed in percentage of the weight of the oven dry wood.

**MOLDED EDGE:** Edge of piece machined to any profile other than a square or eased edge.

**MOLDING (MOULDING):** A decorative strip, usually having a curved or projecting surface. Some common moldings used are listed below. (Additional ornamental and architectural moldings are listed in the Design Ideas Section under Historic Woodwork Glossary):

- **ASTRAGAL** - A molding attached to one door of a pair of doors covering the gap between the doors.

- **BACK BAND** - Used in conjunction with casing or baseboard to create a wide variety of trim options for windows and doors. Generally backband moldings create thicker or wider moldings than single piece components.
- **BASE BLOCK** - The square block terminating a molded baseboard at a doorway; a plinth block.
- **BASE CAP** - A molding applied to the top edge of a base molding to add aesthetic affect.
- **BASE or BASEBOARD** - Moldings used to trim the intersection of a wall or cabinet and the floor.
- **BASE SHOE** - A small molding combined with a base molding to complete the trimming of the wall and floor intersection.
- **BEAD MOLDING** - A narrow half round molding that is continuous or divided into bead like forms.
- **CASING** - Generally, a molding placed around a door frame or window frame.
- **BED MOLDING** - A molding or group of moldings used immediately beneath a projection.
- **CHAIR RAIL** - Applied along a wall for protection or as a design element between wall treatments, such as paneling, wallpaper, or paint. Traditionally placed at the horizontal location on the wall at a height that would be rubbed by a chair back, to protect the wall.
- **CORNICE** - A wood or composite wood molding detail along the top edge of a piece of a millwork assembly or a building. May be built up of several moldings or components to create one large profile.
- **COVE** - Similar to crown moldings, often smaller in size and less decorative.
- **CROWN** - Used to accent ceiling intersections and traditional pediments and casework tops.
- **FILLET** - A thin molding used to separate or decorate larger moldings and also refers to the infill strip that fits between the balusters on a stair case.

- **HANDRAIL** - A molding used along a hallway or corridor designed to be grasped by the hand to provide stability or support.
- **LATTICE** - A thin, flat molding, rectangular in cross-section, used to build decorative screening or conceal joinery.
- **OGEE** - A molding with reverse curved face that is concave above and convex below.
- **QUARTER ROUND** - A molding with a convex, quarter cylindrical shape.
- **PANEL MOLDING** - A decorative molding used to trim out raised or recessed wall panels.
- **SHOE** - A small molding with a concave channel and a square back.
- **TRANSITION MOLDING** - A molding that conceals the joint between uneven surfaces.

**MORTISE AND TENON, BLIND JOINT:** A mortise and tenon joint in which the tenon does not extend through the mortise and does not remain visible once the joint is completed; also “blind tenoned.”

**MORTISE AND TENON, SLOTTED JOINT:** A mortise and tenon right angle joint in which the tenon is visible on two edges once the joint is completed.

**MORTISE AND TENON, STUB JOINT:** A short tenon inserted in a plow or groove.

**MORTISE AND TENON, THROUGH JOINT:** A mortise and tenon joint in which the inserted tenon extends completely through the mortise and the end of the tenon remains visible once the joint is completed.

**MOTTLE:** Broken wavy patches across the face of the wood that give the impression of an uneven, although smooth, surface caused by a twisted interwoven grain with irregular cross figure, which is the mottle. The effect is due to reflected light on the uneven arrangement of the fibers. Other terms used to describe variations include bee’s wing, fiddle, peacock, plum, ram, block, or stop mottle.

**NAILED:** Members secured together with nails, including power driven nails or staples. On exposed surfaces, staples and tee nails shall run parallel to the grain.

**NATURAL:** When referring to color and matching, veneers containing any amount of sapwood and/ or heartwood.

**NEWEL POST:** In stairwork, an upright post that supports or receives the handrail at critical points of the stair, such as starting, landing, or top; the central vertical support of a spiral staircase.

**NGR STAINS:** Refers to non grain raising stains.

**NOMINAL:** The average sizes (width and thickness) of lumber just out of the sawmill before being processed into usable board stock. Always larger than “finished” dimensions. Also, a term that designates a stated dimension as being approximate and subject to allowances for variation.

**NON CLIMATE CONTROLLED:** Referring to the inside or outside areas of a building where heat or air condition systems are not used for environmental controls.

**NON HOUSED CABINET BACK:** When a cabinet back is set in a rabbet or is plant on back style.

**NON WOOD:** As used in INSTALLATION sections of this Standard refers to components made of material other than wood and that are subject to this Standard’s tolerance threshold values.

**NON WOOD BASED PRODUCTS:** Any material that is not made of wood, veneer or paper based materials. Common non wood based products include: solid surface, stone, metals, fabrics, drywall, and masonry.

**NON WOOD TO NON WOOD:** A two or more component joint or assembly containing products that are not made of wood or wood based products.

**NOSING:** A rounded convex edge, as on a stair step.

**OCCASIONAL:** A small number of characteristics that are arranged somewhat diversely within the panel face.

**OPAQUE FINISH:** A paint or pigmented stain finish that hides the natural characteristics and color of the grain of the wood surface and is not transparent.

**OPEN GRAIN AND CLOSED GRAIN:** See Grain.

**ORANGE PEEL:** The description of a coating that does not flow out smoothly, exhibiting the texture of an orange.

**ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB):** is an engineered wood product formed by layering strands (flakes) of wood in specific orientations. In appearance it may have a rough and variegated surface with the individual strips lying unevenly across each other.

**OVER FILING:** In manufacturing, rough edges are required to be filed or sanded smooth. Over filing exposes the core of the decorative laminate or otherwise causes defects in the finished product.

**OVERLAP:** A condition where the veneers comprising plywood are so misplaced that one piece overlaps the other and does not make a smooth joint.

**OVERLAY:** To superimpose or laminate a wood veneer of various species or a decorative item, such as melamine, polyester, or high pressure decorative laminate to one or both sides of a given core, such as plywood, particleboard, or medium density fiberboard.

**OVERSPRAY:** The dry, pebble like surface caused when the sprayed finish begins to dry in the air before it hits the surface.

# GLOSSARY

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**OXIDATION:** The effect on the appearance of exposed wood faces caused by exposure to atmosphere. This is analogous to browning reactions in freshly cut fruit; for instance, apples. Hardwoods can develop deep yellow to reddish brown discolorations on the surface of the wood when exposed to air immediately after sawing or peeling. These discolorations are especially noticeable on Cherry, Birch, Red Alder, Sycamore, Oak, Maple, and Sweet Gum. Some species, such as Alder, Oak, Birch, and Maple, develop these discolorations during air seasoning. A related gray stain on several varieties of Southern Oaks also appears to be oxidative in nature. Proper selection, sanding, and finishing can minimize the effects of oxidation. Care should be taken when using filler, as it might not change the same as the wood.

**PAIR MATCH:** Relating to passage doors, means doors are adjacent to each other or are next to each other with only a door frame member separating the two doors.

**PANEL:** Panels are consistent in thickness, with edges that are at right angles to the face and are either homogeneous or made up of three or more layers.

**PANEL MATCH:** Establishes the leaf layout in each individual panel.

**PARTICLEBOARD:** A generic term for a panel manufactured from lignocellulosic materials (usually wood), primarily in the form of discrete pieces of particles, as distinguished from fibers, combined with a synthetic resin or other suitable binder, and bonded together under heat and pressure in a hot press by a process in which the entire interparticle bond is created by the added binder, and to which other materials may have been added during manufacturing to improve certain properties. Particles are further defined by the method of pressing. When pressure is applied in the direction perpendicular to the faces as in a conventional multi platen hot press, they are defined as flat platen pressed; and when the applied pressure is parallel to the faces, they are defined as extruded.

## **PARTICLEBOARD, FIRE RETARDANT**

**TREATED:** Particleboard treated to obtain Class I or Class II flame spread.

**PARTITION:** A panel that is securely attached to floor, ceiling, walls or a supported frame used to divide room spaces.

**PATCH:** A repair made by inserting and securely gluing a sound piece of wood of the same species in place of a defect that has been removed. The edges shall be cut clean and sharp and fit tight with no voids. "Boat" patches are oval shaped with sides tapering in each direction to a point or to a small rounded end; "router" patches have parallel sides and rounded ends; "sled" patches are rectangular with feathered ends.

**PECKY:** Pockets of disintegrated wood caused by localized decay or wood areas with abrupt color change related to localized injury such as bird peck. Peck is sometimes considered a decorative effect, such as bird peck in Pecan and Hickory or pecky in Cypress.

**PEDIMENT:** A triangular ornament above a cornice.

**PENETRATING OIL:** In finishing, an oil based material designed to penetrate the wood.

**PERFORMANCE BASED:** With reference to these standards, and in contrast to prescriptive based, refers to the lack of dictated or specifically required technical processes in lieu of a concept that allows innovation as long as the required outcomes are achieved.

**PHENOL FORMALDEHYDE RESIN:** Typically used for exterior type construction. Plywood and doors bonded with this adhesive have a high resistance to moisture. The most common types require high temperatures during pressing to aid in the curing process.

**PHOTODEGRADATION:** The effect on the appearance of exposed wood faces caused by exposure to both sun and artificial light sources. Obviously, if an entire face is exposed to a light source, it will photodegrade somewhat uniformly and hardly be noticeable; whereas partially exposed surfaces or surfaces with shadow lines may show nonuniform photodegradation. Some woods, such as American Cherry and Walnut, are more susceptible than others to photodegradation.

**PILASTER:** A fluted or carved, flat, decorative column vertically attached to a building or furniture.

**PIN HOLES:** All circular or nearly circular holes in the exposed surface.

**PITCH:** An accumulation of resin that occurs in separations in the wood or in the wood cells themselves.

**PITCH POCKET:** A well defined opening between the annual growth rings that contains pitch.

**PITCH STREAK:** A well defined accumulation of pitch in the wood cells in a more or less regular streak.

**PITH:** A small, soft core occurring in the center of the log.

**PLAIN SAWN:** A hardwood figure developed by sawing a log lengthwise at a tangent to the annual growth rings. It appears as U shaped or straight markings in the board's face.

**PLAIN SLICING:** Most commonly used for hardwood plywood. The log is cut in half, and one half is placed onto a carriage and moved up and down past a fixed knife to produce the veneers. Veneer is sliced parallel to the pith of the log and approximately tangent to the growth rings to achieve flat cut veneer. Each piece is generally placed in a stack and kept in order. One half log, sliced this way, is called a "flitch."

**PLANK:** A board, usually between 1-1/2" to 3-1/2" (38.1 to 88.9 mm) thick and 6" (152 mm) or more wide, laid with its wide dimension horizontal and used as a bearing surface.

**PLANT ON BACK:** When a cabinet back is applied and fastened to the back edges of a cabinet box. The back is not set in grooves, plows or rabbets.

**PLASTIC LAMINATE FINISH:** See "high pressure decorative laminate."

**PLEASING MATCHED:** A face containing components that provide a pleasing overall appearance. The grain of the various components need not be matched at the joints, but will not be widely dissimilar in character and/or figure. Sharp color contrasts at the joints of the components are not permitted. Members are selected so that lighter than average color members are not placed adjacent to darker than average members.

**PLOW:** A rectangular groove or slot of three surfaces cut parallel to the grain of a wood member, in contrast to a dado, which is cut across the grain.

**PLY:** A single sheet of veneer or several strips laid with adjoining edges that may or may not be glued, which forms one veneer laminate in a glued panel (see layer). In some constructions, a ply is used to refer to other wood components such as particleboard or MDF.

**PLYWOOD:** A panel composed of a crossbanded assembly of layers or plies of veneer, or veneers in combination with a lumber core or particleboard core, that are joined with an adhesive. Except for special constructions, the grain of alternate plies is always approximately at right angles, and the thickness and species on either side of the core are identical for balanced effect. An odd number of plies is always used.

**POCKET SCREW:** Pocket screw joints are created by aligning two pieces perpendicular, drilling angled pocket and pilot holes and then driving cabinet assembly screws to connect the pieces. These screws are used in concealed surface locations only.

**POLYESTER:** In finishing, a very high solids content plastic coating, leaving a deep, wet look.

**POLYURETHANE:** A very hard and wear resistant finish, which is very difficult to repair. Most commonly used as a two component system, comprising multifunctional isocyanate or moisture cured urethane, with a higher solids content than lacquers. Single component (excluding moisture cured) products are usually composed of precatalyzed urethane.

**PREFINISHED:** Product that is delivered with finish as opposed to field finishing.

**PREMANUFACTURED SETS:** Each panel, usually 4' x 8' (1219 mm x 2438 mm) or 4' x 10' (1219 mm x 3048 mm), is part of a sequenced set of balanced matched, premanufactured panels to be installed full width with the sequencing maintained. The panel's balanced match becomes unequal at the start, end, and any other opening or change in plane when trimmed.

**PREMIUM GRADE:** The highest Grade available in both material and workmanship intended for the finest work. This is naturally the most expensive Grade.

**PRESCRIPTIVE BASED:** With reference to these standards, and in contrast to performance based, refers to the manner in which regulations are expressed that dictate the technical processes by which the required outcomes are to be achieved.

**PRESERVATIVE:** (n.) A treating solution that prevents decay in wood; (adj.) having the ability to preserve wood by inhibiting the growth of decay fungi.

**PRESSED:** As in panel layup, hot, cold, vacuum or mechanical requires pressure until glue sets and becomes rigid.

**PROFILE:** A trim that has a shaped detail along one or more edges. Eased edges are included in profiles. Ends or faces may also have profiles.

**PUR:** Is a general adhesive with polyurethane as its primary component used in the woodwork industry. It is also referred to as PU and polyurethane reactive.

**PUTTIED:** See "fill."

**PVA:** Is a wood adhesive with polyvinyl acetate as its primary component and is commonly referred to as wood glue, white glue, carpenter's glue, or PVA glue.

**PVC:** Abbreviation for "polyvinyl chloride," a synthetic decorative coating or edgebanding.

**PVC EDGING:** A polyvinyl chloride edging, usually in seamless rolls, typically applied by edgebanding machines using hot melt adhesives. Available in a variety of solid colors, patterns, and wood grain designs, in both textured and smooth finish.

**QUARTER SAWN (QUARTERED LUMBER):** Refers to solid lumber cutting. Available in limited amounts in certain species. Yields straight grain, narrow boards with "flake" or figure in some species (particularly in Red and White Oak).

**QUARTER SLICING:** Produces a striped grain pattern, straight in some woods, varied in others. Veneer produced by cutting in a radial direction to the pith to the extent that fleck or ray flake is produced, and the amount may be unlimited. In some woods, principally Oak, fleck results from cutting through the radial medullary rays.

**QUARTERS:** The commercial thicknesses usually associated with the purchase or specification of hardwoods, such as "five quarter" (5/4 of 1"), meaning 1-1/4" (31.8 mm) in thickness.

**QUIRK:** For purposes of these standards, means a sharp incision or kerf in moldings or trim that can hide the use of mechanical fastener.

**RABBET:** Rectangular cut on the edge of a member; a "rabbet" has two surfaces, and a "plow" has three.

**RABBET JOINT:** A groove cut across the grain of the face of a member at an edge or end to receive the edge or end thickness of another member.

**RAIL:** The cross or horizontal pieces of a stile and rail assembly or the cross pieces of the core assembly of a wood flush door or panel.

**RAILING:** In stairwork, the member that follows the pitch of the stair for grasping by the hand.

**RAISED GRAIN:** See "Grain".

**RAISED PANEL:** Traditional door or wall panel with a bevel edge captured in a stile and rail frame.

**RANDOM MATCH:** Matching between adjacent veneer leaves on one panel face. Random selection in the arrangement of veneer leaves from one or more flitches producing a deliberate mismatch between the pieces of veneer.

**RAY:** One of the radial structures in a tree that stores nourishment and transports it horizontally through the trunk. In quarter sawn Oak, the rays form a figure called fleck.

# GLOSSARY

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**RECONSTITUTED VENEER:** Logs that are first sliced into veneer leaves, the leaves may be dyed, then glued under pressure in a mold to produce a large laminated block. The laminated block is then sliced across the glue line to create a faux grain with a designed appearance that is highly repeatable.

**RED/BROWN:** When referring to color and matching, veneers containing all heartwood, ranging in color from light to dark.

**RED BIRCH:** The heartwood of the Yellow Birch tree.

**RELIEF:** Defined as the difference in elevation between the high and the low parts of an area or where a form is raised (or alternatively lowered) from a flattened background without being disconnected from it.

**REPAIRS:** A patch, shim, or filler material inserted and/or glued into veneer or a panel to achieve a sound surface.

**REPAIRS, BLENDING:** Wood or filler insertions similar in color to adjacent wood so as to blend well.

**RESORCINOL FORMALDEHYDE RESIN:** For woodworking, formulated into water resistant glues.

**RESTRAINED:** See “Captured”.

**RETENTION MOLDING:** A molding used to capture or hold in place another material such as a panel, glass, metal or other millwork product.

**RETURN:** Continuation in a different direction of a molding or projection, usually right angles.

**REVEAL, CABINET:** The space between door edges and inset frames. The amount of viewable case edge when a door is in the closed position in flush overlay or reveal overlay cabinet construction.

**REVEAL, PANEL:** A detail used in wall and ceiling surfacing panel design that allows for expansion and contraction between adjacent panels. The reveal is a space between adjacent panels or other architectural features that allows for panel expansion and contraction.

**REVEAL OVERLAY:** Cabinet construction in which the door and drawer faces partially cover the body members or face frames of the cabinet with spaces between face surfaces creating decorative reveals.

**RIFT CUT:** A straight grain appearance achieved through the process of cutting at a slight angle, approximately 15 degrees, to the radial on the half round stay log or through the use of veneer cut in any fashion that produces a straight grain with minimal ray fleck.

**RING, ANNUAL GROWTH:** The growth layer put on in a growth year.

**RISER:** The board at the back of a tread that “rises” to the bottom of the next tread above. In an “open riser” stair, this element is left out, and the gap between the treads is open. Open riser stairs are prohibited by code in many circumstances.

**ROOM MATCH:** Refers to the matching of panel faces within a room.

**ROTARY SLICING:** Most common method for preparing veneers for softwood plywood. The log is placed in a lathe and rotated against a stationary knife. This produces a more or less continuous sheet of veneer, similar to pulling a long sheet off a roll of paper towels.

**ROUGH CUT:** Irregular shaped areas of generally uneven corrugation on the surface of veneer, differing from the surrounding smooth veneer and occurring as the veneer is cut by the lathe or slicer.

**RUNNING MATCH:** Each panel face is assembled from as many veneer leaves as necessary. Any portion left over from one panel may be used to start the next.

**RUNNING TRIM:** Generally combined in the term “standing and running trim” and refers to random, longer length trims delivered to the jobsite (e.g., baseboard, chair rail, crown molding). Running trim is generally installed horizontally. Standing trim installed vertically.

**RUNS:** The result of spraying a heavier coat on a vertical, or nearly vertical, surface than the viscosity of the finish will allow to hold without movement; when in close multiples are also called “sags.”

**RUPTURED GRAIN:** A break or breaks in the grain or between springwood and summerwood caused or aggravated by excessive pressure on the wood by seasoning, manufacturing, or natural processes. Ruptured grain appears as a single or series of distinct separations in the wood such as when springwood is crushed leaving the summerwood to separate in one or more growth increments.

**S4S:** Means “Surfaced Four Sides,” and generally refers to the process of reducing nominal sized rough lumber to finished widths and thicknesses.

**SAGS:** In finishing, partial slipping of finish film creating a “curtain” effect.

**SAND THROUGH:** A defect on the exposed visible surface, such as depressions, bumps, marks, or core usually caused by thin veneers or over sanding.

**SANDED, CROSS:** Sanded across, rather than parallel to, the grain of a wood surface.

**SANDED, MACHINE:** Sanded by a drum or equivalent sander to remove knife or machine marks.

**SANDED, SMOOTHLY:** Sanded sufficiently smooth so that all machining, machine sanding marks, cross sanding, and other sanding imperfections will be concealed by the painter’s applied finish work. The proper sanding grit varies with the species of material; however, it generally runs in the 120 to 150 grit range and grade of workmanship specified.

**SAPWOOD:** The living wood of lighter color occurring in the outer portion of a tree, sometimes referred to as sap.

**SASH:** A single assembly of stiles and rails into a frame for holding glass, with or without dividing bars, to fill a given opening. It may be either open or glazed.

**SCARF JOINT:** When the ends of two boards are cut on an angle and glued together to increase the length of the board.

**SCL:** See “Structural Composite Lumber”.

**SCRIBE:** To mark and cut an item of woodwork so that it will abut an uneven wall, floor, or other adjoining surface.

**SEALING:** The process of applying a moisture resistant finish to the edges of sink cut outs. The process of applying a finish to concealed areas of factory finished millwork. Sealing is a part of proper factory finished panel balancing.

**SEALERS:** Compounds that provide a sandable coating and a smooth surface for final topcoat application, provide system toughness and moisture resistance, and contribute to build and clarity.

**SEASONING:** The process of allowing new cut wood to release moisture and achieve optimal moisture content without the aid of mechanical drying processes such as kiln drying.

**SECURELY ATTACHED:** The attachment of one member to another by means of approved joinery, adhesive, mechanical fasteners, or by a combination of these means. Members shall not be considered securely attached if they disassemble during standard usage and stress.

**SECURELY FASTENED OR BONDED:** See “securely attached.”

**SELECT:** A lumber grading term. Also, in architectural specifications, the term “select” is frequently used to describe, clarify, or qualify specific characteristics of the hardwood lumber being specified; for example, Select White Maple or Select White Birch, by using “select” as a descriptor, Natural, Brown, and Red Maple/Birch are excluded.

**SELF EDGE:** Application of an edge that matches the face.

**SEMI-EXPOSED SURFACES:** Surfaces that are only visible under closer examination.

**SET MATCH -** Relating to passage doors, means three or more doors that are adjacent to each other or are next to each other with only a door frame member separating any of the doors.

**SHADING:** In finishing, transparent color used for highlighting and uniform color.

**SHAKE:** A separation or rupture along the grain of wood in which the greater part occurs between the rings of annual growth (see ruptured grain).

**SHARP CONTRAST:** For the purpose of this standard, this term applies to woodwork such as veneer of lighter than average color joined with the veneer of darker than average color. Two adjacent pieces of woodwork should not be widely dissimilar in grain, figure, and natural character markings.

**SHEEN:** Finish shine or brightness; luster, patina, and radiance. The sheen or gloss level of a cured finish is traditionally measured with a 60 degree gloss meter. The words used to describe various sheens are not standardized between companies.

**SHELF CLEAT:** A piece of wood or other solid material attached directly to in wall blocking just below the bottom edge of a shelf.

**SHELF DEFLECTION:** Shelf deflection is the deviation from true flat of a shelf when placed under load.

**SHELF LOAD:** The amount of weight a shelf is designed to carry based on shelf core material, Modulus of Elasticity and surface materials.

**SHELLAC:** A coating made from purified lac, a secretion from an insect (*laccifera lacca*) that is dissolved in alcohol and often bleached white.

**SHOP DRAWINGS:** Shop drawings are detailed engineering drawings produced by the manufacturer for the fabrication of the architectural woodwork products, and are often submitted to the design professional for review and comment. See Drawings.

**SHOW THROUGH:** Irregular surfaces visible on the face of a veneered panel (such as depressions, bumps, mechanical marks, or core or frame outlines).

**SKIN:** The hardwood plywood (usually 3 ply), hardboard, or composition panel, whether flat or configured, that is used for facings for flush doors, bending laminations, finished end panels, and the like.

**SKIRT BOARD:** A trim member similar to base, run on the rake along the wall adjoining a stairway. The skirt board covers the joint between the treads and risers and the wall. Also, the similar member below the treads at the open side of a stairway. A wall routed to receive the treads and risers may replace a skirt board.

**SLEEPER:** A support member, usually vertical in placement, between the front and rear members of a non integral toe base or kick assembly.

**SLICED (SLICE):** See “Veneer, Sliced”.

**SLIGHT:** Visible on observation, but does not interfere with the overall aesthetic appearance with consideration of the applicable grade of the panel.

**SLIP MATCHED:** Each leaf from a flitch is laid out in sequence from their place in the bundle, all faces in one direction. The result is that all the faces are either loose or tight, therefore reflect light the same minimizing the barber pole or metamerism effect.

**SMOOTH, TIGHT CUT:** Veneer cut to minimize lathe checks.

**SMOOTHNESS:** The degree to which a surface has had machining and handling effects removed. Typically accomplished by sanding with progressively finer sanding grits until the required surface texture is achieved.

**SOFT CONVERSION:** An inch measurement is mathematically converted to its exact, or nearly exact metric equivalent. Inches are multiplied by 25.4 to determine millimeters. Example: 48” x 25.4 = 1219.2 mm, commonly rounded to 1219 mm.

# GLOSSARY

**SOFTWOOD:** General term used to describe lumber or veneer produced from needle and/or cone bearing trees (see hardwood).

**SOLID PHENOLIC:** A composite of solid phenolic resins molded with a homogenous core of organic fiber reinforced phenolic and one or more integrally cured surfaces of compatible thermoset nonabsorbent resins.

**SOLID STOCK:** Solid, sound lumber (as opposed to plywood), that may be more than one piece of the same species, securely glued for width or thickness.

**SOLID SURFACE:** Filled cast polymeric resin panel. The fillers enhance both its performance properties and aesthetics. With a homogeneous composition throughout its thickness, solid surface requires no finish coat and is capable of being fabricated with inconspicuous seams and repaired to its original finish.

**SOUND:** In reference to lumber or veneer, the absence of decay, pith, shake, doze and wane.

**SP:** See "Solid Phenolic".

**SPANDREL:** The triangular element in a staircase between the stringer and the baseboard.

**SPECIES:** A distinct kind of wood.

**SPECIFIC GRAVITY:** The ratio of the weight of a certain volume of a substance to the weight of an equal volume of water, the temperature of which is 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit (4 degrees Celsius).

**SPECIFICATION:** Directions provided by the design professional and found within a given project's contract documents, or addendum. Specifications may be modified by agreements such as change orders or field directives from the Design Professional.

**SPECIFIED:** See "Specification".

**SPECIFY:** See "Specification".

**SPLINE:** A thin narrow strip forming a key between two members, usually of plywood, inserted into matching grooves that have been machined in abutting edges of panels or lumber to ensure a flush alignment and a secure joint.

**SPLINE JOINT:** A joint formed by the use of a "spline." Splines customarily run the entire length of the joint.

**SPLIT:** Separations of wood fiber running parallel to the grain.

**SPLIT HEART:** A method of achieving an inverted "V" or cathedral type of springwood (earlywood)/summerwood (latewood), plain sliced (flat cut) figure by joining two face components of similar color and grain.

**STAIN:** A variation (normally blue or brown) from the natural color of the wood. It should not be confused with natural red heart. In finishing, produces the desired undertone color with proper distribution, depth, and clarity of grain. Selection of the type of stain used is governed by the desired artistic result. In natural wood, a variation in the color tending toward blue or brown, but not to be confused with naturally occurring heartwood.

**STAINING:** An optional operation in wood finishing to achieve the desired undertone color and complement the wood with proper distribution of color, depth of color, and clarity of grain.

**STAIRWORK:** Wood material to form a stair or to clad stair parts constructed of materials other than wood, and that are custom manufactured to a design for a particular project.

**STANDING TRIM:** Generally combined in the term "standing and running trim" and refers to vertically installed moldings of fixed length delivered to the jobsite (e.g., door jambs and casings, premachined window stools).

**STAPLED:** Members secured together with nails, including power driven nails or staples. On exposed surfaces, staples shall run parallel to the grain.

**STAVED CORE:** Typically refers to a core used in flush doors made up of end and edge glued wood blocks.

**STICKING:** A term used to describe shaped or molded solid wood members.

**STILE AND RAIL CONSTRUCTION:** A technique often used in the making of doors, wainscoting, and other decorative features for cabinets and furniture. The basic concept is to capture a panel within a frame, and in its most basic form it consists of five members: the panel and the four members that make up the frame. The vertical members of the frame are called stiles, while the horizontal members are known as rails.

**STILES AND VERTICAL EDGES:** The upright or vertical pieces of stile and rail assemblies; the vertical members of the core assembly of a wood flush door.

**STOPS:** Generally a molding used to "stop" a door or window in its frame.

**STREAKS, MINERAL:** Sharply contrasting elongated discolorations of the wood substance.

**STRETCHER:** An upper support member of base cabinet fabrication, used in lieu of a solid cabinet top, to space the end panels.

**STRINGER:** A diagonal element supporting the treads and risers in a flight of stairs.

**STRINGER TURNOUT:** In stairwork, that portion of a stringer that curves or angles away from the basic run, typically used at the beginning tread.

**STRIPE:** Stripe figure is a ribbon grain:

- **BROKEN STRIPE** - A modification of ribbon stripe. The figure markings taper in and out, due to twisted or interlocked grain, so that the ribbon stripe is not continuous as it runs more or less the full length of the flitch.
- **PLAIN STRIPE** - Alternating darker and lighter stripes running continuously along the length of a piece, due to cutting wood with definite growth rings on the quarter.
- **RAINDROP** - When the waves of the fibers occur singly or in groups with considerable intervals between, the figure looks like streaks made by raindrops striking a window pane at a slant.
- **RIBBON STRIPE** - In some wood with interwoven grain, such as Mahogany, wide unbroken stripes can be produced by cutting on the quarter.

- **ROE** - Also called “roey.” Short, broken ribbon or stripe figure in quarter sliced or sawn wood, due to the spiral formation of the fibers, or interlocked grain, in the growth rings. The irregular growth produces alternate bands of varying shades of color and degrees of luster.

**STRIPPING:** For purposes of these standards, means the process of removing an old or existing finish from a surface.

**STRUCTURAL COMPOSITE LUMBER (SCL):** A man made composite that utilizes stranded wood fibers from a variety of tree species, providing an alternative to dimension lumber. The material is engineered for strength and stability. While not really “lumber”, it is marketed as a lumber substitute to be used in place of stave lumber core materials.

**SUB FRONT:** A front drawer box member over which another front is placed.

**SUBTOP:** A separate support member for countertops.

**SURFACE BEARING HEAD:** A screw with a homogeneous head that has a flat bottom surface at least two times the diameter of the screw shaft and when tightened applies distributed pressure on the surfaces being screwed. Screws and washers are not considered surface bearing heads for the purpose of this Standard.

**SURFACE CHECK:** The separation of a wood, normally occurring across the rings of annual growth; usually as a result of seasoning, and occurring only on one surface of the piece.

**SWIRL:** Figure obtained from that part of a tree where the crotch figure fades into the figure of the normal stem.

**TAMBOUR:** A rolling top or front in casework enclosing a storage space. It consists of narrow strips of wood fastened to canvas or a similar material.

**TELEGRAPH OR TELEGRAPHING:** In veneer or laminated work, the variations in surface refraction as a result of the stile, rail, core, core laps, glue, voids, or extraneous matter show through to the face of a panel or a door. The selection of high gloss laminates and finishes should be avoided because they tend to accentuate natural telegraphing.

**TENON:** The projecting tongue like part of a wood member to be inserted into a slot (mortise) of another member to form a mortise and tenon joint.

**TEXTURE:** A term used to describe relative size and distribution of the wood elements. Coarse texture in veneer is associated with fast growth and harder, more difficult wood to cut. Soft or fine texture in veneer is associated with slower growth and with less summerwood, resulting in wood fibers that are easier to cut.

**THERMALLY FUSED DECORATIVE LAMINATE PANEL:** A polyester or melamine resin impregnated paper, thermally fused under pressure to a composite core.

**THICK PHENOLIC:** See solid phenolic.

**TIGHT:** Set together so that there is no opening between members.

**TIGHT SIDE (of leaf):** In knife cut veneer, that side of the leaf that was farthest from the knife as the veneer was being cut and containing no cutting checks (lathe checks).

**TONGUE:** Projection on the edge or end of a wood member that is inserted into the groove or plow of a similar size to form a joint.

**TONGUE AND GROOVE JOINT:** A joint formed by the insertion of the “tongue” of one wood member into the “groove” of the other.

**TOPCOAT:** The final protective film of a finish system. There are various topcoats with different properties.

**TOP FLAT SURFACE:** The flat surface that can be sanded with a drum sander.

**TORN GRAIN:** A roughened area caused by machine work in processing.

**TRANSPARENT FINISH:** A stain or a clear finish that allows the natural characteristics and color of the grain of the wood surface to show through the finish.

**TREAD:** The horizontal surface of a staircase step.

**TREAD RETURN:** A narrow piece of tread stock applied to the open end of a tread so that the end grain is not exposed. The leading corner of the return is mitered to the leading edge of the tread with a shoulder miter.

**TWIST:** A distortion caused by the turning or winding of the edges of the surface, so that the four corners of any face are no longer in the same plane.

**UREA FORMALDEHYDE RESIN:** Commonly used for Type I assemblies; relatively water resistant. Often requires curing by heat, but will cure at room temperature over time.

**V GROOVED:** Narrow and shallow V or U shaped channels machined on a surface to achieve a decorative effect. V grooving is most commonly encountered in mismatched or random matched wall panels as the grooves fall on the edge joints of the pieces of veneer, making the face appear as planking.

**VARNISH:** An oil based finish used to coat a surface with a hard, glossy film.

**VENEER:** A thin layer of wood, rotary cut or sliced from a log or flitch. Thickness may vary from 1/100” (0.3 mm) to 1/4” (6.4 mm).

**VENEER CORE:** Plywood constructed using a core of an odd number of veneer plies, with face and back veneers of overlays adhered thereto.

**VENEER GRAIN OR DIRECTIONAL PATTERN MATCH:** Produced by cutting one or more components from the same panel and assembled maintaining grain or pattern alignment.

**VENEER, RIFT CUT:** Veneer in which the rift or comb grain effect is obtained by cutting at an angle of about 15 degrees off of the quartered position. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the exposed surface area of each piece of veneer may contain medullary ray flake.

# GLOSSARY

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**VENEER, ROTARY CUT:** Veneer in which the entire log is centered in a lathe and is turned against a broad cutting knife that is set into the log at a slight angle.

**VENEER, SLICED:** Veneer in which a log or sawn flitch is held securely in a slicing machine and is thrust downward into a large knife that shears off the veneer.

**VERTICAL GRAIN:** Produced by cutting perpendicular to a log's growth rings, where the member's face is no more than 45 degrees to the rings. This produces a pleasing straight grain line. Vertical grain is defined as having no less than an average of five growth rings per inch on its exposed face.

**VINE MARK:** Bands of irregular grain running across or diagonally to the grain which are caused by the growth of climbing vines around the tree.

**VINYL:** Heavy film, minimum of 4 mils in thickness, opaque or reverse printed.

**VINYL LACQUERS:** In finishing, catalyzed lacquers with a plastic rather than a nitrocellulose base.

**VISCOSITY:** The property of resistance to flow in a fluid or semi fluid.

**VOLUTE:** The spiral decorative element terminating the lower end of a stair rail.

**WAFERBOARD:** See "particleboard."

**WAINSCOT:** A lower interior wall surface that contrasts with the wall surface above it.

**WANE:** Defect in lumber defined as bark or lack of wood from any cause on the edge or corner, except eased edges.

**WARP:** Any deviation from a true or plane surface, including bow, crook, cup, twist, or any combination thereof. Warp restrictions are based on the average form of warp as it occurs normally, and any variation from this average form, such as short kinks, shall be appraised according to its equivalent effect. Pieces containing two or more forms of warp shall be appraised according to the combined effect in determining the amount permissible.

- **BOW** - A deviation flatwise from a straight line drawn from end to end of a piece. It is measured at the point of greatest distance from the straight line.
- **CROOK** - A deviation edgewise from a straight line drawn from end to end of a piece. It is measured at the point of greatest distance from the straight line.
- **CUP** - A deviation in the face of a piece from a straight line drawn from edge to edge of a piece. It is measured at the point of greatest distance from the straight line.
- **TWIST** - A deviation flatwise, or a combination of flatwise and edgewise, in the form of a curl or spiral, and the amount is the distance an edge of a piece at one end is raised above a flat surface against which both edges at the opposite end are resting snugly. In passage doors, any distortion in the door itself and not its relationship to the frame or jamb in which it is to be hung, measured by placing a straight edge or a taut string on the concave face.

**WASH COATS:** Thin solutions applied as a barrier coat to wood. Used prior to wiping stains for color uniformity.

**WATER REPELLENT:** A wood treating solution that deposits waterproof or water resistant solids on the walls of wood fibers and ray cells, thereby retarding their absorption of water; having the quality of retarding the absorption of water by wood fibers and ray cells.

**WAVY:** Curly grain with large undulations; sometimes referred to as "finger roll" when the waves are about the width of a finger.

**WELL HOLE:** In stairwork, the open space in which the stair is set.

## **WELL MATCHED FOR COLOR AND GRAIN:**

For the purpose of these standards, means that the members that make up the components of an assembly and components of an adjacent assembly are:

- Similar and nearly uniform in color, and
- Have similar grain, figure, and character. Adjacent members must be of the same grain type whether flat grain (plain sliced), vertical grain (quarter cut), rift grain, or mixed grain.

**WHITE:** When referring to color and matching, veneers containing all sapwood ranging in color from pink to yellow.

**WHITE BIRCH:** Term used to specify the sapwood of the Yellow Birch tree.

**WINDOWS:** In architectural woodwork, all frames and sashes for double hung, casement, awning, sidelights, clerestory, and fixed windows. Stock and name brand units are not included.

**WIPING STAINS:** Refers to pigmented oils or solvents applied to wood.

**WOOD BASED PRODUCTS:** Products made of wood, veneer or paper based materials such as plastic laminate and engineered panels.

**WOOD FILLER:** An aggregate of resin and strands, shreds, or flour of wood, which is used to fill openings in wood and provide a smooth, durable surface.

**WOOD FLUSH DOOR:** An assembly consisting of a core, stiles and rails, and/or edgebands, with two or three plies of overlay on each side of the core assembly. All parts are composed of wood, wood derivatives, or high pressure decorative laminates.

**WOOD TO NON WOOD:** A two or more component joint or assembly containing wood or wood based products being installed next to non wood based components.

**WOOD TO WOOD:** A two or more component joint or assembly containing wood or wood based products.

**WOODWORK:** See "Architectural Woodwork".

**WOODWORKER:** See “Manufacturer”.

**WORKMANSHIP:** See “First Class Workmanship”.

**WORMHOLES:** Holes resulting from infestation of worms.

**WORM TRACK:** Marks caused by various types of wood attacking larvae. Often appear as sound discolorations running with or across the grain in straight to wavy streaks. Sometimes referred to as “pith flecks” in certain species of Maple, Birch and other hardwoods because of a resemblance to the color of pith.

**G**