

Product Data Sheet

Plywood Grading

Product Information



Certifications	Refer to on product labelling
Species	Refer to on product labelling
Origin	China/Brazil
Forest Certification	FSC
Description	Plywood for internal or external* use *(if treated with an appropriate preserver and sealer)
Product Features	Designed to resist warping and bending

General Info

Plywood is a material (wood) manufactured from thin layers or “plies” of wood veneer that are glued together with adjacent layers having their wood grain rotated up to 90 degrees to one another. In the most basic of terms, plywood is made by combining wood veneers together in order to create a flat sheet.

Plywood Grading System

There are several overall grades when it comes to types of plywood. The primary grades are A, B, C, and D. However, every piece of plywood has two grades per compound, shown as A/B, B/B, B/C, and so on. The first letter represents the face veneer grade, while the second letter represents the back veneer grade. Simply put, the higher the grade, the better.

A-Grade

A-grade plywood is very high-quality and typically the best grading you will see. As such, the material surface will be very clean, with virtually no blemishes or flaws, and a consistent colouring. There may be some small pin knots, but for smoothness and ease of painting, this is undoubtedly the best choice.

B-Grade

B-grade plywood is almost perfect in appearance, just like A-grade, when it comes to flaws and blemishes. Some smooth knots are allowed, but they will rarely be over 35 mm in size. The key difference between B-grade and the A-grades is that B-

grade plywood are allowed to have some changes in colour that show the pattern of the grain. They may also have had some repairs in the past but have a smooth surface and reliable foundation.

BB-Grade

Slightly lower than B-grade plywood. This grade allows for larger knots and more noticeable repairs, up to 50mm in diameter. As such, it may have more repairs, such as wooden plugs. As such, those with a lower back veneer grade tend to get used less often in times when the visual look is essential.

C-Grade

C-grade plywood is just as fundamentally complete as the grades above it, but it tends to have more defects, live open knots, splits, and discolouration. As such, it's used less commonly for applications where appearance is important.

CC-Grade

Similar to C-grade plywood, but with more open knots, discolouration, and splits. As such, it's usually used for the underside of veneers, rather than on the surfaces of any projects.

C+Grade

The open defects such as knot holes and splits have been repaired with either a synthetic filler or wood patches.

D Grade

The more economical grade of plywood. You'll see more repaired knots and voids on a sheet, and some defects will be left as is. This type of plywood grade is a good choice for projects where you will ultimately cover the plywood panel with some other type of cover material.

Structural Vs Non-structural

The main difference between structural and non-structural plywood is the type of glue used in the manufacturing of the boards.

Structural plywood is subject to various tests against national and international standards to ensure that it is safe to use in load bearing applications.

Non-structural plywood is an economical plywood sheet for use in a broad range of applications from hoardings to furniture and wall linings. Non-structural ply is well suited to painting or staining.

Colour

May be light or dark brown in appearance, dependent on species and country of origin.

Applications

As the name suggests, structural plywood is appropriate for creating structural support features in the construction of buildings and homes, like beams and hoardings. Some structural plywood is used to create roof bracing, walls, plywood flooring, and other internal structures as well.

Non-structural plywood or interior plywood is for aesthetic finishes.

To determine the grade of product, refer to the mill stamp, DoP document or on product label.

Cutting

The use of a suitable dust mask is recommended when cutting for longer periods, especially when in enclosed spaces.

Product disposal

Plywood timber is a non-hazardous material; therefore, disposal can be through normal waste disposal facilities in line with local guidelines. Should not be disposed of by burning or used as firewood/kindling.