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C&F	Cost and Freight
Caliper	Instrument for determining log and tree diameters by measuring their rectangular projection on a straight graduated rule via two arms, one of them sliding along at right angles to the rule itself. The optical caliper determines upper, out-of-reach diameters through an optical system incorporating two parallel lines of sight separated by a variable baseline.
Cambium	The live, actively growing layer of a tree. The cambium is one cell thick and resides between the phloem and sapwood. It repeatedly divides itself to form new wood which causes the tree to expand and grow. It is the layer that becomes either bark or wood and lays dormant during winter.
Canadian Standards Association (CSA)	A non-profit organization that has developed over 2,000 different standards for a variety of industries.
Cantilever	The allowable overhang past the joists or rim joists.
Cant	A log that has been debarked and sawn square.
Cap Rail	The top horizontal piece of a railing placed to give it a finished appearance.
Carbide Tipped	Extremely hard steel pieces with sharp cutting edges fastened to cutting tools such as saw blades, and router bits.
Carload	A railroad car loaded to meet railed minimum weight requirements for carload rates. The volume in a carload may vary, depending upon the type of lumber loaded and the size of the car.
Carpenter's Pencil	Rectangular shaped pencil, about 1/4"x 1/2", with a 1/16" x 3/16" lead.
Casing	Usually run to pattern and is widely used for interior trim.
CB	Center Beaded
Cedar	Any spreading evergreen conifer of the genus Cedrus bears tufts of small cones and needles. In full cedar wood, the fragrant durable wood of any cedar tree. Cedar lumber provides one of the best choices for deck construction, although more expensive than the cheaper options, it will last much longer because of its natural decay resistant and insect repellent properties.
Ceiling	A lumber pattern featuring a center and edge V and/or bead.

Cell	The smallest, microscopic structure in wood.
Cellulose	The carbohydrate that is the principal constituent of wood and forms the framework of the wood cells.
Center Beaded	A patterned lumber shaped to form a narrow half-circle along the center of its length.
Center Match (CM)	Lumber that has been worked with a tongue exactly in the center on one edge of each piece and a groove on the opposite edge to provide a close tongue-and-groove joint by fitting two pieces together.
Center V (CV)	Patterned lumber shaped to form an angled groove along the center of its length.
Center-to-Center Spacing	The spacing between structural members determined by measuring from the center of one to the center of the next. (i.e. 16-inches oc)
Chamfer	A bevel or slope created by slicing off the square edge or end of a piece of wood or other material (usually 45 degrees); a decorative edging or relief made at the timber's corner.
Check	A lumber defect caused by uneven shrinking of the wood during drying. A checked board has splits that develop lengthwise across the growth rings.
Chip	A small piece of wood used to make pulp. Chips are made either from wood waste in a sawmill, pulpwood operation, or from pulpwood specifically cut for this purpose.
Chipboard	A paperboard used for many purposes that may or may not have specifications for strength, color, or other characteristics. It is normally made from paper stock with a relatively low density.
Chisel	A metal tool with a sharp beveled edge, used to cut and shape metal, stone, or wood.
Chord	The bottom or top member of a truss to which the web members are attached.
Chop Saw (Miter Saw)	A hollow-ground saw in diameters from 6 to 16 inches, used for cutting off and mitering on light stock such as moldings and cabinet work.
Circular Saw	A power saw that has a steel disk with cutting teeth on the periphery; rotates on a spindle.
Clear (CLR)	A board which is free from defects. A term including the higher grades of lumber sound, relatively free of blemishes.
Clear-Cut	Cutting all trees in an area to a minimum diameter, such as 4 inches.

CLF	Hundred Lineal Feet
CLG	Ceiling
CLIB	California Lumber Inspection Bureau
Coarse-Grained	Wood with wide and conspicuous annual rings; rings in which there is considerable difference between springwood and summerwood; used to designate wood with large pores.
Codes	Regulations detailing accepted materials and methods of building. Usually codes are adopted by city, county, or state building departments. Most counties promulgate local building codes.
Colonial Siding	AKA "Bevel Siding" is exterior cladding used for weather protection and architectural design.
Column	A structural member, usually subject to longitudinal compression.
Commission Man	A middleman who arranges sales for a commission but does not take title to the lumber.
Commons	Ordinary grades of knotty lumber.
Common Grade Lumber	Lumber with obvious defects.
Compression Wood	Abnormal wood that often forms on the lower side of branches and of leaning trunks of softwood trees; compression wood is identified by its relatively wide annual rings, usually eccentric, and its large amounts of summerwood, usually more than 50% of the width of the annual rings.
Compound Curvature	Wood bent to a compound curvature, no element of which is a straight line.
Compound Cut	An angled cut to both the edge and face of a board.
Composite Decking	Deck boards manufactured from wood fiber and plastic. It is sold as an alternative to wood decking. There are various composite decking manufacturers with varied degrees of quality which can lead to low product quality.
Conditioning	The exposure of a material to the influence of a prescribed atmosphere for a stipulated period of time or until a stipulated relation is reached between material and atmosphere.
Conifer	A type of tree that's characterized by needle-like or scale foliage, usually evergreen; tree that is a gymnosperm, which comes with cones and needle-like shaped or scale-like leaves, producing wood known commercially as softwood.

Conservation	Improvement, protecting, and wise use of natural resources according to principles that will assure utilization of the resource to obtain the highest economic and/or social benefits.
Construction Lumber	Lumber that is suitable for ordinary and light construction.
Cord	A unit of measure often used for firewood stacked 4' long x 4' high x 8' long.
Core Stock	A solid or discontinuous center ply used in panel-type glued structures, such as furniture panels and solid or hollow-core doors.
Corner	The line formed by the intersection of any two surfaces of a piece of lumber; not to be confused with 'edge'.
Cost and Freight (CF)	Waterborne shipments to indicate that all loading charges and freight to final destinations are paid by the seller.
Cost, Insurance and Freight	In addition to paying all the loading charges and freight to final destination, the seller pay insurance costs.
Countersink	A tool that allows you to drill a hole so that the head of a screw will sit flush with the face of a board.
Crack	A large radial check resulting from greater tangential than radial shrinkage.
Crook	A lumber defect where an edgewise warp effects the straightness of the board.
Cross Bands	In plywood with more than three piles, the veneers immediately beneath the faces, having grain direction perpendicular to that of the faces.
Cross Arms	Designed to serve as the horizontal cross member of utility poles, generally rough sawn full, sizes range from 3"x4" to 4"x6" by 8' long.
Cross Breaks	Transverse planes of failure in tension parallel to the grain, caused by localized abnormal longitudinal shrinkage restrained by adjacent normal wood.
Cross Cut (crosscutting)	A cut made perpendicular to the grain of a board.
Cross Grain	The deviation of grain direction from the longitudinal axis of a piece of wood or from the stem axis in a tree. Pronounced deviation from the surface, especially in veneer, is termed short grain.
CSG	Casing

Cubic Scale	Estimate of the cubic-foot volume of wood fiber in a log, tree, or other wood products.
Cup	A defect in the lumber where the face of the board warps up like the letter "U".
Custom Drying	Drying other people's lumber
Custom Milling	Surfacing or remanufacturing other peoples lumber on order.
Customer Sawing	Sawing of lumber under contract, usually to given specifications.
Cut Stock	Clear pieces that have been ripped and cross cut from ship type lumber, such as stiles, rails, muntins, window sash, intended for further manufacture.
CWT	Hundred Weights