



How is Plywood Graded?

A or S grade

This is the highest quality grading (typically the best you will see). The surface of the material will be consistent in appearance with no large variations in colour. Some very small pin knots/ very minor surface repairs are allowed. 'A' grade veneer faces are suitable for clear finishing.



B grade

This grade shows the natural look of the wood. There will be changes in colour that show the grain pattern. Sound, smooth knots are allowed but are very rare. These will typically be under 15mm in diameter (depending on the countries grading rules). The surface should be free from open knots and plugs. The material should be suitable for paint / stain or a lacquered finish. Minor surface repairs are allowed.

BB grade (on 2nd face)

This grade is similar to 'B' grade but allows for repairs to the face. Sound, smooth knots are allowed and these will typically be under 30mm in diameter. Open knots can be repaired with wooden plugs/patches. The material should be suitable for applications where the visual look is less critical.

C grade

This grade of plywood is 'structurally' sound but allows for defects on the surface of the material. These defects can include some filled sanded knots, discolouration, and splits. These defects mean the material is suitable for applications where the strength of plywood is needed but the appearance does not matter. Often very good for paint and sometimes clear finish where a rustic look is considered suitable. A 'CD' sheet has a face veneer quality of 'C' grade and a back veneer quality of 'D' grade.

D grade

D-grade plywood sheets are the most inexpensive. They haven't been repaired, and the flaws can be a little larger and more noticeable. This grade of plywood can feature open knots up to 2.5 inches.

