

When planning a [lumber order](#), it's important to note that how we refer to lumber sizes is not their actual dimensions. Mistaking the nominal size (how we refer to the lumber size) with the actual size can cause big problems for any project. Whether it's a pallet, crate, or some other project, mistaking the sizes can mean that your final build is either the wrong size, or it doesn't end up fitting correctly.


Below is a quick cheat sheet of nominal sizes versus actual dimensions of commercially available lumber in the United States. The actual dimensions of lumber are the same, no matter how you plan to use them.

There are more sizes available than listed below, so if you don't see the size that you're looking for, feel free to [get in touch with us](#).

Nominal Size in Inches	Actual Size in Inches	Nominal Size in Inches	Actual Size in Inches
1 x 2	$\frac{3}{4}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$	3 x 3	$2\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$
1 x 3	$\frac{3}{4}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$	3 x 4	$2\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$
1 x 4	$\frac{3}{4}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$	3 x 6	$2\frac{1}{2}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$
1 x 6	$\frac{3}{4}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$	3 x 8	$2\frac{1}{2}$ x $7\frac{1}{4}$
1 x 8	$\frac{3}{4}$ x $7\frac{1}{4}$	3 x 10	$2\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{4}$
1 x 10	$\frac{3}{4}$ x $9\frac{1}{4}$	3 x 12	$2\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{4}$
1 x 12	$\frac{3}{4}$ x $11\frac{1}{4}$	4 x 4	$3\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$
2 x 2	$1\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$	4 x 6	$3\frac{1}{2}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$
2 x 3	$1\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$	4 x 8	$3\frac{1}{2}$ x $7\frac{1}{4}$
2 x 4	$1\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$	4 x 10	$3\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{4}$
2 x 6	$1\frac{1}{2}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$	4 x 12	$3\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{4}$
2 x 8	$1\frac{1}{2}$ x $7\frac{1}{4}$	6 x 6	$5\frac{1}{2}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$
2 x 10	$1\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{4}$	8 x 8	$7\frac{1}{4}$ x $7\frac{1}{4}$
2 x 12	$1\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{4}$	10 x 10	$9\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{2}$

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