



# REDWOOD INSPECTION SERVICE

## Behind the Grade Stamp

The Redwood Inspection Service is the organization exclusively authorized by the American Lumber Standard Committee, Inc. to formulate grading rules for redwood lumber. These rules are established in accordance with Product Standard 20-94, the *American Softwood Lumber Standard*, issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The RIS, a Division of the California Redwood Association, publishes and maintains the *Standard Specifications for Grades of California Redwood Lumber*. In addition to redwood, the RIS supervises the grading of whitewoods in accordance with WWPA and WCLIB grade rules.

Here is how the Redwood Inspection Service operates:

- Expert RIS supervisors act as grading monitors of the redwood products produced by the redwood mills throughout Northern California. Their authority assures that the products of an RIS member mill conform to the well-defined standard of the industry.
- RIS trains graders for individual mill members and checks performance in accordance with ALSC regulations.
- RIS specialists supervise member mills' kiln drying procedures and test the kiln-dried products.
- The RIS serves as an impartial arbiter in settling questions of product quality and quantity.
- RIS headquarters in Novato communicates with code-writing agencies to establish or maintain building standards favorable to the usage of redwood in regional and local building codes.

The official RIS grademark or Certificate of Inspection is a positive assurance that the architect, builder or local building authority will find the redwood product acceptable for its intended purpose. Thus it removes from the purchaser any burden of having to prove that the lumber is acceptable.

# Redwood Grade Marks

## Architectural Grades

### ALL HEARTWOOD

**CLEAR ALL HEART VERTICAL GRAIN** – Finest architectural grade, specially selected for grain. Free of defects one face. **Sample uses:** siding, paneling, mill work.

MILL ONE  
CLR HT VG  
REDWOOD 

**CLEAR ALL HEART** – Same quality as Clear All Heart Vertical Grain, except contains flat grain pieces. **Sample uses:** siding, trim, fine garden structures.

MILL ONE  
CLR HT  
REDWOOD 

**HEART B** – Quality heartwood; limited knots and other characteristics not permitted in Clear All Heart and Heart Clear. **Sample uses:** siding, paneling, trim, fascia, decking, garden shelters and other outdoor applications.

MILL ONE  
HEART B  
S-DRY  
REDWOOD 

### CONTAINS SAPWOOD

**CLEAR VERTICAL GRAIN** – Same general quality as Clear All Heart Vertical Grain, except contains sapwood. **Sample uses:** siding, cabinetry, garden shelters and other above-ground uses.

MILL ONE  
CLEAR VG  
REDWOOD 

**CLEAR** – Same general quality as Clear All Heart, except contains sapwood. Accepts some imperfections not permitted in Clear All Heart. **Sample uses:** paneling, soffits, decking and other above-ground uses.

MILL ONE  
CLR  
REDWOOD 

**B-GRADE** – Quality grade, contains sapwood, limited knots and other characteristics not permitted in Clear. **Sample uses:** decking, siding, molding, fascia and other above-ground uses.

MILL ONE  
B  
REDWOOD 

## Garden Grades

**DECK HEART** – Special purpose grade. Similar appearance as Construction Heart. Graded for strength characteristics. Available in 2x4 and 2x6 only. **Sample uses:** decks, railings or other uses on or near soil.

MILL ONE  
DECK HT  
REDWOOD 

**CONSTRUCTION HEART** – All purpose heartwood grade, contains knots of varying sizes and other slight imperfections. **Sample uses:** decks, posts, retaining walls or other uses on or near soil.

MILL ONE  
CONST HT  
REDWOOD 

**MERCHANTABLE HEART** – Economical grade, allows some holes, splits and slightly larger knots than Construction Heart. **Sample uses:** fences, retaining walls, forms, structures where decay hazard exists.

MILL ONE  
MERCH HT  
REDWOOD 

**DECK COMMON** – Special purpose grade. Similar appearance as Construction Common. Graded for strength characteristics. Available in 2x4 and 2x6 only. **Sample uses:** decks, railings and other above-ground uses.

MILL ONE  
DECK COM  
REDWOOD 

**CONSTRUCTION COMMON** – Same general characteristics as Construction Heart, but contains sapwood. **Sample uses:** decking, railings, and other above-ground uses.

MILL ONE  
CONST COM  
REDWOOD 

**MERCHANTABLE** – Same general characteristics as Merchantable Heart, but contains sapwood. **Sample uses:** fence boards, railings, temporary construction and other above-ground uses.

MILL ONE  
MERCH  
REDWOOD 

### Redwood Grademarks

Redwood grades are established by the Redwood Inspection Service in the *Standard Specifications for Grades of California Redwood Lumber*. Properly grade-marked lumber will bear the RIS mark or that of another accredited inspection bureau. Grademarks may be on seasoned or unseasoned lumber on face, edge or end of piece. "Certified Kiln Dried" marks lumber kiln dried to accepted standards. CRA trademark is on products of member mills of the California Redwood Association only and is an additional assurance of quality.

 CERTIFIED  
KILN DRIED  
CLR RWD 

 S-GRN  
RWD  
CONST HT 