

Plywood Grades Chart

PS 1-22 veneer grades, and the Exposure 1 (Table 2) and Exterior (Table 3) panel grades

veneer	what ps 1 allows
N	For a natural finish; all heartwood or all sapwood, no knots, holes or stain
A	Suitable for painting; no knots, holes or open splits, up to 18 neat repairs
B	Solid surface; tight knots up to 1", splits up to 1/32"
C Plugged	Holes up to 1/4" x 1/2", splits up to 1/8", tight knots up to 1-1/2"
C	Knotholes up to 1" (some up to 1-1/2"), tight knots up to 1-1/2"
D	Knotholes up to 2-1/2" (some up to 3"); Exposure 1 panels only

exposure 1 grade	face	back	inner plies	surface
N - N	N	N	C	Sanded 2 sides
N - A	N	A	C	Sanded 2 sides
N - B	N	B	C	Sanded 2 sides
N - D	N	D	D	Sanded 2 sides
A - A	A	A	D	Sanded 2 sides
A - B	A	B	D	Sanded 2 sides
A - D	A	D	D	Sanded 2 sides
B - B	B	B	D	Sanded 2 sides
B - D	B	D	D	Sanded 2 sides
Under layment	C Plugged	D	C & D	Touch-sanded
C - D Plugged	C Plugged	D	D	Touch-sanded
C - D	C	D	D	Unsanded
D - D	D	D	D	Unsanded



EXTERIOR GRADE	FACE	BACK	INNER PLIES	SURFACE
A - A	A	A	C	Sanded 2 sides
A - B	A	B	C	Sanded 2 sides
A - C	A	C	C	Sanded 2 sides
B - B	B	B	C	Sanded 2 sides
B - C	B	C	C	Sanded 2 sides
C - C Plugged	C Plugged	C	C	Touch-sanded
C - C	C	C	C	Unsanded

Bond classification: Exterior panels are for repeated wetting and redrying or long-term exposure to weather. Exposure 1 panels are for uses not permanently exposed to the weather and are meant to resist the effects of moisture during construction. Panels commonly called CDX are Exposure 1.

Surface: touch-sanding is a light sanding to bring a panel to thickness. Face = the better side; back = the lower-quality side. Inner plies = the lowest veneer grade allowed inside the panel.

Tables 2 and 3 also list Structural I grades, and Table 3 lists Marine, Special Exterior, concrete form and overlay (HDO, MDO) grades. D-D is only for panels qualified by performance testing.

For US structural plywood made to PS 1-22. Bond classification doesn't relate to resistance to mold, fungal decay or insects. Which panel a roof, floor or wall needs comes from its span rating and the local building code.

