

# Common Lumber Types and Sizes for Theatre

Lumber comes in two main types:

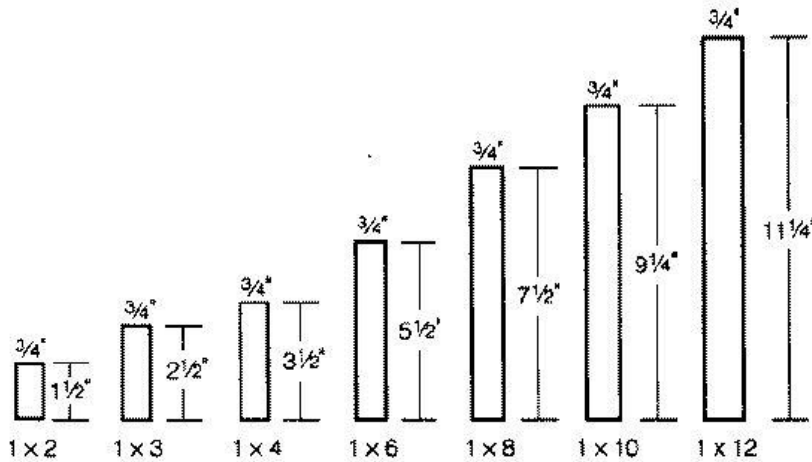
## Board Stock

This lumber is a stick of a single piece of wood. (EXP: 2x4 or 1x6)

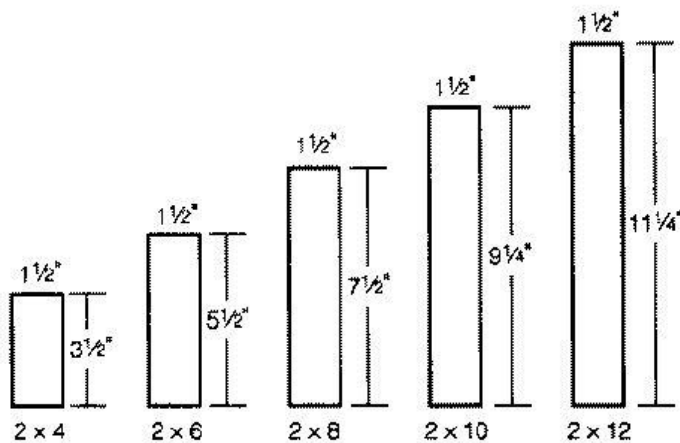
If you see 1x4x8, the first number is the thickness, the second is the width (in inches) and the third is the length (in feet).

For Theatre, most often, the species of wood will be Pine, Fir, or Birch, “soft” woods. This is because it is less expensive and easier to work with than “hard” woods.

Board Stock is sold by the dimensions it was when it entered the saw mill, called the Nominal dimension. That is why your 2x4 isn't 2 inches by 4 inches. The Actual dimensions for common stock are shown in the chart below:



Approximate dimensions of stock lumber 1" thick



Approximate dimensions of 2" thick stock lumber

## Sheet Stock

Usually sold in 4ft x 8ft sheets, the dimension that will be listed will be the thickness of the panel.

**Plywood** several layers of thin wood glued together. Commonly sold in 1/4 inch, 1/2 inch, 5/8 inch, 3/4 inch thicknesses. It will also be in several different grades which can influence it's paint-ability and appearance.



**Luan** thin layers of wood on the top and bottom with a layer of glued up saw dust in between. Commonly sold in 1/8 inch and 1/4 inch thicknesses.



**Masonite or Hardboard** very smooth board made of very fine sawdust and glue. Commonly sold in 1/8 inch and 1/4 inch thicknesses.



There are other types of sheet stock that can be used but these are the most common types.