

Vocabulary Reference

2 x 4	(Two by four) – Wood board often used for structural framing. Dimensions are two inches by four inches (before milling) by varying length.
2 x 6	(Two by six) – Wood board often used for structural framing. Dimensions are two inches by six inches (before milling) by varying length.
Area	The amount of space enclosed by a given shape. Area is always expressed in square units (e.g. square feet).
Building codes	A set of rules and regulations governing the methods of construction.
Cost-effective	Economical in terms of the goods or services received for the money spent.
Coverage	Amount of area a given quantity of a product extends over.
Efficient	Acting or producing effectively with a minimum of waste, expense, or unnecessary effort.
Energy efficiency	The amount of work produced by an appliance compared to the amount of energy consumed. Represented as a percentage.
Foundation	The supporting structure for a house or other building.
Framing	The structural parts of a house or other building.
Insulation	Material used to prevent thermal transfer (heat or cold) between two surfaces. See R-value.
Oriented strand board	A structural material made of recycled wood chips and particles that are glued together. Manufactured and used in 4' x 8' sheets of different thicknesses.
Plywood	A structural material made of layers of wood glued together, usually with the grains of adjoining layers at right angles to each other. Manufactured and used in 4' x 8' sheets of different thicknesses.
Quantity	Number or amount of a given thing.
R-value	The efficiency of a particular type and quantity of insulation. Higher R-values correspond to greater efficiency.
Rafter	A wood beam used to support the roof of a structure.
Roof pitch	The slope of a roof. Expressed as the distance of vertical rise over the distance of horizontal run. For example a roof with a 4/12 pitch rises four inches for every 12 inches of run.
Sheathing	Material used to cover the surface of a building's frame. Typically plywood or oriented strand board are used for this purpose.
Stud	Vertical structural support for a wall. Typically 2 x 4 or 2 x 6 lumber is used for this purpose.
Units (of measure)	A precisely specified quantity.