



**NOT ALL IPE IS
CREATED EQUAL. WE SET
THE STANDARDS.**

TIMBER HOLDINGS
INTL.
IRON WOODS®

NOT ALL IPE IS CREATED EQUAL At Timber Holdings we believe that an informed consumer is our best customer. We also know that when a consumer receives what they expect, it's good for business. There are no official industry-wide grading standards for tropical hardwood decking. This means that if you purchase generic "Ipe decking," you have no guarantee on the quality and consistency of the product you will receive. Since the grade of tropical hardwood significantly affects price, what looks good on paper might not look nearly as good on your deck.

WE SET THE STANDARDS It's really very simple. We believe our customers have the right to select the quality of the products they order and that they have the right to receive what they specify. This is why, over 30 years ago, we developed specific grading standards for all of the tropical decking we sell. To this day, we remain committed to holding ourselves, and our products, to these standards.

THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE GRADE While Iron Woods® Premium remains the gold standard on which the hardwood decking products market was built, lower grade and price offerings are also available. We developed this guide to help our customers gain a more thorough understanding of tropical hardwood grades. With it, they will be able to make grade and value selections appropriate to their project. Moreover, this guide should ensure that they always receive Iron Woods® products that meet their needs and exceed their expectations.

IRON WOODS® PREMIUM



GRADING RULES: Inspected Piece by Piece • Mixed Grain • Free from Sound, Unsound and Milling Defects on four faces and four edges

IRON WOODS® PREMIUM Our premium grade represents the highest appearance grade available for hardwood decking products on the market today. All Iron Woods® Premium grade decking and lumber is inspected by hand and selected board by board by Timber Holdings graders to insure a minimum of four faces free of sound, unsound and milling defects. Both Premium Dry and Premium Air Dried (AD) options are available.

PREMIUM DRY Products are controlled through a drying process to have a moisture content of less than 18%. Lumber is hand selected to ensure a minimum of one face and two edges are clean and bright, clear of any weathering, milling, structural or appearance defects including discoloration from water or sticker marks. Premium Dry grade is preferred by those who desire the highest level of finish on their deck or who live in extremely dry climates.

PREMIUM AD Products are air dried and packaged on sticks to allow for ventilation during transport and storage. Air dried decking may contain sticker marks or water stains, which typically blend in when a sealer is applied or left to weather away naturally.

FEQ AD (AKA First One Face and Better)



GRADING RULES: Random Unit Inspections • Mixed grain • Free from Milling Defects on one face and two edges • Free from Unsound Defects on one face and two edges • Sound Defects allowed four faces and four edges

FEQ AD Represents the second highest appearance grade available for hardwood decking products on the market today. All FEQ AD decking and lumber is inspected by THI Graders to assure a minimum of one face clear of milling and unsound defects. Sound defects without molder tear out are allowed unlimited in this grade.

Our FEQ AD grade is air dried and packaged on sticks to allow for ventilation during transport and storage. Air Dried decking may contain sticker marks or water stain, which typically blend in when a sealer is applied or left to weather away naturally.

COM/SEL AD (AKA Second Quality, #1 Common)



GRADING RULES: Mixed grain • Milling Defects allowed on back face only • Unsound Defects allowed four faces and four edges • Sound Defects allowed four faces and four edges

COM/SEL AD Under COM-SEL grading rules, defects such as skip, tear out, knots, sapwood and wormholes are allowed on both faces. This grade may contain sticker marks or water stain. If the goal is durability and not beauty, this grade gets the job done on a very practical level. Generally the market perceives that Second Quality durable hardwoods provide a superior service life to pressure-treated softwoods and are an excellent option for industrial applications.

FAS AD (AKA First & Seconds, Mill Run, #1 Common and Better)



GRADING RULES: Mixed grain • Mixed Grade • Appx. 70% FEQ AD and 30% COM/SEL AD • Random Unit Inspection

FAS AD This is the highest standard industry grade available from producers without third party inspection. Typically controlled by the mill and not independent inspectors, there is a general understanding that product supplied under this grade will be a mix of approximately 70% FEQ AD and 30% COM/SEL AD. Generally, when you purchase FAS AD quality you trade off product consistency for price. FAS AD is not as good as our other grades and may contain sticker marks or water stain. FAS AD is what is typically offered to the market unless a higher grade is specified.

SOUND DEFECTS



1) Reverse Roey Grain with Tear Out



2) Pin Worm Hole



3) Tight Knots



4) Pin Knots

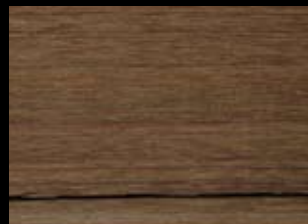
UNSOUND DEFECTS



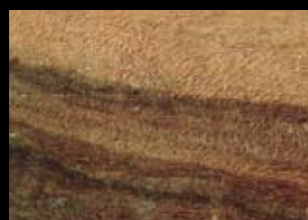
1) Grub Holes



2) Loose Knots



3) Cracks (running face to face or face to edge)



4) Sapwood

MILLING DEFECTS



1) Tear Out



2) Heavy Skip (effecting edges and thickness)



3) Hit or Miss (not effecting edges)



4) Visible Knife/Planer Marks

CHARACTERISTICS AND DEFECTS As with most natural wood products, tropical hardwoods possess natural characteristics that add to their unique beauty. Those that are appreciated include color variation and distinctive grain patterns. Wood products also contain less desirable imperfections or defects. It is important to note that sound natural defects and milling defects do not negatively impact structural or durability performance. Unsound defects such as heart cracks, worm holes and sapwood are typically considered undesirable as they are more likely to negatively affect long term product performance. See photos above for a visual guide to assist consumers and specifiers as to how Timber Holdings classifies these various defects and characteristics.