

TECHNICAL NOTES

FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

U. S. FOREST SERVICE

MADISON, WISCONSIN

No. D-15

A DRYING SCHEDULE FOR AIR SEASONED OAK

The following skeleton drying schedule is recommended for the kiln drying of air-seasoned oak. It must be remembered, however, that no mere formula in itself will insure the perfect drying of wood. The kiln operator must be trained to watch the condition of the lumber and to apply the proper remedies if things start to go wrong.

The schedule was prepared by the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory for 4/4 plain-sawed oak (highland variety) with a moisture content of 15 per cent. This moisture condition would ordinarily be reached in from 9 to 12 months of air seasoning.

Stage of kiln run in hours	Temperature degrees F.	Humidity per cent
1	120	100
6	120	100
12	125	85
24	125	80
36	130	70
48	130	60
60	135	60
72	135	60
84	140	60
96	140	50
108	140	50
120	140	40
144	140	40
156	145	35
168	145	35
180	145	30
192	145	25
Until dry	145	25

After the stock is dry, the temperature should be held at 145 degrees and the humidity raised to 80 per cent. This condition should be maintained for 10 hours in order to balance the moisture content, thus reducing the tendency of the lumber to warp after machining.