





Plainsawn

Wood that is cut parallel to the growth rings so that the growth rings are cut from 0° to 45° to the wide face of the board (a tangential cut) is called plainsawn in hardwoods, and flatsawn in softwoods. Plain sawn flooring is more dimensionally stable in thickness (radially) and less stable in width (tangentially).







Quartersawn

Wood that is cut perpendicular to the growth rings so that the growth rings are cut from 45° to 90° to the wide face of the board (a radial cut) is called quartersawn in hardwoods, and vertical-grain in softwoods. Quartersawn lumber is more dimensionally stable in width (radially) and less stable in thickness (tangentially).







Riftsawn

Wood that is cut neither parallel nor perpendicular to the growth rings so that the growth rings make angles of 30° to 60° to the face of the board is known as riftsawn in hardwoods or bastard-sawn in softwoods.







Livesawn

Wood that is cut from the outside diameter through the heartwood incorporating the full range of the above characteristics on the face of the board is known as live-sawn material. This cut of wood is typically wider and incorporates all of the above dimensional stability and aesthetic characteristics.