

Species

Primarily Douglas Fir; occasional non-DF pieces (redwood, cypress, cedar, etc.) are allowed and should be expected.

Source

Pickle Vats salvaged from different sites in North America

Holes

Occasional nail holes, especially on the ends; no visible bolt holes (boards were sometimes assembled with wood dowels so there are some dowel holes on the edge which are split through on the sawn face of Picklewood Weathered Split)

Knots

90% clear. Some boards will have pin knots.

Checking/Cracks

Unlimited as long as board is sound; end cracks to extend no more than 6" into board; many boards have dark checking

Grain Pattern

Tight grain; Mixed

Moisture Content/Stability

Kiln-Dried

Standard Dimensions

a) Thickness: As-is boards range from 1 1/2" to 2 1/2" thick. Split boards will be approx. 5/8" (boards will be split from thicker as-is boards; some thickness variation is to be expected due to (1) inexact splitting and (2) slight differences in thickness of as-is boards); b) Width (nominal): 3"-7". Widths will be camp-run and will tend to be grouped heavily around 5"; and c) Length: generally up to 7'6", with many pieces 6' to 7'6" (longer pieces may be available if specifically requested and quoted.) See next item about dimension counts.

Dimension Counts

As-is material thickness will be tallied to the original 1/2" (material which was originally cut at 1 1/2" may have weathered to slightly under 1 1/2" thick). The thickness of the split material is approximately 5/8" thick, but is tallied as if it were 4/4". The width will be tallied to the closest inch (6.5" tallied as 7"; 6.375" tallied as 6"). The length will be measured in half-foot increments. Where the length does not reach a specific half-foot increment, the piece will be tallied at the next lower half-foot (a piece 7'9" will be tallied as 7.5'; a piece 6'5" will be tallied as 6').

Surfacing

As-is material is weathered on all four sides. Split material is Weathered on one face (reverse face is bandsawn).

Weight

Typically, approximately 3 pounds per board foot

Salt/Minerals

Picklewood materials contain significant amounts of salt and other minerals, creating special characteristics and/or considerations like those described in the following items.

Color/Appearance

The coloring of individual Picklewood boards varies widely. Weathered faces can include a range of grays and browns (the exterior of the pickle vats generally weathered to grays, while the interior generally weathered to browns.) Processed Picklewood materials have color variations which range from normal Douglas Fir coloring to color combinations unique to Picklewood materials.

Finishes/Glues

Certain finishes and glues do not work well with Picklewood materials. Most importantly, **DO NOT USE WATER-BASED FINISHES.**



Metal Corrosiveness

Picklewood materials can have a corrosive effect on metal fasteners, machinery and saw blades. Stainless steel fasteners should be used in lieu of regular steel fasteners, especially in applications involving the likely mixing of Picklewood, moisture and oxygen.

Moisture

Picklewood absorbs moisture more readily than typical Douglas Fir. Picklewood material (especially material with air dry or kiln dry time) should be handled, stored and transported carefully to minimize any unnecessary reabsorption of moisture.

Odor

Picklewood materials often have a strong pickling smell to them. This odor is especially strong as wet material is being cut or otherwise processed. It tends to become less and less of an issue as material is allowed to air dry (or as material is kiln dried).

Salt Leaching

As moisture is drawn out of Picklewood materials, it brings salt with it. Salt leaching tends to be the most concentrated at knots and material ends, but can happen anywhere. Air dry time (and kiln drying) reduces, but does not eliminate, salt leaching. Approaches to salt leaching include sanding and refinishing impacted areas to doing nothing (and letting the salt serve as one of the most visible evidences of the history and reclaimed nature of Picklewood materials.) Salt is more visible on processed materials than on as-is materials.

Appearance Variation

Boards can vary in appearance from piece to piece and even within a piece. The characteristics described on this specification sheet generally apply to each board's featured face. The opposite face and edges can differ from the featured face in texture, coloring, and other characteristics unless otherwise noted. Weathered lumber / barnwood will have at least one weathered face. The opposite face and edges can be any combination of weathered and fresh-sawn. If weathered, the weathering will often be different (amount, mix of colors, etc) than on the featured face.

