

Lumber Dimensions: Nominal vs Actual

Dimensional lumber is cut to a specific length, width, and depth. However, there is a difference between the nominal size (what the lumber is referred to) and the actual size. The tables below provide both the nominal and actual lumber dimensions for many common North American lumber sizes.

Table 1 - Softwood Lumber Dimensions

NOMINAL SIZE (INCHES)	ACTUAL SIZE (INCHES)	ACTUAL SIZE (MM)
1 x 2	3/4 x 1 1/2	19 x 38
1 x 3	3/4 x 2 1/2	19 x 64
1 x 4	3/4 x 3 1/2	19 x 89
1 x 6	3/4 x 5 1/2	19 x 140
1 x 8	3/4 x 7 1/4	19 x 184
1 x 10	3/4 x 9 1/4	19 x 235
1 x 12	3/4 x 11 1/4	19 x 286
2 x 2	1 1/2 x 1 1/2	38 x 38
2 x 3	1 1/2 x 2 1/2	38 x 64
2 x 4	1 1/2 x 3 1/2	38 x 89
2 x 6	1 1/2 x 5 1/2	38 x 140
2 x 8	1 1/2 x 7 1/4	38 x 184
2 x 10	1 1/2 x 9 1/4	38 x 235
2 x 12	1 1/2 x 11 1/4	38 x 286
4 x 4	3 1/2 x 3 1/2	89 x 89
4 x 6	3 1/2 x 5 1/2	89 x 140
4 x 8	3 1/2 x 7 1/4	89 x 184
4 x 10	3 1/2 x 9 1/4	89 x 235
4 x 12	3 1/2 x 11 1/4	89 x 286
6 x 6	5 1/2 x 5 1/2	140 x 140
6 x 8	5 1/2 x 7 1/2	140 x 191
6 x 10	5 1/2 x 9 1/2	140 x 241
6 x 12	5 1/2 x 11 1/2	140 x 292
8 x 8	7 1/2 x 7 1/2	191 x 191
8 x 10	7 1/2 x 9 1/2	191 x 241
8 x 12	7 1/2 x 11 1/2	191 x 292

Table 2 - Softwood Lumber Lengths

LENGTH IN FEET	LENGTH IN INCHES	LENGTH IN METERS
6 feet	72 inches	1.829 meters
8 feet	96 inches	2.438 meters
10 feet	120 inches	3.048 meters
12 feet	144 inches	3.658 meters
14 feet	168 inches	4.267 meters
16 feet	192 inches	4.877 meters
18 feet	216 inches	5.486 meters
20 feet	240 inches	6.096 meters
22 feet	264 inches	6.706 meters
24 feet	288 inches	7.315 meters

Table 3 - Hardwood Lumber Dimensions

NOMINAL SIZE	ROUGH SIZE	ACTUAL SIZE: SURFACED 1 SIDE	ACTUAL SIZE: SURFACED 2 SIDES
–	1/2 inch	3/8 inch (9.5 mm)	5/16 inch (7.9 mm)
–	5/8 inch	1/2 inch (13 mm)	7/16 inch (11 mm)
–	3/4 inch	5/8 inch (16 mm)	9/16 inch (14 mm)
4/4 inch	1 inch	7/8 inch (22 mm)	13/16 inch (21 mm)
5/4 inch	1 1/4 inch	1 1/8 inch (29 mm)	1 1/16 inch (27 mm)
6/4 inch	1 1/2 inch	1 3/8 inch (35 mm)	1 5/16 inch (33 mm)
8/4 inch	2 inches	1 13/16 inch (46 mm)	1 3/4 inch (44 mm)
12/4 inch	3 inches	2 13/16 inch (71 mm)	2 3/4 inch (70 mm)
16/4 inch	4 inches	3 13/16 inch (97 mm)	3 3/4 inch (95 mm)

Table – 4 Glue Laminated Lumber Dimensions

NOMINAL WIDTH	ACTUAL FINISHED WIDTH
3"	2 1/2"
4"	3 1/8" or 3 1/2"
6"	5 1/8" or 5 1/2"
8"	6 3/4"
10"	8 3/4"
12"	10 3/4"
14"	12 1/4"
16"	14 1/4"