

Best Practices to Avoid Hardwood Checking

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Introduction

Hardwood checking is one of the most important physical defect that results in great loss of hardwood value

Project 2011-2013 (on going)



Needs

- Establish best practices for all operations (logs-components)
- Update and Complete information on the development of checks



Approach

- *Identify environmental factors on component checking*
 - *RH%, end sealer*
- *Identify the best conditions to reduce checking formation on wood during log storage, seasoning green lumber, and kiln-dried components*
 - *Orientation, tarps, water sprinkling, end-sealer,.....*

Approach

- *Provide industry with a guide of best practices to avoid check development on hardwood products.*



Expected impacts

- Reduce by 35 \$/ Mbfm potential lost
- Reduce entry points for stains and fungi
- Maximize the yield in volume and value of products

Achievements 2011-2012

Test on components storage

- 2 species (Hard Maple and Yellow Birch)
- 4 treatments
- 2 testing conditions
 - High RH%
 - Low RH%

Literature Review and Progress Report (Available in English)

Part 1 of the best practices to avoid hardwood checking

Achievements 2011-2012

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Figure 1 End checks occurred on a bark protected log



Figure 1 Boards protected with paraffin (left) and silicon (right) coatings against checking

Coming in 2012-2013

- Effect of storage methods on logs and green lumber (testing period : may to october 2012)
- Guide of Best Practices (march 2013)
 - Part 2 of the best practices to avoid hardwood checking