

## Dressing Rough Lumber NEW

In order to bring a rough, unfinished piece of wood to its finished size with all the surfaces flat, smooth, square and parallel, various machines need to be used and in a specific order.

Before dressing the lumber to the finished measurements, cut all pieces to their rough length and width.

Rough length = finished length + 1”

Rough width = finished width + ¼”

You will dress the wood in this order: thickness, width and length.  
Use the word “towel” to remember the order.

T-thickness

O

W-width

E

L-length

	Step	Machine used	Action taken	Result
T	1	-Jointer	-Joint one face of the rough wood cup side down	-One face smooth
T	2	-Thickness planer	-Run wood through thickness planer smooth side down. -Plane to thickness	-Makes other face smooth and parallel to the other face. -Wood is finished <b>thickness</b>
W	3	-Jointer	-Joint one edge of the wood smooth side toward fence	-One edge smooth <b>and</b> square
W	4	-Table saw	-Rip lumber to desired width plus ¼”, smooth side toward fence	-Wood is close to finished <b>width</b>
W	5	-Jointer	-Joint rough edge. -Joint to width.	-Wood is finished width
L	6	-Radial arm saw or mitre saw	-Cross cut one end. (Just take off enough to make square)	-One end of wood is square
L	7	-Radial arm saw or mitre saw	-Measure and cross cut other end	-Wood is finished <b>length</b>

Please note that you can exchange steps 2 and 3 and get the same result.  
Also, jointing the edge after jointing the face is more efficient.