

NEED PAY NO MORE FOR LUMBER THAN NECESSARY

By MR. FIX
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It won't be long before you'll be tackling outdoor building projects—fences, gates, trellises, lawn furniture, patio covers, awnings, tool sheds and even more. About now you are faced with the task of buying your materials.

When it comes to choosing lumber the best grade may not always be the best for the job you have in mind. And since lumber can be expensive it's not wise to just go out and buy the stuff without knowing what grade you really need.

Pinch Pennies

Learn to pick the cheapest that will suit your project. Clear, top grade lumber is fine for hand-some pieces of furniture that will have a clear finish. Outdoors, structural strength, resistance to weather are more important.

A good coat of paint will weatherproof the wood and cover up most flaws as well.

Grades of lumber may differ slightly in designation but generally are graded as common or select. Generally the top two grades are A and B (or 1 and 2) clear or select, expensive, clear of flaws and superb for cabinets. Next is C select with a few blemishes and then D select with a few more blemishes, some knots. All can be used where a fine finish is desired.

Rough Grades

For your rough and ready outdoor projects choose from among the common grades of lumber—starting with No. 1 common which has small, tight knots that can be painted over. No. 2 common will have more knots but should not have knotholes. No. 3 has loose knots, some small knotholes and pitch may be present. No. 4 is the lowest grade of all.

With careful selection you may have to buy no more than a few pieces of say No. 1 or 2 lumber. Portions of the project that don't

show might be made of the cheap or grades.

By properly shellacking knots before painting you'll prevent them from bleeding through. Loose knots can be carefully forced out and glued back in before sealing. Other small imperfections can be filled with a commercial filler, putty or a mixture of sawdust and glue.

You may be able to lay out your work in such a way that you can cut out imperfect portions of the lumber. Lumber that is checked—cracked at the ends

and yellow pine are moderately tough in resisting the elements, are cheaper than the other woods, widely available and can be worked easily.

Apply a good wood preservative, especially where the wood gets close to the earth. Many preservatives cannot be painted over so check instructions carefully. Fence posts should be dipped.

Another source of lumber is salvage lumber sold by house wreckers. This is a tricky job at best when it comes to picking good pieces. You'll have to examine

Remember that to get the most for your money you will have to go into a lumber yard with more than a list of board sizes.

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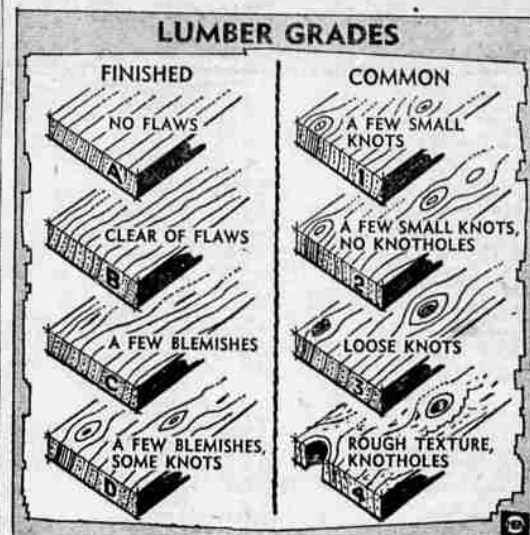
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may need trimming if the checking is severe.

Softwoods

You'll find that for outdoor projects you'll be using the softwoods almost entirely—pine, fir, cedar, cypress, redwood, spruce and a few others. Cedar, cypress and redwood are the most decay resistant, ideal where a natural wood surface is desired. But both white

the lumber carefully, pull out nails, cut away bad spots.

Watch Nails

And when it comes to cutting you will have to watch for nails you may have missed.

If your lumber needs are small don't forget to check the bargain counters of various lumber yards, stacks and bins of odd or broken lengths which you might salvage.

Helpful Tips For Amateur Painter

Here are some tips that might make your housepainting job easier.

Always begin with the upper trim—at the peak of the highest gable. Do all the ladder work first, rather than working high and then low.

When painting siding, daub the paint in generous, flat spots, then use long leveling strokes to spread it smoothly. The first coat will require more brushing than the following coats.

Paint the outside of gutters with house paint, but apply a good grade metal paint to the inside. It will add life to the gutters.

Windows are a particular problem for most amateurs. Use an angular sash brush. On double-hung windows, lower the outside sash and raise the inside sash, then paint the exposed inside check rail. Next paint the crossbars and frame, then the casings and sill. Finally paint under the sill. Open and close the window several times daily from the inside until the paint has dried to keep it free.

On casement windows that face out when open, paint the top and bottom edges, then the sash, styles, rails, frames and casings.

On porch floors, railings and steps use only porch enamel or floor paint. These finishes are designed to withstand rough wear, scrubbing and destructive weather.

FIX STICKY DRAWERS

The best time to fix hard-to-open dresser drawers is in the cold, dry weather of winter. Sand the edges, and seal them with a coat of shellac to prevent swelling during summer humidity. A little wax smooths movement.

Repaper House? Sure, If You Follow Rules

There is a widespread notion among do-it-yourself enthusiasts that papering a wall is one job that should only be tackled by the pros. Don't believe it.

Granted, you have to proceed with caution. But if you follow a few simple rules and a set procedure, there is no reason an average home handyman can't repaper his entire house.

First make sure the wall surface is smooth and firm. You can paper over old paper, but be sure there are no loose edges or grease or dirt stains. If there are bad stains that likely will show through, you better remove the old paper.

Use a large brush dipped frequently in warm water for this job. After soaking the paper thoroughly, scrape it off with a putty knife. Then sand off the rough edges and you're ready to go.

The equipment you will need includes a sharp knife or razor, a good pair of shears, a straight edge ruler, a putty knife, paste (a plasticized type is best for amateurs), a six-inch brush and a plumb line. To smooth out the seams, use a roller, soft brush or sponge.

You can make a work table out of a 4 by 8 piece of plywood and two sawhorses. Make sure it's good and firm.

If possible, your first strip of paper should go next to a door frame. Pick the least conspicuous one in the room, because this is the point where you will end, as well as begin, and the pattern may not match.

Now comes the main rule: violation of it has been the downfall of many a would-be paper hanger: hang the paper according to the plumb line, not the wall. Walls are not always straight; a string with a weight attached is

The first strip of paper is the most important. If you don't get it up straight—according to the plumbline—the rest of the job will be crooked too.

If your paper is 18 inches in width, measure 17½ inches from the door frame and fasten your plumb line there. Hang the paper along the edge of the plumb line. The half-inch extra will allow you to fit the paper against the door frame even if the frame isn't perfectly straight.

Cut each successive strip eight or 10 inches longer than necessary so you won't have any trouble matching the pattern. If the paper has an unusually large pattern you might have to make an even more generous allowance.

It is best not to overlap the strips more than one-half inch. If each overlap is the same size, it makes for a neater job.

Be sure to remove all wall light fixtures or plates, hot air register covers and so forth before you begin. Paper right over the spaces, just as though they weren't there, then cut out the holes with a sharp knife or razor. Don't worry about locating them. They'll be easy enough to find by tapping the wall surface.

In all your trimming, make sure your knife or razor is sharp. You should use fairly swift, straight strokes where possible, and this can't be done with a dull knife. All trimming should be done before the paste dries.

Wallpaper still is the most widely used wall covering, and there are almost as many types on the market today as there are designs.

Whether you select a washable paper for the kitchen or bathroom, or a luxurious silk damask for the living room, hanging it yourself is not impossible.

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