

INTERLINK LTD

Interlink Recycled Hardwood Grading:

Interlink continually strive to deliver quality recycled timber products with the greatest degree of accuracy in 'description'. In wholesale quantities there is often a minimal number of sleepers that are either above or below the average graded condition. All dimensions are averaged approximates. Tannin can be present in fresh, unused sleepers. Known treatments will be declared.

Railway sleepers are rated according to some of the following factors:

Used: All used, recycled & reclaimed sleepers and hardwood products will always contain a minimum of splints, cracks / splits, chips and general wear. Surface or minor rot is possible.

AAA Grade: Atleast 3 flat faces and square sides. Typically 1 straight edge. Minimal chips & dents. Clean bolt holes & nothces may be present. Flat square ends. Generally consistent dimensions

AA Grade: Four square sides with minor weathering. Typically a minimum of 3 straight & clean edges. Notching & bolt holes could be present from rail ties. Rustic weathering present. May have minor outer wane. May have minor cracking at ends.

A Grade: Top & sides are square with weathering, generally 2 to 3 good faces. The four sides are relatively defined. Minor to moderate wane could be present. Crack at ends may be present. Rail steel, rail tie notching and bolt holes could be present. Definite rustic weathering, split/worn end for used sleepers.

B Grade: Top & sides are generally square but worn and rustic weathering is probable. Splits and worn ends tend to be present. Wane is likely and minor rot could be present. Chipping around bolt holes & notches could be substantial.

C Grade: Top mostly flat with 2 to 3 worn / well weathered sides present. End cracks will be evident. Wane (possibly substantial) will be present. Rot may be evident. Substantial chips around bolt holes and notches likely.



C - Grade [Used]



AAA - Grade [Used]

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Terms:

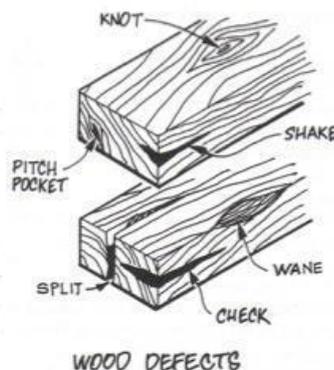
Wane: Often refers to the bark or wood growth (against grain) that can be left on lumber after milling; this is due to the shape of the log and can leave curvature in edges where wood will not be present. Residual bark / timber remaining on sleeper may be liable to naturally fall off through drying & weathering.

Check: A separation of the wood normally occurring through the rings of annual growth and usually as a result of the natural drying process occurring too quickly. Surface 'checks' are failures that usually occur in the wood on the flatsawn faces of boards. 'Checks' occur because drying stresses exceed the tensile strength of the wood against the grain, and they are caused by tension stresses that develop in the outer part, or shell, of boards as they dry around the still wet and swollen core. Surface checks usually develop early in drying because the lumber surfaces dry too quickly from low relative humidity.

- End checks: occur because moisture moves much faster to the end directions rather than in a transverse direction. Therefore, the ends of boards dry faster than the middle and stresses develop at the ends, creating end 'checks' leading to cracks.

[Cross] Shake: Natural occurring defects in standing trees caused by lengthwise separation of the wood along the grain, usually occurring between or through the rings of annual growth. A surface 'shake' occurs on only one surface, while a through shake extends from one side to the opposite or adjoining side of the piece. This can be seen as growth holes or cracks.

Splits: Separation of the wood through the piece to the opposite surface or to an adjoining surface due to the tearing apart of the wood cells. Splits in wood are sometimes the result of the drying process or the dry kiln. Splits caused by drying extend across one or more growth rings (radial direction). Many splits extend parallel to the growth ring, as in the case of mechanical damage, while some splits run at various angles to the grain and growth rings.



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Safety & Handling:

Using, moving or modifying hardwoods & railway sleepers can be a highly rewarding activity. Creatively fitting a long lasting natural product should be done safely and carefully at all times throughout handling and installing. Occupational health & safety, good work practices and awareness on site for others and yourself contribute greatly to ensuring everyone finishes the day soundly.

Please see the below as minimum suggested precautions.

Hints when handling sleepers

- Most sleepers are heavy, use correct form and 2 people to lift.
- Always wear gloves when handling sleepers.
- Sleepers will last longer if a barrier is placed between soil and sleeper (i.e polythene).
- Use a breathing mask and eye protection when cutting sleepers.

Preservation treated sleepers

- Always wear gloves when handling sleepers.
- Use a breathing mask and eye protection when cutting sleepers.
- Preservation treated sleepers should not be used where there may be frequent skin contact or in Interiors.
- A suitable barrier (i.e polythene) is required when sleepers are in contact with soil for vegetables or fruit trees.

Tannin: Tannins are water-soluble extractives, which are present in some species of timber, and moisture permeating through the timber will bring these to the surface, causing black or brownish stains and leaching. Applicable lock in or washout solutions are commonly available, however before installation, as recommended by manufacturers, remove excess tannin. This is only necessary (a) if the timber is exposed to rain, and (b) if the tannin is likely to wash off onto a sensitive surface such as sandstone pavers or light-coloured render. Alternatively, nature take its course and the tannin will eventually wash out.

Interlink Ltd recommends all safety, protection & work equipment carry a minimum of AS/NZS safety standards.

[If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please feel free to get in touch today!](#)

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