

Board-Foot/Cubic Metres

Rough-cut timber is generally sold by the board-foot in the U.S or cubic Metres in Australia & New Zealand. This is calculated by multiplying the surface area of the timber (in square feet or square metres) by the [nominal thickness](#) (in inches or millimetres). For example, consider a piece of 50mm thick, 100mm wide and 3000 long. Its surface area is 0.03 square metres and its nominal thickness is 50mm, so it is 0.00015 cubic metres. Of course, CutList Plus makes all these calculations for you automatically.

Parts List

A list of all the parts required to build a woodworking project is called a parts list. Each part is numbered and has a length, width and thickness. (These are all actual dimensions, not [nominal](#).) Optionally, each part may specify a type of timber and may be assigned to a [sub-assembly](#) within the project.

CutList Plus allows you to easily manage a parts list: edit, rearrange, sort and renumber the parts in the list, then print it to take to the workshop.

Nominal thickness

Nominal thicknesses denote the thickness of a board in its rough state. The final thickness will be 6mm thinner. It is typically specified in 6mm to 12mm increments, so 25mm stock will yield a board with an actual thickness of 19mm after final surfacing. For example, a part with an actual thickness of 23mm may require 38mm stock. But don't worry, CutList Plus figures this out for you!

Bill of Materials

A shopping list for rough-cut timber is known as a BOM. Each item on the list specifies a type (or species) of timber, a [nominal thickness](#), and the number of [cubic](#) metres required.

CutList Plus automatically generates a BOM based on the [parts list](#) you provide. It even makes an allowance for your expected [yield](#)! Simply print out the list and use it to order your raw materials.

Primary/Secondary Material

If you sometimes make the same project using different types of timber or want to see how much money it would cost to upgrade your project to a more expensive timber, you'll find the primary/secondary timber feature a real time-saver.

When adding your parts to the cut list, instead of entering a specific type of timber for each part, choose either "Primary" or "Secondary" timber. For example, drawer fronts would be primary and sides and back would be secondary. If you want to leave some parts with a specific material, that's OK.

Then, with one click, choose what the primary and secondary materials should actually be for the entire project. Your layouts and bill of materials will instantly update, along with the project's total cost! You can even switch between plywood, rough-machined timber and dimensioned timber.

S4S Timber (Planed all round, square 4 sides)

Also known as "Dimensioned Lumber" or "Dimensioned Timber," this term is used to indicate timber that has already been machined to specific width and thickness. This type of timber is more expensive, and is frequently used by "do-it-yourselfers" who don't have access to thicknessing equipment.

Sub-Assembly

In large projects, it can be helpful to break up the [parts list](#) into several sub-assemblies. For example, a dresser could have a sub-assembly for the top drawer. You can then sort the cut list by sub-assembly to see all the related pieces grouped together. Using sub-assemblies for a project is optional, and you do not have to assign each part to a sub-assembly, even if you are using them for some parts.

Yield

The process of machining rough timber into the finished dimensions of individual pieces always generates some waste. The term yield indicates how efficient the conversion is, so 100% yield means there is no waste. If you achieve 80% yield, you're doing pretty well.

CutList Plus takes yield into account when generating a [bill of materials](#), letting you know that you need to buy more rough material than is indicated by simply adding up all the parts. You can specify what value to use for yield in each project.