

Penn State Pointers ► Selecting the Proper Wood

Homeowners need to be sure to select the right materials for their remodeling and do-it-yourself projects.

Look for the grade stamp on each board or piece of lumber.

Stamps allow consumers to purchase the proper lumber for the proper application.

Certification and Mill I.D. ...
Varies by geographic region.

LUMBER GRADE...

Most homeowners will use:

- **SEL STR** - Select Structural (nearly knot-free)
- **NO. 1**
- **NO. 2**
- **NO. 3**

Graded by how many defects or knots appear in the board and how that affects the lumber's strength.



SPECIES...

The more popular (in the northeastern U.S.) are:

- **SOUTHERN PINE**
- **SPRUCE-PINE-FIR**
- **DOUGLAS FIR**
- **HEM-FIR**

MOISTURE CONTENT...

- **S-GRN** (over 19% water weight) can shrink or warp if used undried.
- **S-DRY** (under 19% water weight) can be used immediately.

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