



Heritage Deck Framing – Technical Specifications

Heritage Deck Framing is engineered for builders who demand structural integrity, long-term performance, and verified treatment standards. This guide summarizes six validated technical advantages that distinguish Heritage from commodity-grade framing lumber.

***The technical data and material properties referenced on this page are sourced from the most credible and widely accepted industry publications, including standards developed specifically for engineering and professional use. These include grading and design values from the [Southern Pine Inspection Bureau \(SPIB\)](#), and treatment and construction guidelines from the [Southern Forest Products Association \(SFPA\)](#). Specific tables and descriptions are drawn from SPIB's Standard Grading Rules and SFPA's [Marine Construction Guide \(2023\)](#), as well as international export references such as the [Southern Yellow Pine Export Grades Manual](#).

BWDepot does not claim ownership of these publications. For complete technical details, definitions, and official tables, please refer directly to the issuing organizations via the links above.***

1. Preservative Retention & Use Category (UC4B vs. UC4A)

Heritage Deck Framing is pressure-treated with [Micronized Copper Azole \(MCA\)](#) to a minimum retention of 0.23 pcf and up to 0.31 pcf. This qualifies it for AWPAs Use Category 4B (UC4B), designed for structural components in ground contact or wet service environments.

“UC4B is intended for structural components critical to safety and performance, such as joists and beams in contact with ground or water.”

✦ Citation:

[Marine Guide, SFPA 2023](#), p. 2–3

“Treatment meets or exceeds MCA retention requirements for UC4B use, with values ranging from 0.23 to 0.31 pcf.”

✦ Citation:

[Marine Guide, SFPA 2023](#), p. 3

Bottom line: UC4B framing provides 50–100% more preservative protection than UC4A and is rated for much harsher environments.

2. Longevity & Durability Expectations

With retention levels that meet UC4B standards and only #1 Grade lumber, Heritage Deck Framing delivers service lives of 30+ years in wet or ground-contact environments.

“According to industry guidelines, Southern Pine treated to UC4B retention levels using approved preservatives such as MCA or ACQ is expected to deliver 30 years or more of structural performance in severe exposure conditions.”

— Interpreted from Tech SYP Marine & AWPAs Standards

✦ Citation:

[Marine Guide, SFPA 2023](#), p. 2–5

Bottom line: Heritage lasts 2–3 times longer than UC4A-treated lumber in harsh environments.

3. Grade #1 vs. Grade #2 Strength Advantage

Heritage uses only #1 Grade Southern Yellow Pine — a structural grade that provides higher strength, stiffness, and reliability compared to the commonly used #2 Grade lumber. This upgrade isn't just cosmetic — it's about dependable, code-recognized performance.

Strength Category	#1 Grade	#2 Grade	Advantage
Bending Strength (Fb)	1,200 psi	1,050 psi	+14% Stronger
Compression Parallel	1,150 psi	1,075 psi	+7% More Load Capacity
Modulus of Elasticity	1.6M psi	1.5M psi	+6.7% Stiffer

“Compared to #2 Grade, #1 Grade Southern Pine offers +14% more bending strength, +7% more compressive strength, and +6.7% greater stiffness.”

✦ **Citation:**

SPIB Standard Grading Rules Table 1A (see also [Export Grades Manual](#))

Bottom line: Stronger, straighter, and better-performing lumber with every board.

4. Rot Resistance in the Southeast

Southern climates accelerate wood decay, but Heritage is built for it. UC4B treatment ensures protection even in saturated soil conditions.

“Accelerated decay is common in southern coastal or wet environments, particularly when retention values are below 0.23 pcf. Structural failure can occur in as little as 5 years.”

✦ **Citation:**

Summarized from, [Marine Guide, SFPA 2023](#)

Bottom line: Heritage delivers decades of decay resistance where other products fail prematurely.

5. No Incising Required — Superior Preservative Penetration

Southern Pine allows preservatives to penetrate deeply without mechanical incising — a surface-weakening treatment required for other species.

“Southern Pine is one of the few wood species that does not require incising prior to treatment... allowing deep, uniform penetration.”

✦ **Citation:**

[Marine Guide, SFPA 2023](#), p. 4

Bottom line: Maximum protection with no structural compromise.

6. Environmentally Responsible Building Material

Southern Pine is renewable, recyclable, and among the most energy-efficient structural materials. It's grown, harvested, and replanted in the Southeastern U.S.

"Wood is reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable... It takes far less energy to manufacture wood than steel or concrete."

✦ Citation:

[Marine Guide, SFPA 2023](#)

Bottom line: Heritage framing supports sustainable building without sacrificing strength.



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