

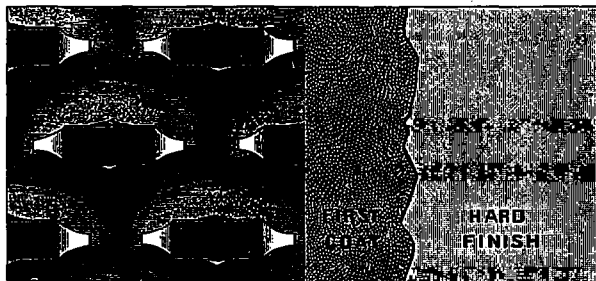
USEFUL HINTS.

BOARD MEASUREMENTS.—Boards are sold by superficial measurement, at so much per foot of an inch or less in thickness; adding one-fourth to the price for each quarter of an inch thickness over an inch. It sometimes happens that a board is tapering, being wider at one end than the other. When this is the case (if it be a true taper), add the width of both ends together, and half their sum will express the average width of the board. Again, if the board does not taper regularly, take the following course to find its area:

1. Measure the widths at several places equidistant.
2. Add together the different breadths, and half the two extremes.
3. Multiply this sum by the straight side of the board and divide the product by the number of parts into which the board was divided. It is usual in measuring rough lumber, to pay no attention to fractions of an inch in the width of the stuff. If the fraction is more than half an inch it is counted as an inch; if less than half an inch it is not counted. Thus, a board 10½ inches wide would be measured as 11 inches wide; if only 10¼ inches wide the board will pass only as 10 inches.—*National Builder.*

PAINTS AND SHINGLES.—The *Timberman* very wisely remarks that it has always seemed singular that in the use of paint to preserve wood exposed to the weather, the fact that a shingle roof was omitted from the catalogue was invariably the rule. This idea of oversight was one of the things in which custom becomes habit, and because every one else did so, all the rest followed suit. It is safe to presume that the custom of leaving the shingle roof unpainted originated in its angular form being less exposed to the after effects of rain and snow. A little thought will show the folly of such a conclusion when remembering the frail nature of a shingle and the slight fastening it has. If paint would be useful to any weather exposed surface it would certainly be so on the roof. The fact goes without telling, and in the present style of suburban residences, the roof receives its share of paint along with the rest of the building, thus at once combining the useful with the beautiful. It is certainly singular that painting of roofs has not always prevailed, and it adds much to the finish and character of the building to see the roof painted. When the thin, slender nature of the shingle is taken into consideration, it will be plain to every one that sun cracks will easily go through the shingle, and to that extent render it worthless. The only way to overcome this is to paint and always keep the shingles painted.

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