

**Southern Yellow Pine FAQ Sheet**  
**Cox Industries, Inc.**

**1. Customers often comment on color differences within the same order. Why?**

Color differences will occur quite often and are not unusual. Variable in appearance, such as grain, density and moisture content can contribute to inconsistencies in color. However, this does not affect the strength or protection of the wood. The difference is normally negated after exposure to the elements for a period of time.

**2. KDAT is expected to be more stable; however, it is not impossible to get pieces that are crooked, bowed or twisted. Why?**

KDAT material is very stable compared to treated lumber that has not been re-dried and is allowed to shrink in place while in use. The drying process at times will cause some pieces to shrink at different rates due to knots, density and grain structure. This difference in drying will cause warping and twisting. As we re-handle the lumber those pieces that have excess warping and twisting are pulled out, thus reducing the amount of yard waste and increasing the sellable pieces delivered.

**3. Why does it appear that the percentage of wane and knots on structural grade has drastically increased?**

There is no reason for the amount of knots and wane to have increased on structural grades. The rules to grade lumber have not changed; although, there are some mills that do a better job of making quality products than others. Off-grade material is allowed at a 5% tolerance based on the volume of a whole load. This means that 5% of every load could be off-grade and the load would still meet national grading rules. A grade stamp is one way to ensure the quality is proper but it is not foolproof; mostly it comes down to the supplier you deal with and whether or not they are quality conscious.

**4. Is excessive shrinkage common for KDAT treated lumber?**

Shrinkage or gains in the size of treated lumber is the same as with untreated lumber. At 19% moisture content, lumber should be at its normal size (nominal size after dressing). As the moisture content increases, the size of the lumber will increase; conversely, as the moisture content of the lumber decreases the size will also decrease. It is not uncommon for variations (up to an 1/8 of an inch) in thickness or width, but shortage in length is not normal. Mostly, all lumber is oversized in length by approximately a half to one inch.

**5. Are splits or checks common in square or round timbers?**

Splits or checks (as they are commonly referred to) are normal in Southern Yellow pine. This species of wood, like most, is hydroscopic (retains moistures). As the wood expands and contracts due to moisture uptake and drying, checks may develop. This rarely causes any loss of strength or durability unless splits are extremely severe.

**6. Is lumber becoming less dense and has the quality declined over time?**

No. The lack of density can be due to several reasons. Many times imported lumber products from other countries are derived from fast-growing species. Radiatia pine from Brazil and Chile is an example of this. The trees grow very quickly and are not extremely dense. Another reason is that some mills select a dense grade which gives them a product to sell that will bring a greater return but leaves the non-dense lumber as a remainder for fulfilling the lower grades.