

PALLET GRADES, EXPLAINED

New vs. Grade A vs. Grade B — what you're actually buying, and when each makes sense.

ATTRIBUTE	NEW CONSTRUCTED PALLET	GRADE A / #1 RECYCLED PALLET	GRADE B / #2 RECYCLED PALLET
Prior service	Never used	Used, recovered, inspected, and sorted	Used, recovered, inspected, sorted, and more extensively repaired
Lumber	New lumber specified by design	Used lumber; may include limited replacement components	Used lumber; more replacement boards and reinforced/repared components likely
Stringer condition	New, no repairs	Original stringers generally intact; limited plate/staple reinforcement may be allowed by seller	Stringer repairs commonly allowed, including plugs/blocks, repair plates, staples, or companion runners
Deck-board pattern	Built exactly to drawing	Usually a consistent GMA-type pattern; often 7 top / 5 bottom boards	More variable; commonly 5–7 top boards and at least 3 bottom boards, depending on supplier
Dimensions	Most consistent and repeatable	Generally consistent but subject to used-pallet tolerances and wear	Most variation among the three; repair configuration and board length can vary
Appearance	Clean new wood, uniform	Near-new to moderately used appearance; limited staining, wear, or discoloration	Noticeable wear, discoloration, weathering, stamps, and visible repairs are normal
Load/racking confidence	Can be engineered to a documented load and racking requirement	Fit for many standard unit loads, but actual capacity depends on condition and supplier criteria	Suitable for normal distribution/in-house use when properly specified; less suitable where uniformity or precise racking performance is critical
Automation / conveyors	Best option	Often acceptable after supplier validation	Higher risk of jams, inconsistent entry/board geometry, or repair interference—validate carefully
Cost	Highest	Mid-range	Lowest
Common use	High-value loads, exact specs, heavy loads, automation, export, customer-required designs	Retail-facing distribution, standard warehouse use, repeat shipping where appearance matters	One-way shipments, internal warehouse moves, low-cost distribution, non-display freight
Food-production suitability	Can be specified for controlled environments	Not automatically food-safe; condition grade is not a cleanliness or prior-cargo certification	Same limitation, with more prior use and repair history; generally the least desirable option near controlled production zones

Grade names describe condition and repair history, not certified load ratings. Capacity for any used pallet depends on its actual condition — ask us to match a grade (or a new custom build) to your specific load, racking, and handling equipment.

NOT SURE WHICH GRADE FITS YOUR LOAD? CALL THE SHOP.

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