

## 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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