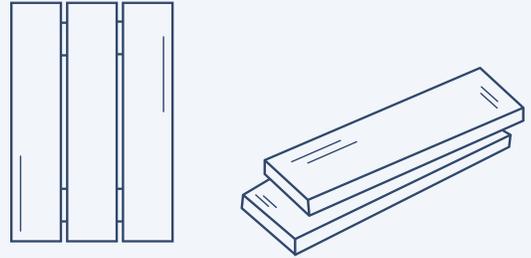




BOARD + LUMBER FAQs

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The Basics

Will the climate affect my short boards or lumber?

All our boards are kiln-dried during manufacturing to add stability and minimize warp and shrinkage. However, if your home environment or the climate where you live is extremely hot and humid or cold and dry, it's a good idea to give your boards a few days to acclimate before starting your project.

Do all the reclaimed pallet boards in a pack look the same?

Within a single pack, there may be any number of aesthetic variations, such as species, color, grain pattern, number of knots, nail holes, mortise holes, and precise dimensions. However, there will be no greater than 1/4" variation between boards in a pack. This mix guarantees each project will have its own unique and interesting personality.

Will I need to be careful handling reclaimed pallet boards?

You should always use care and wear gloves when handling any wood products. However, all prior-use fasteners are clipped flush (not removed) for a smoother finish, and our boards are sanded to minimize rough spots and imperfections.

Are all the reclaimed pallet boards in a pack the same size?

The precise dimensions may vary by a 1/4" or so, but each pack is hand selected to include generally like-sized boards.

Are these reclaimed pallet boards safe?

At the time of this writing, Handprint Reclaimed Pallet Boards are the only brand of genuine, salvaged pallet wood on the market that's free of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) as well as heavy metals. Our boards are rigorously inspected for mold and insect damage, as well as scanned by a handheld detector for hazardous VOCs. The boards are then run through an XRF scanner to detect any heavy metals such as Arsenic and Cadmium. These stringent testing protocols are in place to ensure that your pallet board projects are as good for your health as they are enjoyable to make and use.

Do your reclaimed pallet boards arrive ready to use?

Yes, our pallet wood comes unassembled, clean, dry and sanded. Cut the bundle loose and get started!

Miscellaneous

What's the best hardware for mounting decor to different types of wall material?

Paneling

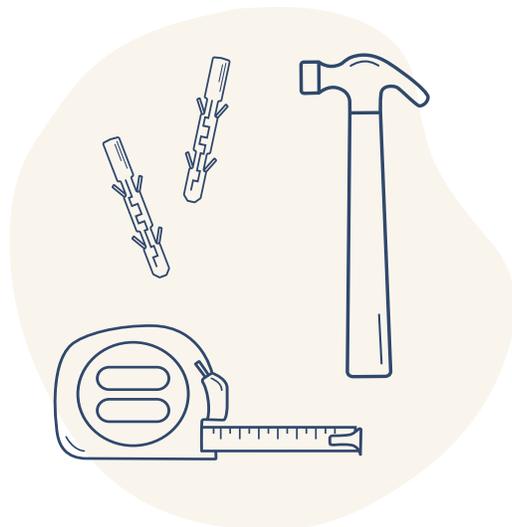
Wood is the easiest surface to mount decor to. Depending on the hardware on the back of your artwork, all you may need is a small nail or a standard wood screw or two. Or, you might want to use an ordinary metal picture hanger and a nail. Check the weight limit stated on the packaging, and use two hangers whenever needed or when in doubt.

Brick and concrete

Special wall anchors, called lead wall plugs, are available for concrete block and brick walls. To create a hole for the plug, use a power drill with a carbide-tipped bit.

Drywall

If you're hanging a large, heavy piece, fasten it into this lumber behind the drywall (called studs). Studs are strong enough to hold any decor. However, if your piece is medium to light weight, you don't necessarily need to find a stud to nail or screw into. Instead, use wall anchors. They're available in various sizes and designed especially for drywall.



Can Handprint products be used for outside projects?

Any wood that isn't pressure-treated or marine grade isn't going to last long outdoors without a weather-protectant sealer. Most projects made from hardwood, BC pine, CDX pine, OSB, and underlayment can be used successfully in a protected outdoor space. Avoid using MDF, pegboard, chalkboard, markerboard, and tempered hardboard outdoors. These absorb moisture and expand.

What's the difference between nominal and actual dimensions, and how do you know what the actual dimensions really are?

Nominal dimensions are the sizes wood products are commonly called, as well as the size of the wood before it was cut, sanded, planed, surfaced, etc. The actual measurements are just that – the ACTUAL measurements of the final size. You can find a specifications section on almost every retailer's website product page that tells details like actual dimensions, weight, and more.

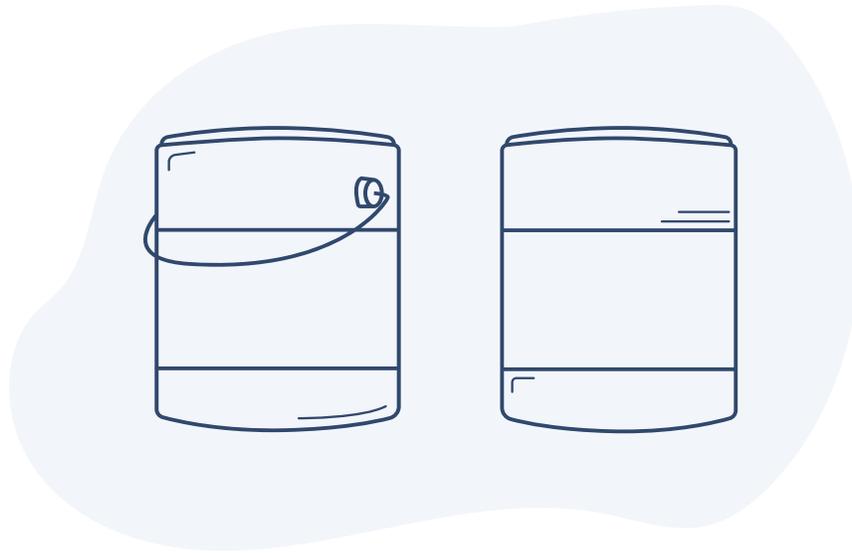
Are Handprint wood products ethically sourced? What's their country of origin?

While we source both domestically and internationally, the ethical sourcing of our products is extremely important to us, and it begins by choosing suppliers who are as committed to environmentally sound practices as we are. By working with suppliers who share our sense of stewardship, we're proud to support the Social & Environmental Responsibility (SER) Standards under which wood manufacturers are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Protecting Your Project

What's the difference between polyurethane and polycrylic?

Both products protect projects. Applied to natural, painted, or stained wood, polyurethane and polycrylic both increase durability as well as moisture and heat resistance. They also both allow you to choose your desired sheen. However, here's how they're different:



POLYCRYLIC

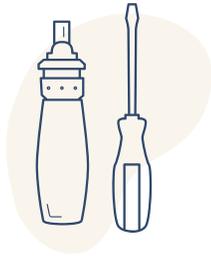
- Is water-based only
- Has a mild scent, is safe enough to use without protective gear, and requires no special storage
- Dries completely clear
- Cannot be tinted
- Has a runnier consistency, dries very quickly, and requires multiple thin coats to get even coverage and prevent drips and runs
- Cleans up easily with soap and water
- Is generally less expensive

POLYURETHANE

- Comes in two types, oil-based and water-based
- Oil-based polyurethane is the most durable, but both kinds of polyurethane are much more toxic and dangerous than polycrylic
- Oil-based polyurethane can tend to dry with a slightly yellowish tinge; water-based polyurethane dries clear
- Can be tinted
- Is thicker, dries more slowly, and is less likely to drip and run, making it better for covering large surface areas

Tool Choices

What's the difference between an electric screwdriver, a power drill, a drill driver, and an impact driver? How do you choose?



Electric screwdriver

A battery-operated tool used to fasten screws into surfaces using various bits (Phillips, straight, star, etc.) that fit into the various types of screwheads. While a power drill can also fasten screws, either a manual or an electric screwdriver offers more precision and better control over speed. For small, quick home projects and repairs, the humble screwdriver is still your go-to tool.



Power drill

A power drill is best suited for drilling holes into or through materials like wood, metal, tile, etc. and can also drive in screws. Use a power drill when speed and power is desired over precision.



Drill driver

A power drill specifically made to be good at both drilling and driving in screws. The most important feature of this tool is its variable speed – high for drilling, low for fastening. While quite versatile, a drill driver isn't made for heavy-duty fastening or large screws, but it's perfect for maker-sized projects!



Impact driver

A heavy-duty tool that is best for bigger projects, large repairs, and construction. The impact driver is strong and fast, but not very precise.