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What IS Rustic or Character Lumber?

A burning question in the lumber industry over the past few years is the definition of these terms. **Some people call it rustic, some people call it character lumber.** Classified as a grade "rustic lumber" is available to purchase at Yoder Lumber.

With the popularity of rustic-look in furniture, cabinets, flooring, and paneling on the rise it might likely be a topic that derives from a conversation about lumber. The biggest issue in attempting to define rustic is everyone's definition differs from another.

- Unlike most other grades (FAS / F1F, Selects, 1-Com, 2-Com) rustic grade doesn't have a clear definition as to what it is.
- The NHLA grading standard lists the lengths to be 6'-16' with 4" by 2' or 3" by 3' minimum cutting lengths.
- Each cutting length will admit without limits sound knots, spot worm holes, bird peck, streaks, stain, and burls.
- Knots may have checks and splits within the knot.



Open knots and cracks are admitted in this grade but Yoder Lumber strives for boards for 75% usable material upon final inspection.

In Walnut and Cherry sap is not considered a defect. In other words, clear boards with heavy

sap are not included in our rustic grade. The back side requirements are listed as solid and sound material only. If you have any questions about rustic lumber, please don't hesitate to contact us.

