

# Engineered wood products

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# Wood



Softwood tree



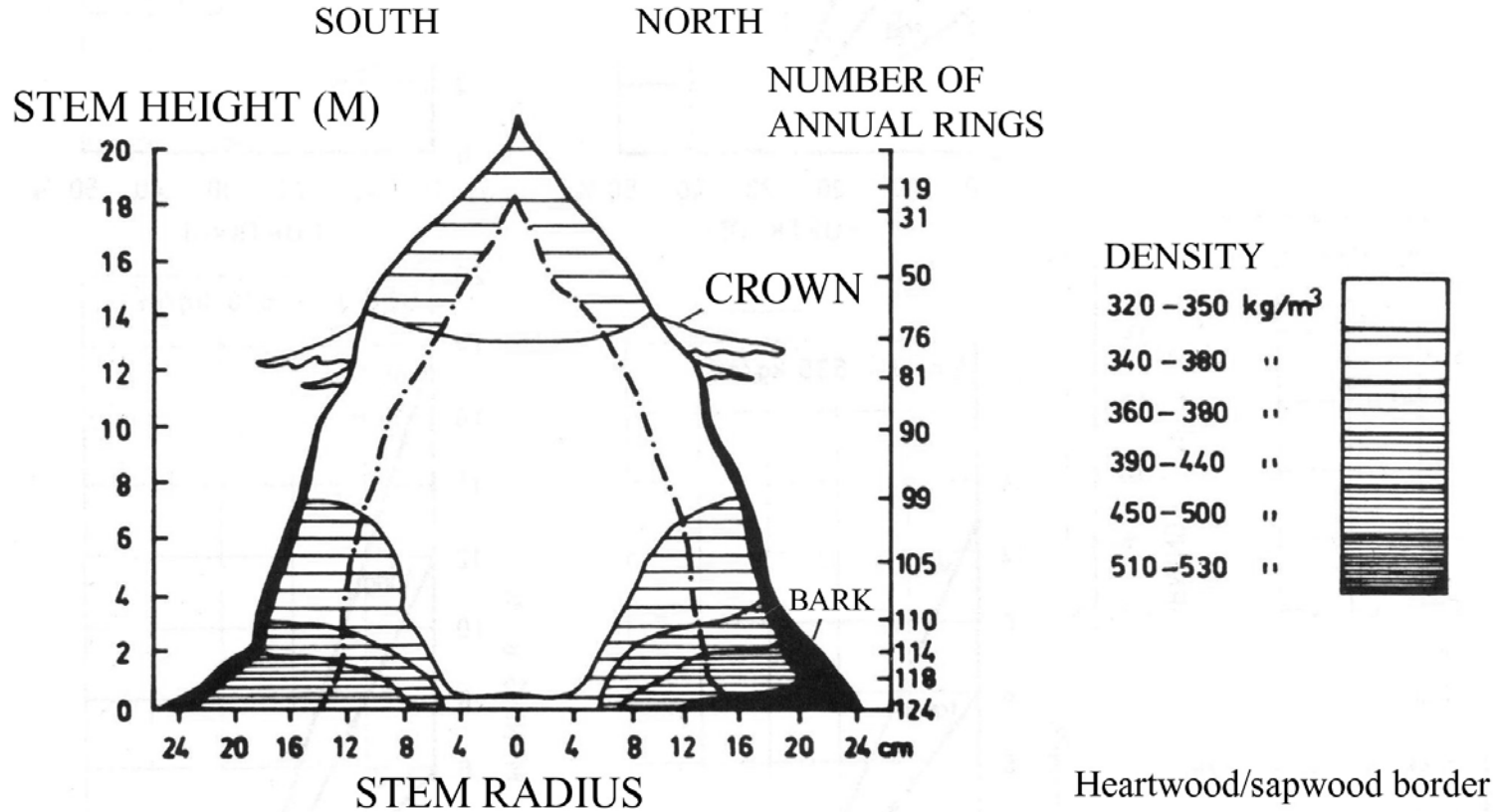
Hardwood tree

**Softwood**  
Juvenile wood  
**Species**  
Heartwood Sapwood **Hardwood**  
**Latewood** Direction  
Earlywood Matured wood



# Variation in density

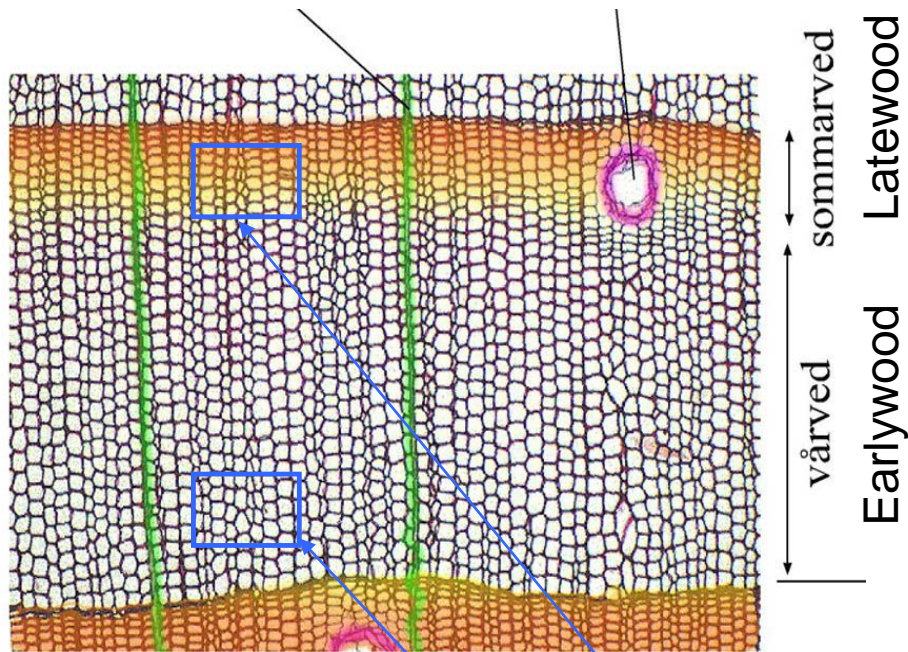
Variation in a tree



Example on density and heartwood formation in different parts of a pine tree (with average density 366 kg/cubic meter). The distance between bark and heartwood/sapwood border is, from root to top, almost constant.

(Data R Trendelburg, figure from *Torkhandboken, Esping*)





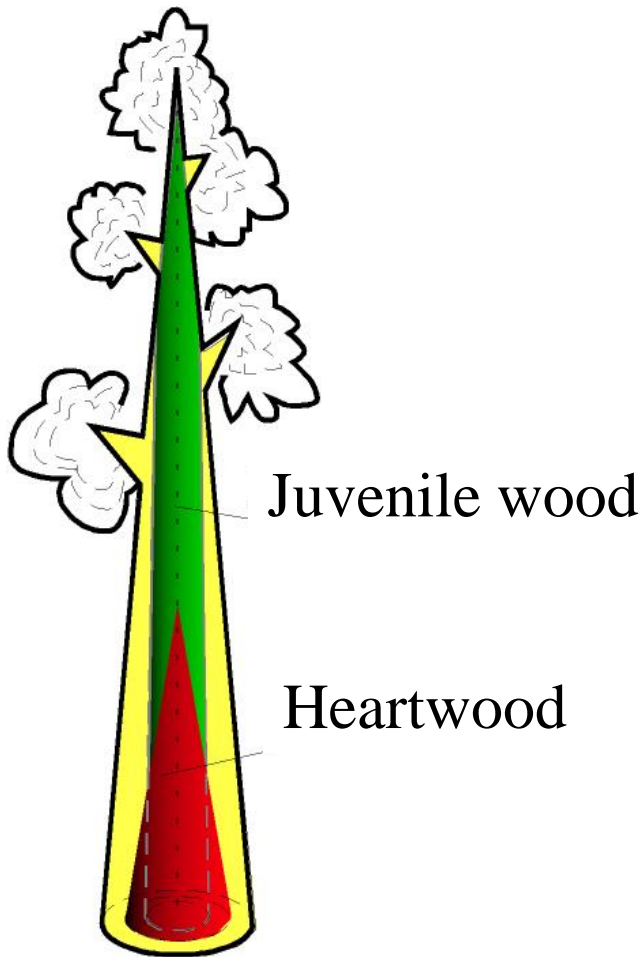
## Variation within the annual ring

Pine and Spruce:

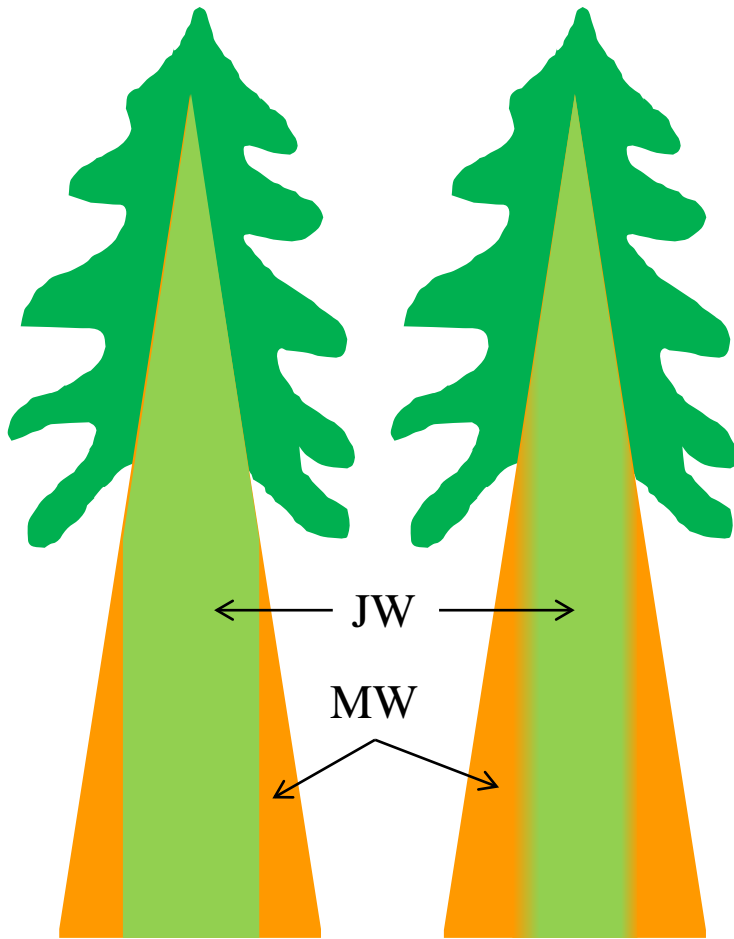
Latewood density ca  $900 \text{ kg/m}^3$

Earlywood density ca  $300 \text{ kg/m}^3$

MSP

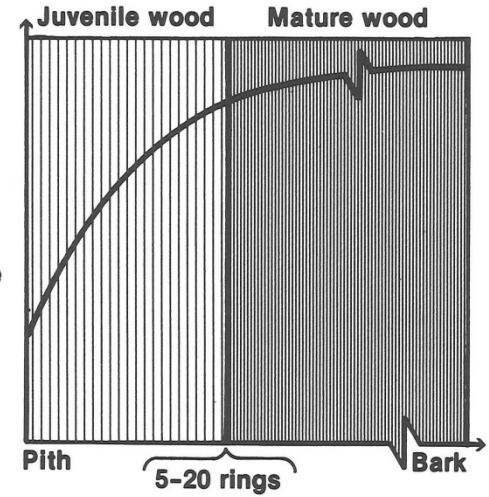


- 10-15 first developed annual rings
- Bigger fibril angle in  $S_2$
- Bigger longitudinal shrinkage
- Lower density
- Shorter cell length- thinner walls



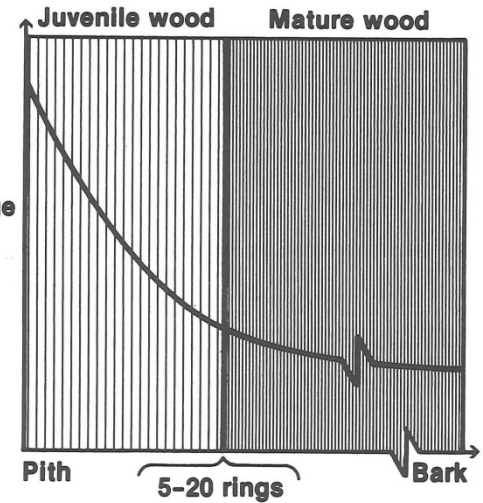
Specific gravity  
 Cell length  
 Strength  
 Cell wall thickness  
 Transverse shrinkage  
 Percent latewood

From Bendtsen (1978)



S-2 fibril angle  
 Longitudinal shrinkage

From Bendtsen (1978)



Bowyer JL, Shmulsky R, Haygreen JG (2007) Forest Products & Wood Science: An Introduction. 5th Edition. Blackwell Publishing Ltd., Oxford, United Kingdom





<http://wood280.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2012/08/WOOD-280-15W-7-Juvenile-wood.ppt>

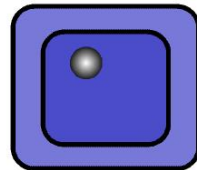


# Shrinkage and swelling

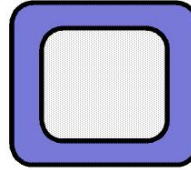
Below FSP => shrinkage

Shrinkage from FSP to MC=0 almost linear.

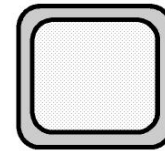
Moistening from MC=0 to FSP swelling also almost linear.



**Above  
FSP**



**At FSP**



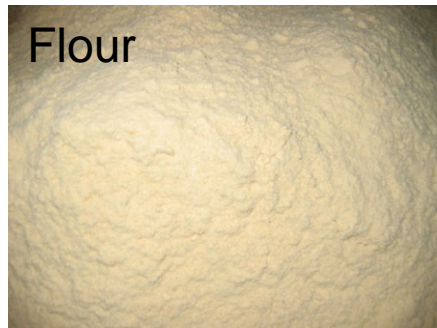
**Below FSP**  
**Shrinkage  
of cellwall**

The movements due to change in MC are very different in the different 3 main directions => anisotropic.

**How many solid products around you???**



# Conversion



Cellulose



# Definition

Engineered wood is also called-

- composite wood
- man-made wood or
- manufactured board

It includes a range of derivative wood products which are manufactured by binding or fixing-

- the strands
- particles
- fibers
- veneers or
- boards of wood together with adhesives, or other methods of fixation to form composite materials



In short-

An Engineered Wood Product (EWP) is a product that has gone through a process to provide better or more predictable properties.

- Longer spans
- Greater load carrying capacity
- More design flexibility



# Examples

Plywood

Oriented Strandboard (OSB)

Glulam

Parallel Strand Lumber (PSL)

Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL)

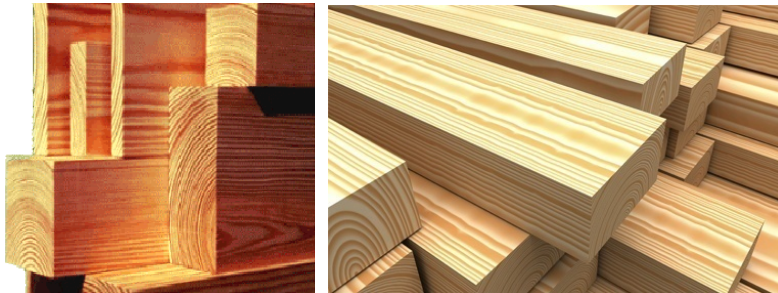
Laminated Strand Lumber (LSL)

I-Joists / Open-Web Joists

Trusses



# Examples



Solid wood products



Engineered wood products

# Types of engineered wood products

## Strands based

- Oriented strand board
- Parallel strand lumber
- Laminated strand lumber
- Oriented strand lumber

## Particle based

- Particle board

## Veneer based

- Plywood
- Laminated veneer lumber
- Overlaid products



## **Lumber based**

- Glued laminated timbers
- Cross laminated timber
- Finger-joined lumber
- Edge glued products

## **Combinations**

- I-Joists
- Structurally insulated panels

## **Fiber based**

- Fiber reinforcement
- Wood plastic composites
- Medium density fiber board
- Hardboard or high density fiber board



# Advantages of EWPs

- Can be designed to meet application-specific performance requirements
- Versatile and available in a wide variety of thicknesses, sizes, grades etc.
- EWPs are designed and manufactured to maximize the natural strength and stiffness characteristics of wood
- Glued laminated timber (glulam) has greater strength and stiffness than comparable dimensional lumber
- Offer more design options without sacrificing structural requirements
- Engineered wood panels are easy to work with
- Make more efficient use of wood
- Sustainable design is possible using relatively small trees



# Disadvantages of EWPs

- Some products may burn more quickly than solid lumber
- They require more primary energy for their manufacture than solid lumber
- The adhesives used in some products may be toxic
- Some engineered wood products, such as those specified for interior use, may be weaker and more prone to humidity-induced warping than equivalent solid woods. Most particle and fiber-based boards are not appropriate for outdoor use because they readily soak up water
- Combustible
- Biodegradable



Dimensional stability of timber and boards. Change in dimensions from 30% to 90% relative humidity (Dinwoodie 1981)

	Direction of grain or board length		
	Parallel (%)	Perpendicular (%)	Thickness (%)
Douglas fir	Negligible	2.0-2.4	2.0-2.4
Beech	Negligible	2.6-5.2	2.6-5.2
Plywood Douglas fir	0.24	0.24	2.0
Particle board			
UF bonded	0.33	0.33	4.7
PF bonded	0.25	0.25	3.9
MF/UF bonded	0.21	0.21	3.3
MDF	0.24	0.25	4-8



Strength properties of timber and boards (Dinwoodie 1981)

	Thickness (mm)	Density (kg m <sup>-3</sup> )	Bending strength (MPa)		Bending stiffness (MPa)	
				⊥		⊥
Solid timber Douglas fir	20	500	80	2.2	12700	800
Plywood Douglas fir	4.8	520	73	16	12090	890
Douglas fir	19	600	60	33	10750	3310
Chipboard UF bonded	18.6	720	11.5	11.5	1930	1930
PF bonded	19.2	680	18.0	18.0	2830	2830
MF/UF bonded	18.1	680	27.1	27.1	3460	3460
MDF	9-10	680	18.7	19.2	---	---



# Efficient use of wood- *Stability*



I-Joist is very efficient use of materials



# Strong and consistent

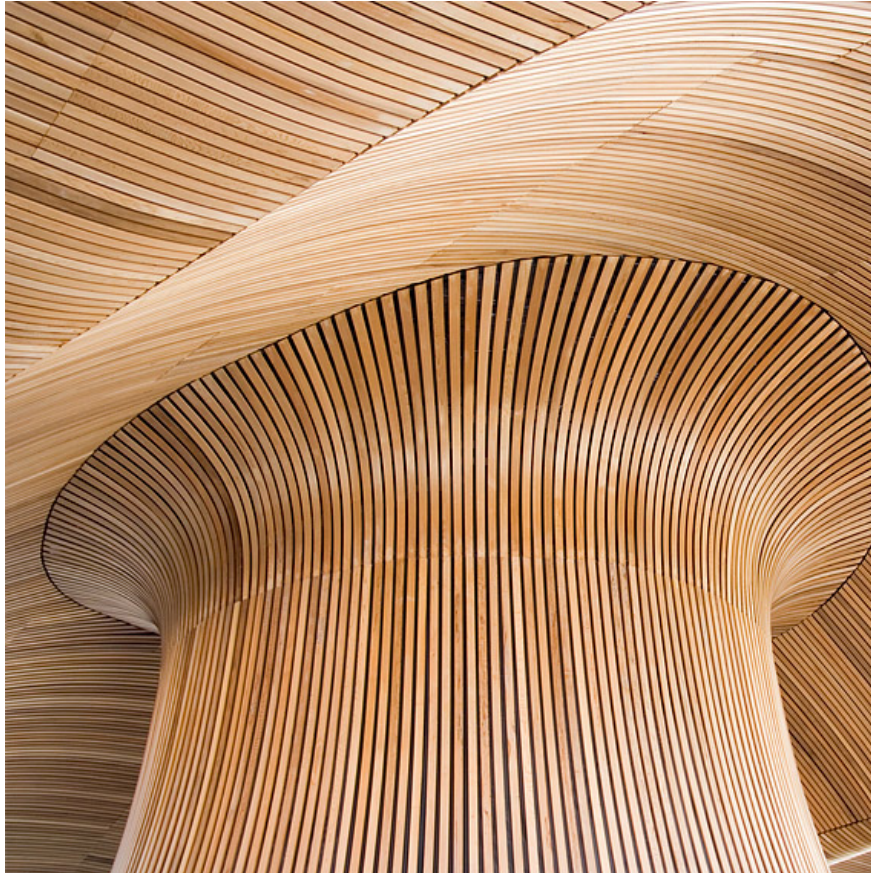
## Optimize strength through- *Engineered design*

- Put strongest components where stresses are highest
- Configure for efficient properties

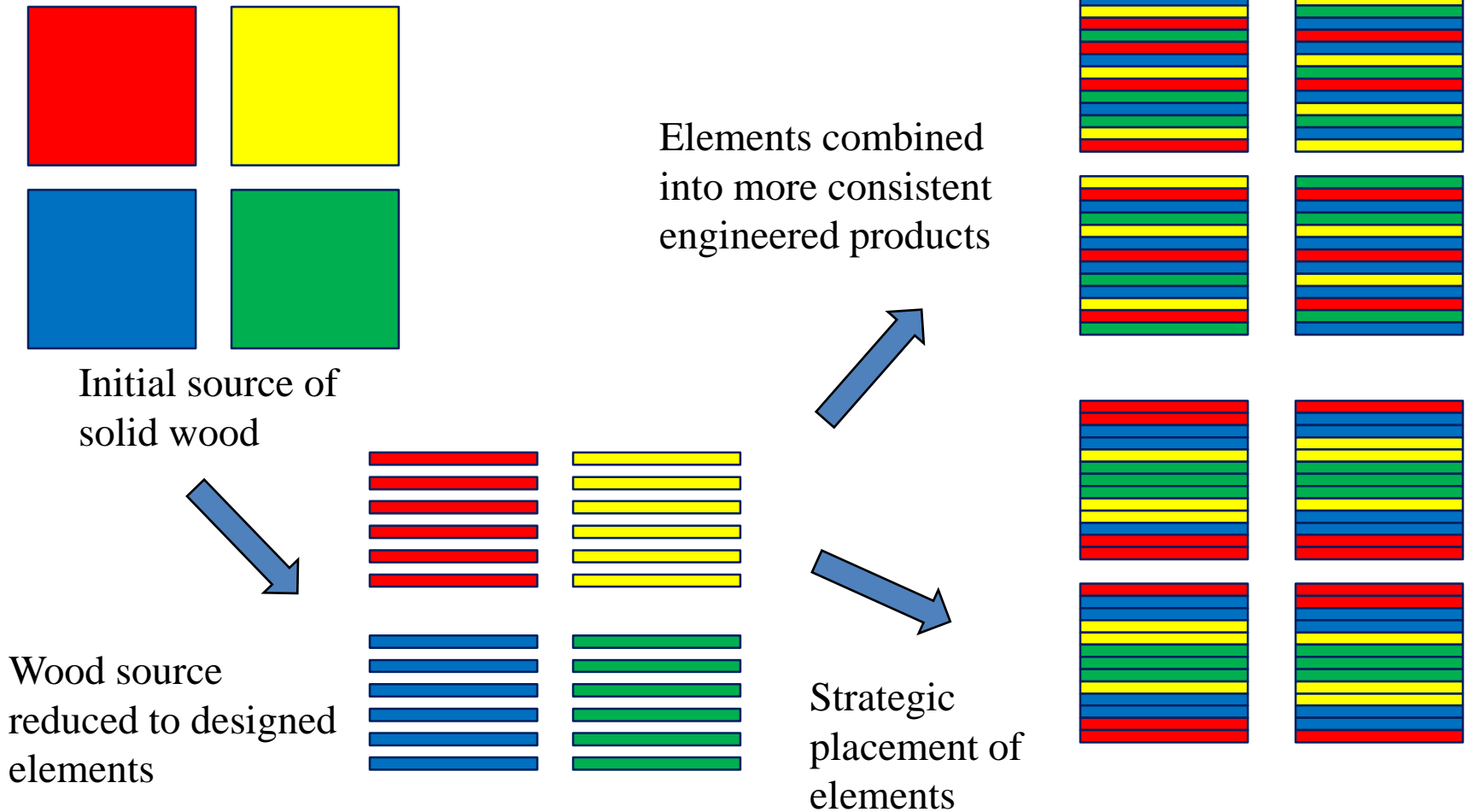
*Randomization of defects to*  
reduce variability or  
increase reliability



# Flexible with respect to shape and size, aesthetics



# Reduction of natural variability



# Strand based EWP

## Oriented Strand Board (OSB)

OSB is formed by adding adhesives and then compressing layers of wood strands (flakes) in specific orientations.

OSB may have a rough and variegated surface with the individual strips of around  $2.5 \times 15$  cm ( $1" \times 6"$ ), lying unevenly across each other and comes in a variety of types and thicknesses



## Uses of OSB



I-joist

<http://apawood-europe.org/products-trademarks/i-joists/>



Sheathing

[www.mrshed.net](http://www.mrshed.net)



Rim board

<http://lpcorp.com/products/framing/lp-solidstart-rim-board/>



## Parallel Strand Lumber (PSL)

PSL is manufactured from *veneers clipped into long strands* laid in parallel formation and bonded together with an adhesive to form the finished structural section. The length-to-thickness ratio of the strands in PSL is around 300.



[www.woodskyscrapers.com](http://www.woodskyscrapers.com)



[www.stylepinner.com](http://www.stylepinner.com)

## Uses of PSL

- Beam and header applications where high bending strength is needed
- Load-bearing columns



[www.socomp.com](http://www.socomp.com)

Beam



[www.goodrichlumber.com](http://www.goodrichlumber.com)

Column

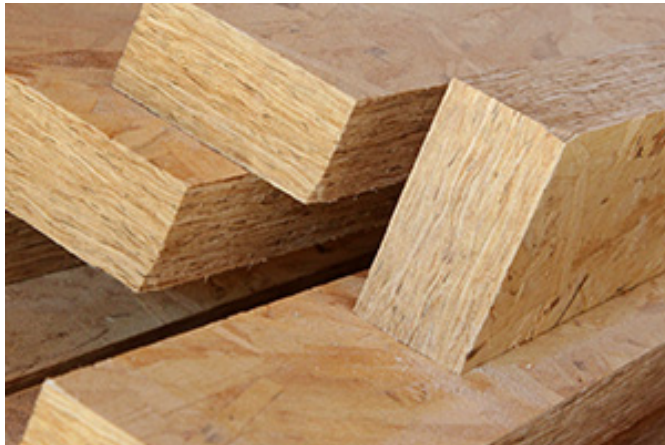


<http://info.buildabilitynow.com>

Truss

## Laminated Strand Lumber (LSL)

Similar to PSL, laminated strand lumber is made from flaked wood strands that have a length-to-thickness ratio of approximately 150. Combined with an adhesive, the strands are oriented and formed into a large mat or billet and pressed.



## Oriented Strand Lumber (OSL)

Similar to LSL, oriented strand lumber is also made from flaked wood strands.

The strand geometry for OSL results in length-to-thickness ratios of approximately 75. Combined with an adhesive, the strands are oriented and formed into a large mat or billet and pressed. OSL is used in a variety of applications from *studs* to *millwork* components



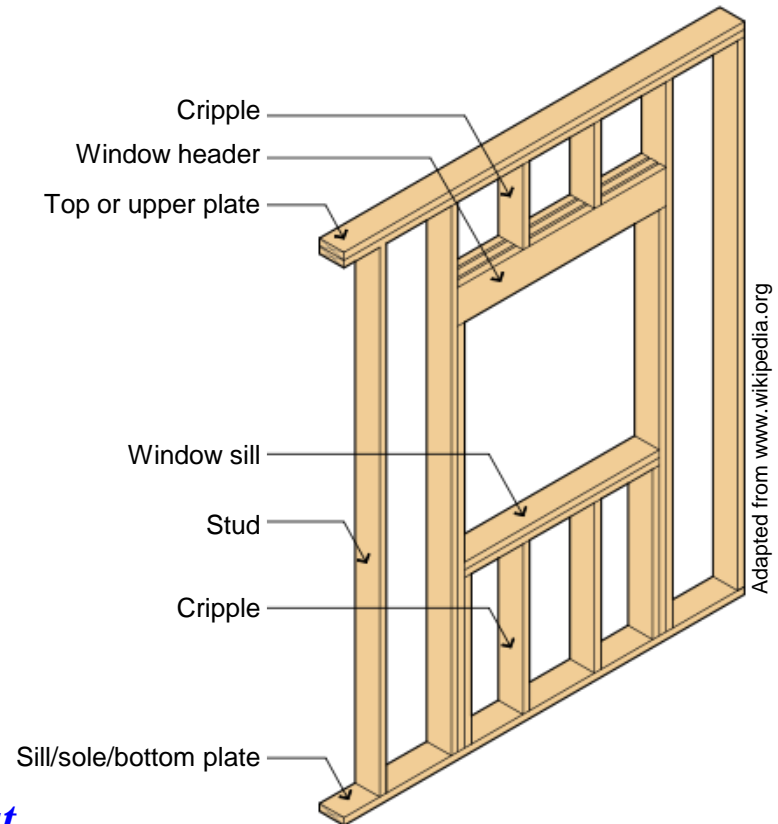
www.apawood.org



## Uses of OSL

- Studs
- Beams
- Headers
- Rim boards
- Millwork components
- Trusses

*The strands used in OSL are shorter than that used in LSL.* Both LSL and OSL offer good fastener-holding strength.



A typical wall section in platform framing

# Types of engineered wood products

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- Oriented strand lumber

## Particle based

- Particle board

## Veneer based

- Plywood
- Laminated veneer lumber
- Overlaid products

## Lumber based

- Glued laminated timbers
- Cross laminated timber
- Finger-joined lumber
- Edge glued products

## Combinations

- I-Joists
- Structurally insulated panels

## Fiber based

- Fiber reinforcement
- Wood plastic composites
- Medium density fiber board
- Hardboard or high density fiber board



# Particle based EWP

## Particle board

Particle board, also known as particleboard and chipboard, is a wood product made from chips of wood or sawdust. It is mixed with resin or glue (both adhesives), then, under pressure and heat, pressed into uniform sheets

Density: ca. 640-800 kg m<sup>-3</sup>





Different types of particles used in particle board manufacturing

Bowyer JL, Shmulsky R, Haygreen JG (2007) Forest Products & Wood Science: An Introduction. 5th Edition. Blackwell Publishing Ltd., Oxford, United Kingdom

## Uses of particle boards

- Furniture manufacturing
- Flooring (subflooring)
- Roofing
- Sound absorbing



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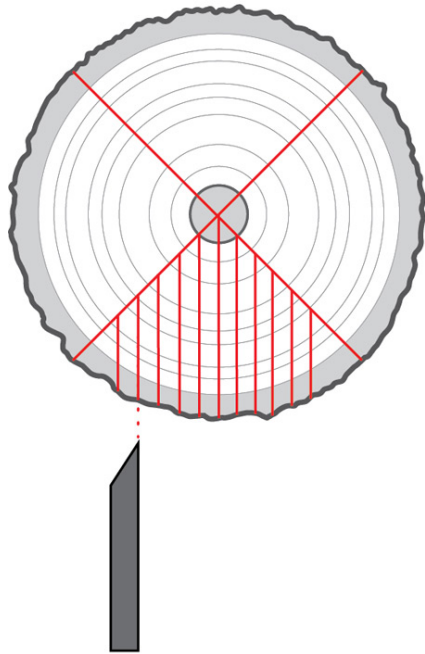


# Veneer based EWP

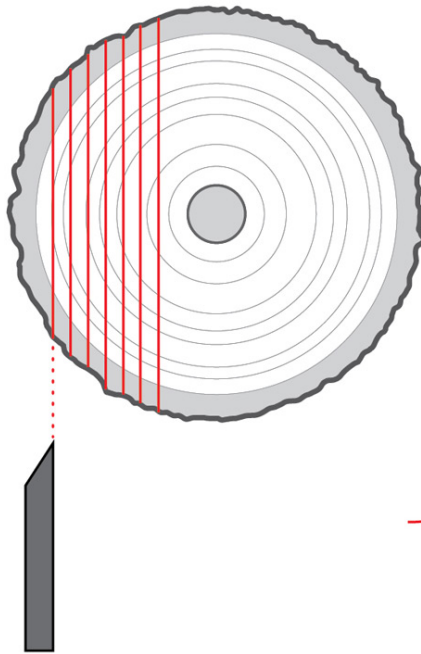
## Plywood

Plywood is a panel product consisting of thin wood veneers (plies) glued together so that the grain direction of each layer of veneer is perpendicular to that of the adjacent layers. This cross-lamination provides excellent two-way strength and stiffness properties, resistance to impact damage, and dimensional stability when gaining or losing moisture.

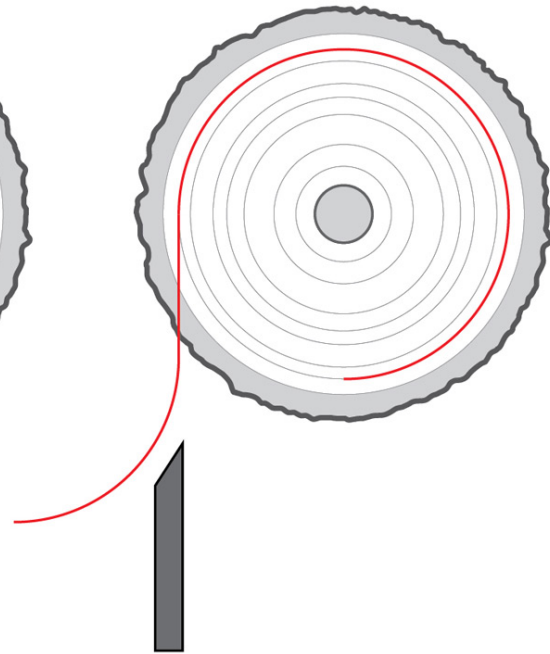




QUARTER SAWN



PLAIN SLICE



ROTARY CUT

<http://blog.buildllc.com/2013/10/veneering-101/>



[www.craftsmensupply.com](http://www.craftsmensupply.com)



[www.hitechveneer.com](http://www.hitechveneer.com)



[www.woodworkerssource.com](http://www.woodworkerssource.com)

<http://davao-sm.all.biz>



[www.vicover.it](http://www.vicover.it)



www.design42day.com



Furniture



www.nrcan.gc.ca

Construction



www.czarfloors.com

Parquet



www.1000000.com  
Architecture  
Equipment Co. Ltd.  
SCAFFOLDING ISMETEM

Scaffold



www.feshanm.com.cn

Instrument



www.zdnet.com

Architectural design



## Laminated veneer lumber (LVL)

LVL is an engineered wood product that uses multiple layers of thin wood assembled with adhesives. It is similar in appearance to plywood without crossbands.

Thickness of veneer: 2.5-3.2 mm



# Uses of LVL



www.apawood.org

Beam



www.roseburg.com

Header



www.briscoman.com

Column



www.redbuilt.com

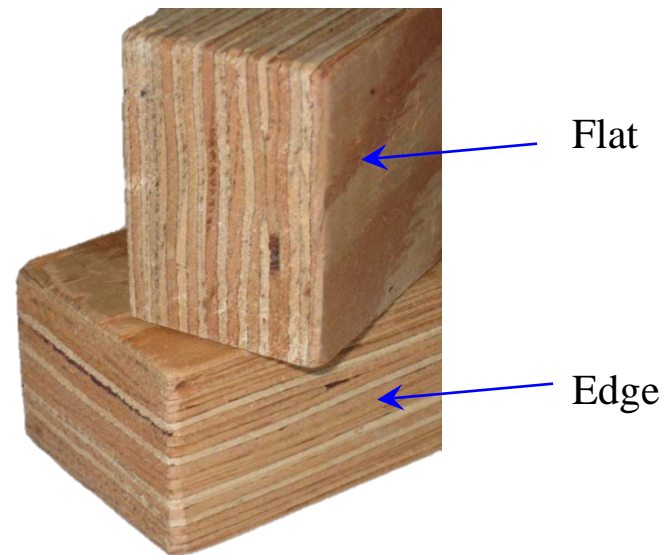


www.timberdesignmag.com

Rafters



- Softwood veneers produced as in plywood production
- Veneers graded prior to assembly
- Higher quality veneers are placed on the outsides
- Veneers glued with grain running parallel to each other
- LVL used on flat or on edge



## LVL – end use dimensions

Width                    1 ½ in., 1 ¾ in, and 3 ½ in

Depth                    up to 24 in

Length                    up to 24 m

Adapted from [www.wood120.forestry.ubc.ca](http://www.wood120.forestry.ubc.ca)



## Reduction of natural variability

- Defects in veneer can be removed or dispersed
- Variability is reduced
- Yield of veneer from logs is higher than yield of solid lumber



Solid wood

Variability at greatest level

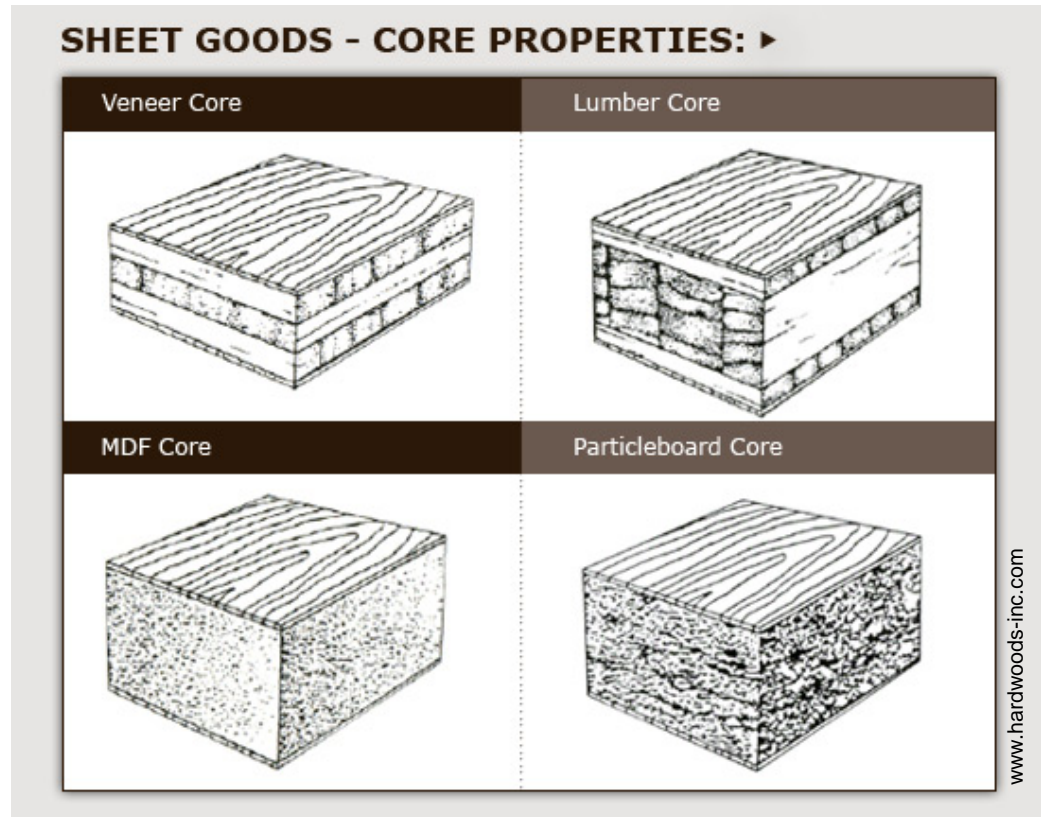


Laminated Veneer Lumber

Variability is reduced

## Overlaid products

When substrate like MDF, HDF, plywood etc. is overlaid with thin layer of veneer with resin. Veneer could be natural or synthetic.



www.apawood.org



HDO/MDO plywood



Overlay paper

www.metsawood.com



Plywood panel with decorative paper overlay



Block board

www.sinowood.com



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- Glued laminated timbers
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## Combinations

- I-Joists
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## Fiber based

- Fiber reinforcement
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# Lumber based EWPs

## Glued laminated timbers (glulam)

Is a type of structural timber product comprising a number of layers of dimensioned timber bonded together with durable, moisture-resistant structural adhesives. In North America the material providing the laminations is termed laminating stock or lamstock.



[www.tranduchomes.org](http://www.tranduchomes.org)



[www.timbercraft.com](http://www.timbercraft.com)

## Uses of glulam



www.uslumber.com

Beam



Richmond Olympic Oval (Canada)



www.solaripedia.com

www.archiexpo.com

Column



www.wikipedia.org

Glulam bridge (Canada)



www.yelp.com



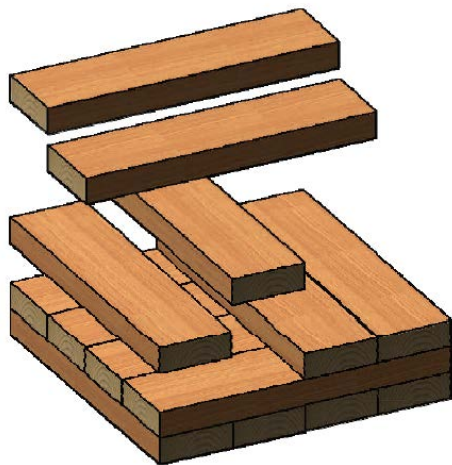
www.pinterest.com

Glulam – curved members



## Cross laminated timbers (CLT)

CLT consist of several layers of structural lumber boards stacked crosswise (typically at 90 degrees). It is also known as *massive timber*.



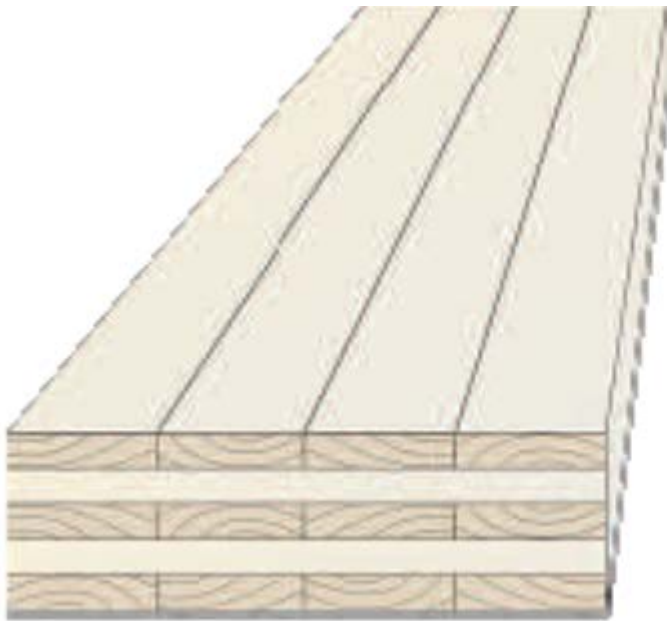
Mohammad et al. (2012) Wood Design Focus 22(2):3-12

## Uses of CLT

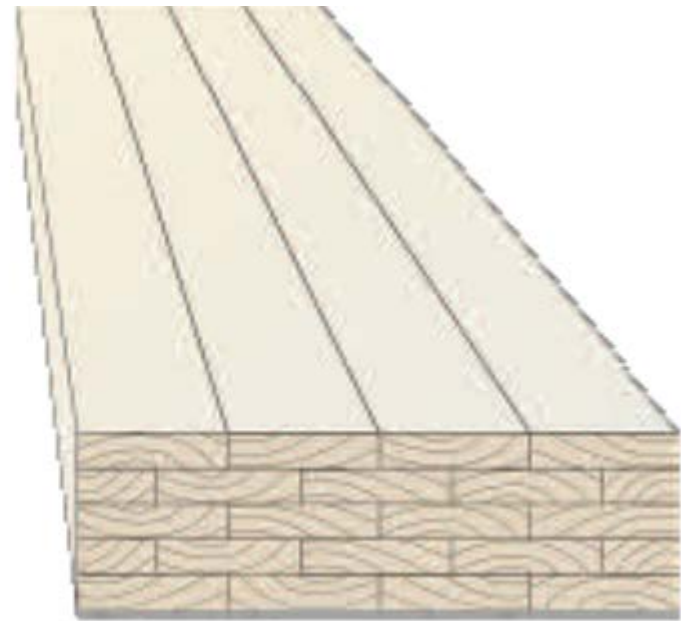
Commonly used for-

- Long spans in walls
- Floors
- Roofs etc.





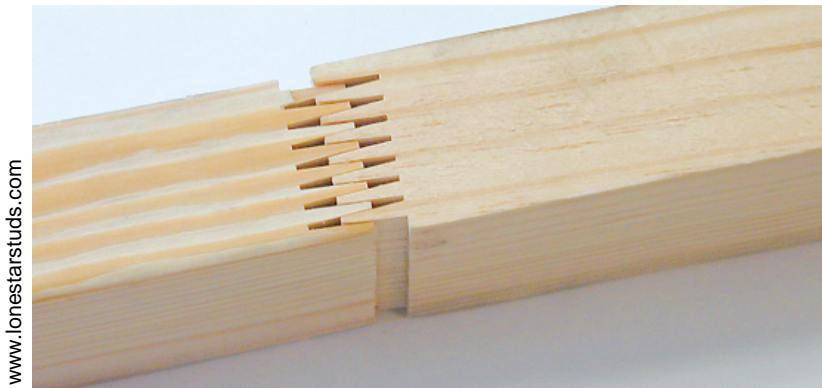
CLT



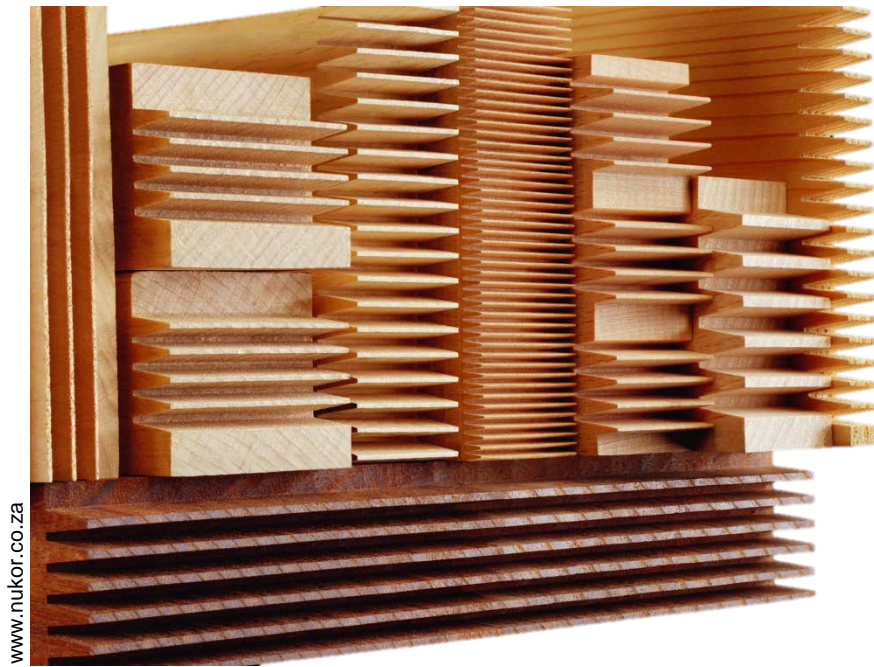
Glulam

## Finger-joined lumber

A finger joint is a woodworking joint made by cutting a set of complementary cuts in two pieces of wood, which are then glued. It is stronger than a butt joint or lap joint, and often contributes to the aesthetics (appearance) of the piece



## Uses of finger-jointed lumber



Different finger jointing lines



Glulam



Laminated pine board

## Edge glued products

Made of finger jointed or solid wood lamellas (strips, flitches) glued together with adhesive.



## Uses of edge glued panels

- Furniture panels
- Table tops
- Cutting boards
- Butcher blocks
- Bench tops
- Stool seats
- Important component of high quality furniture designs
- Residential constructions



Butcher block



Cutting board



Stool seat

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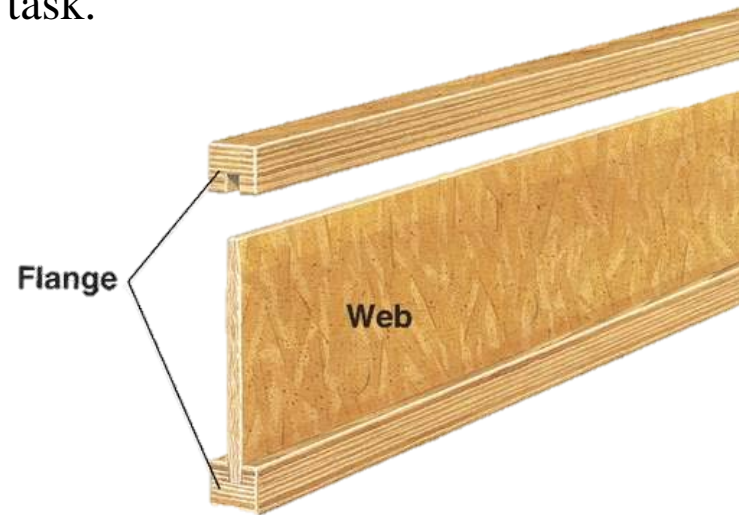
# Combinations of EWPs

## I-joist

"I"-shaped structural members designed for use in floor and roof construction.

An I-joist consists of top and bottom flanges of various widths united with webs of various depths. The flanges resist common bending stresses, and the web provides shear performance. I-joists are designed to carry heavy loads over long distances while using less lumber than a dimensional solid wood joist of a size necessary to do the same task.

- Flange: LVL or solid sawn lumber
- Web: Plywood or OSB



## Uses of I-joists



Floor framing



Roof framing

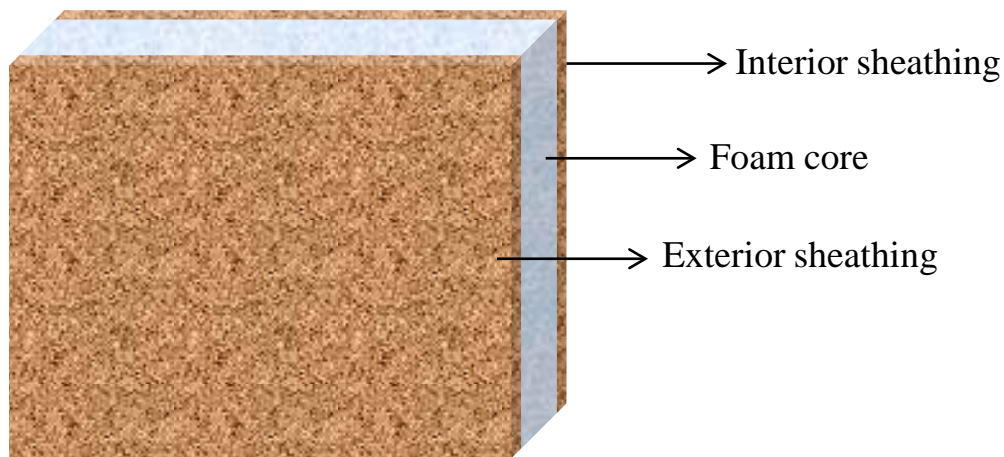
www.surehouse.org

www.apatwood.org



## Structurally insulated panels (SIPs)

SIPs consist of an insulating foam core sandwiched between two structural facings, typically oriented strand board (OSB).



## Uses of SIPs

- Share the same structural properties as an I-beam
- The rigid insulation core of the SIP acts as a web, while the sheathing fulfills the function of the flanges
- Used for many different applications, such as exterior wall, roof, floor and foundation systems



Framing

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# Fiber based EWPs

## Fiber reinforced composite (FRC)

Fillers and reinforcement such as natural fibers embedded in or bonded to a matrix (polymer, cement etc.)

Enhance properties while lowering cost

Both matrix and fibers maintain their identity but produce a combination of properties not achievable by one component alone



## Uses of FRC

- Outdoor deck floors
- Railings
- Fences
- Landscaping timbers
- Cladding and siding
- Park benches
- Molding and trim
- Window and door frames
- Indoor furniture



Interior designing



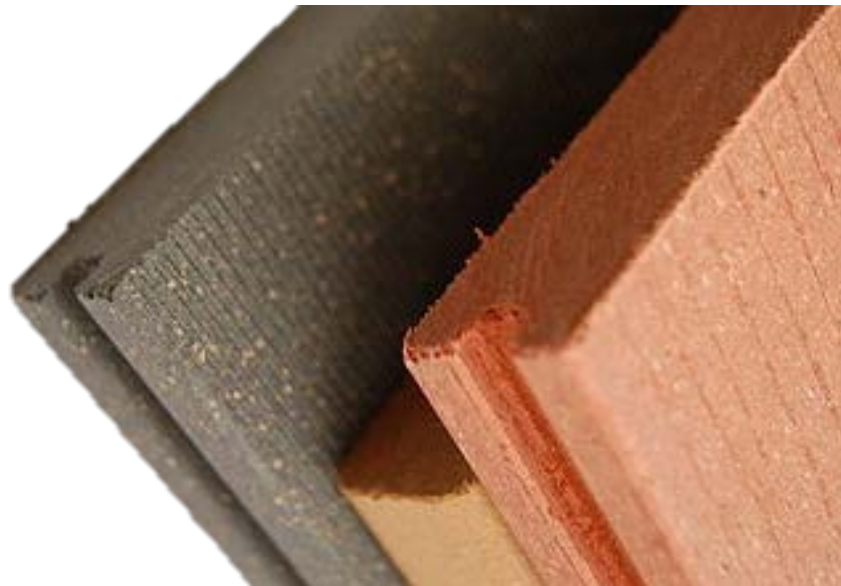
Fiber-cement composite tile

www.buildsabai.com



## **Wood plastic composites (WPC)**

WPCs are composite materials made of wood fiber/wood flour and thermoplastic(s) (includes PE, PP, PVC etc.)

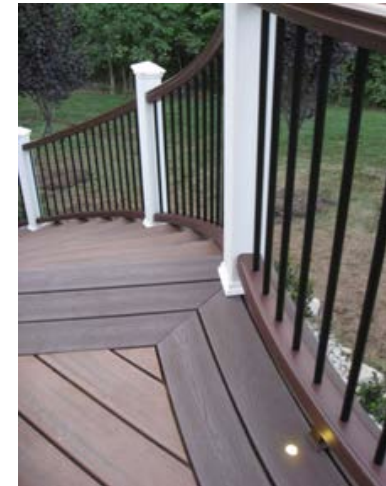


## Uses of WPCs

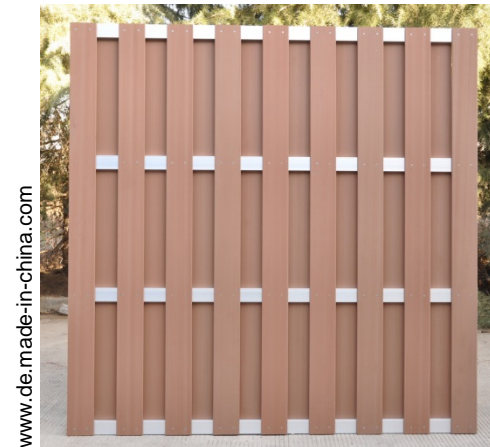
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- Landscaping timbers
- Cladding and siding
- Park benches
- Window and door frames
- Indoor furniture



Window frame



Decking



Fence



## Medium density fiber board (MDF)

MDF is an engineered wood product made primarily from wood fiber and bonded with synthetic resins. MDF is generally denser than plywood.

Density: ca. 500-800 kg m<sup>-3</sup>



## Uses of MDF

- Furniture
- Cabinetry
- Flooring
- Speaker boxes



## High density fiber board (HDF)

HDF or hardboard. It is denser and much stronger and harder than particle board or MDF. Water soluble resins such PF are used.

Density: ca. 800–1040 kg m<sup>-3</sup>



## Uses of HDF

- Paneling
- Cabinet back
- Floor underlayment
- Home appliances
- Automobiles
- Cabinetry



www.menards.com



www.lumberjocks.com

Wall panels

Workbench

Thank you!!!

