



If you are unfamiliar with some of the terminology or the acronyms we use on either our website or in the price sheet, hopefully this document will help explain a little better. For the most part, the acronyms we use are industry standard but occasionally, due to size limitations or ease we have come up with our own short words to help speed things along.

What does A1, B2, C4 or AA mean?

These numbers are in reference to the grading of the veneers only, not the sheet itself after production. That is why items such as A1 shop grade sheets exist. The veneers chosen to be used are top quality but something along the way, a defect in the panel, made the sheet fail inspection.

Why A1? and not AA?

99% of Plywood has a face and a back. Face grades are represented with letters and back grades are represented with numbers. The back grade veneers are graded with lower standards than the face grades.

Occasionally an AA graded sheet is requested (generally custom order only). The outcome is the very best veneer front and back.

What is shop grade?

Mills generally make mistakes when manufacturing plywood. The sheets are not discarded, they are dropped down into a lesser grade such as a shop grade. Every mill is different as to what they allow to drop into this grade. Usually, most mills follow the same grading procedure.

There is a wide range of what can be tolerated within this grade; but, at the same time there are maximum tolerances. Blistering, which is an adhesive bonding issue, is never tolerated in a shop grade.

What to expect in a shop grade?

Any mill will tell you that they allow for approximately 15% defects on the panel. That does technically mean that %15 of the lift can have a defect in one way or another. Generally that is not the outcome. In most cases the sheets look flawless. Possible defects include:

- *Telegraphing (grain of the core showing through the outer veneer)*
- *Veneer folding over slightly either on the perimeter of the veneer or somewhere within*
- *Physical damage (slightly broken corner - This is occasionally happens)*

- *Dirty sheets (possibly a top or bottom sheet from an on grade lift)*
- *Wave or ripple in sheets (rare)*
- *Glue showing through the veneer (rare)*

Terminology (Industry and others)

100/30	- Refers to the paper weight of the panel. 100 face side and 30 the back side.
1sd	- 1 Sided
2sd	- 2 Sided
AC	- Armorcore (Otherwise known as MDF Crossband)
bkr	- Backer
BM	- Book Matched
Factory	- The Canadian version of the American shop grade.
FS	- Flat Sliced
GOLD	- Grade given by West Fraser to their MDF line. Refers to a #1 grade.
G1S	- Good 1 Side - A grade. This does not mean that there is only 1 good side.
HDO	- High Density Overlay
MDF	- Medium Density Fiberboard
MDO	- Medium Density Overlay
MPF	- Multi-Piece Face (Multiple pieces of veneer)
NOVA	- Prefinished line of products made by States Industries
PB	- Particle Board
PS	- Plain Sliced
SM	- Sequence Matched
T1-11	- Ranchwall siding
UV-2	- Ultra Violet (Both Sides) - Refers to the finish
VC	- Veneer Core (otherwise known as plywood core)
WPF	- Whole Piece Face (single piece of veneer, not joined by another)

If there is anything else you do not understand or would like further clarification on, please do not hesitate to email us through the contact form or call us at (604) 574-4393.