Wood Movement and the Impact on Projects

Monday, May 15th 3:00-5:00
Meet in front of Library
Free No sign-up needed

Wood shrinks when it dries

Typical Values

Wood	Tangential	Radial
Red Oak	0.0037	0.0016
Padauk	0.0021	0.0012
Rosewood	0.0021	0.0009
Jarrah	0.0039	0.0026

Wood is not isotropic: Note difference between Tangential and Radial

Show the Lee Valley Wood Movement Reference Guide

Dried wood is hygroscopic (absorbs moisture). Applying finish slows the moisture exchange process but does not stop it

A log or thick board will crack unless it dries slowly

Most moisture loss occurs from the end grain

The inside of a recently cut log is always at higher moisture content than the surface

What happens to a board, as it dries, depends upon how it is cut.

- **Flat sawn: Cups toward the bark edge**
- **Quarter sawn: Relatively Stable**
- **Turning: round object dries oval**

Treating wet wood to reduce the chances of cracking

- **paint the ends reduce the size and then sticker**

If you plane a board's surface, do not lay it flat on a bench

Construction methods to accommodate wood movement floating

- **bread board ends**
- **Floating table tops**
- **Grain orientation**
- **Perimeter frames with room for panel expansion/contraction**