



## EDGING

*The purpose of edging is to remove wane and other defects from a board, thereby increasing its usability and value. Poor edging can lead to significant lumber value and volume losses. Understanding National Hardwood Lumber Association lumber grades and customer specifications is key to proper edging. These guidelines describe maximum allowable wane for good practice, but customer needs may differ.*

### WHAT IS WANE?

- **Wane:** Bark or lack of wood on the edges or faces of a board. It is the natural round edge (or “live edge”) of a log.
- Crooked or oddly shaped logs can make edging more difficult.
- Sapwood, if not stained, is not considered a lumber defect.



### HOW MUCH WANE TO LEAVE?

- By not leaving some wane on the board, you are over edging the lumber and losing valuable material.
- Deciding how much wane to leave or edge off starts with recognizing the quality of the board being edged.
- This publication separates lumber into two quality groupings – “Common” and “Clear.”

### COMMON BOARDS

- Boards 25% to 75% clear with defects like knots, split or rot on both faces, at least 3” wide and 4’ long.
- There is no wane width requirement for common boards

**GOLDEN RULE** • Both edges of a board should each have a total of  $\frac{1}{2}$  its standard length be square-edged.

### COMMON BOARD EDGING OPTIONS

1. **Volume Recovery** - Keep as much wood on the board as possible while still meeting the Golden Rule.
2. **Grade Recovery** - Get a clear board where possible due to the premium price for upper grade clear lumber.
  - Edge or rip cut a board into two boards when you can separate defects like knots or splits from clear sections of lumber.
  - Make sure the second board meets clear grade size requirements (e.g., select → 4” wide).
  - The minimum width of common lumber is 3”, so boards less than 3” wide are too narrow.

### CLEAR BOARDS

- Boards with one face that is at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  clear in one section.
- A board that has only one defect and is within 1” of an edge or 1’ of the end.
- Clear boards are limited in length and width of wane allowed.

#### WANE LENGTH EXAMPLES:

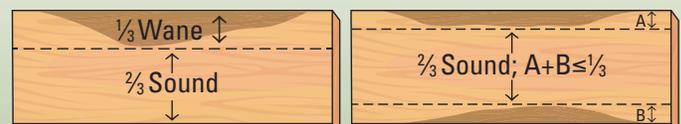


Target edging so that **between  $\frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$**  the length of the board has wane on each edge.



Target edging so  **$\frac{1}{4}$  or less** of a board’s length has wane on each edge. If one edge has no wane, the opposite edge can have up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the board length in wane.

#### WANE WIDTH EXAMPLES:



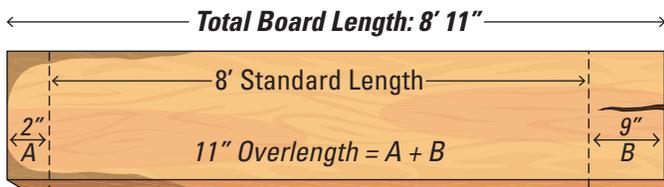
Width of wane should be **no more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of board width** when you add the widest wane from each edge together.

# TRIMMING

Trimming lumber to length, similar to edging, has a significant impact on the appearance of the lumber to the customer. It is important to understand the difference between a board's standard length and overlength and their potential impact on lumber value.

## KEY TERMS

- **Standard Length:** Board length in whole feet, not including any inches.
  - All wane length requirements are based off the board's standard length.
- **Overlength:** The inches over the whole foot length.
  - Overlength can be divided between both ends of the board as long as the standard length is maintained in the middle.
  - Overlength never counts against wane limits, but it can be used to the board's advantage when meeting square edge length and other lumber grade requirements.

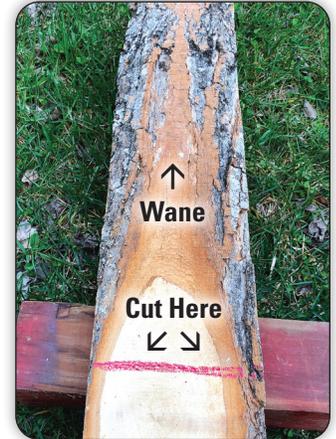


## GENERAL TRIMMING TIPS

- Trim jagged or pointy board ends square.
- Do not trim a board shorter than the allowable minimum board length.
  - Example: Select grade minimum board length is 6'. If cut back to 5' 11", the board drops in grade and value.
- Watch wane length limitations or minimum square edge requirements if you trim off a square edged end.
  - Example: Half of a 10' board is 5' but if cut back to 8', then there must still be at least 4' of square edge material.
- Communicate with customers on lumber length specifications; some may not want a high percentage of odd length material in the lumber pack (i.e., 9' and 7').
- Trim **beaver tails** evenly, leaving some wane on both ends. Do not trim one end completely of wane and leave full wane on the other end.

## BEAVER TAILS

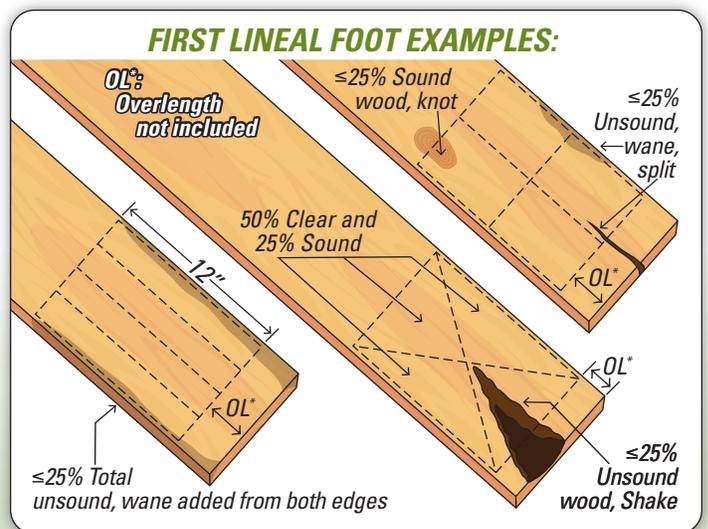
- When wane wraps across the entire board end, it is called a "beaver tail."
- Trim back beaver tails to improve a board's appearance.
- Clear boards must abide by the **First Lineal Foot Rule**, but overlength is excluded and won't penalize lumber grade.



## FIRST LINEAL FOOT RULE

When trimming **clear lumber**, you must make sure the following rules are met with the first lineal foot from each end of the board (**these rules do not apply to any overlength**).

- Must be a minimum of:
  - 50% clear wood → no defects.
  - 25% sound wood → stain, sound knots, or small wormholes are okay; no wane or rot.
  - 25% allowed unsound (i.e., wane, shake or rot).
- See first lineal foot examples below to find percentages.



*These are general recommendations for manufacturing hardwood lumber and should be used as a starting point for learning about the topic. The authors strongly encourage further study by analyzing your mill equipment and National Hardwood Lumber Association lumber grades.*