



WOOD STABILITY

This chart gives a broad idea of the relative movement of wood in response to the presence or absence of moisture. Woods that respond to a greater degree are at the top. There are many variables that determine the movement of wood, including the direction that the lumber is sawn off the log in relation to the growth rings. This chart is based on tangential movement which is always more than radial. "Rift and quartered" lumber, which is cut across the grain at a tall angle, is more stable than "flat-sawn" lumber, which is cut tangentially. In all cases of wood flooring, engineered is more stable than solid. The most important thing one can do to minimize the movement of wood is to keep the relative humidity of the environment within the wood (and human) comfort zone of 35% - 65%.