HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT INDUSTRIAL HAND-HELD MOISTURE METER FOR YOUR MILL
CONTENTS

1 How to Choose the Right Industrial Hand-held Moisture Meter for Your Mill
2 What You Should Look for in an Industrial Hand-held Moisture Meter
3 Why Use Wagner Meter’s Industrial Hand-held Moisture Meters?
4 L620 Digital Moisture Meter
4 L601-3 Hand-held Moisture Meter
5 L722 Lumber Stack Probe Sensor
5 L622 Hand-held Moisture Meter
6 Pin-type vs Pinless: Which Type is Best For You
If you’re working in a primary or secondary wood products market, you understand the need for accurate and timely moisture-monitoring information—and more than that, an unbeatable record-keeping system for all that information.

You know maintaining control of moisture levels in lumber or wood products is key.

All industry-leading sawmills and quality wood processing companies know this, which is why Wagner Meters continues to create moisture meters that get you the convenient, trustworthy measurements you need.

The moisture content (MC) of your lumber is directly connected to its overall quality, which means you still need to continuously measure and monitor the wood’s MC to eliminate the possibility of over-drying or under-drying the wood.

If your lumber is kiln-dried, then you need reliable sawmill moisture measurement equipment. Wagner Meters has the tools to help you produce the quality work that boosts your reputation.
WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR IN AN INDUSTRIAL HAND-HELD MOISTURE METER

Industrial hand-held moisture meters are ergonomically designed to be used in a sawmill environment, day in and day out.

Here are some features you’ll want to look for in an industrial hand-held moisture meter:

- Large, rectangular scanners that allow you to scan more wood, faster
- Accurate readings from deep in the wood, which is especially important for lumber thicker than 2”
- Sturdy, durable handles built to withstand prolonged industrial use
WHY USE WAGNER METER’S INDUSTRIAL HAND-HELD MOISTURE METERS?

Wagner Meters has the best moisture measurement technology for sawmills. They allow easy moisture checks in stickered packages of lumber as well as reliable readings on wood straight from the kiln.

Throughout Wagner’s 50+ years in the industry, research and development have led the way. The electromagnetic wave technology used in these industrial hand-held meters means you get readings of the moisture in the wood, not on the wood.

The money you might save in a lower-priced meter isn’t always guaranteed. It’s a gamble on quality. And when it comes to the quality of your work and the integrity of your company, the risk of gambling just isn’t worth it.

Instead, have confidence in your work with Wagner’s industrial hand-held meters.

Since each one is research-driven to serve a different purpose, find out which one is right for you.

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**L601-3 HAND-HELD MOISTURE METER**

Built with primary mills or wood products manufacturing plants in mind, the L601-3 is designed to withstand those demanding environments.

The rugged L601-3 can also keep up in these fast-paced conditions. It only takes seconds to scan boards end to end—even large ones.

And with the L601-3’s Wood-Friendly™ electromagnetic wave technology, you get reliable readings to a depth of 1”.

This non-damaging pinless meter comes in two versions: pre-calibrated for either Douglas-fir (DF) or Southern yellow pine (SYP). Both come with an instruction manual including species adjustment tables for more than a hundred of the most used hardwood, softwood, and imported species.

Here is the full list of **L601-3 features**.

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**L620 DIGITAL MOISTURE METER**

The L620 uses the same proven wood-friendly electromagnetic scanning to get quick readings—and now on an easy-to-read LCD screen.

The LCD screen uses a two-line, 32-character display with a menu system that guides you step-by-step through the selecting, storing, and reporting process.

These meters operate accurately in nearly every wood-drying and processing environment. The L620 meter is designed to read deep into the wood rather than just the moisture on the surface.

The L620 stores up to 500 individual moisture readings in up to 5 different groups. These organized groups mean you can easily compare the average MC, standard deviation, and minimum/maximum MC.

Here is the full list of **L620 features**.
L622 HAND-HELD MOISTURE METER

Like the L620, the L622 uses non-invasive, wood-friendly scanning and an easy-to-read, backlit LCD screen, but the L622 has even more storage and expansion opportunities.

This meter stores up to 5,000 moisture readings in up to 500 different groups, with calculating capabilities for each.

Included with every L622 Digital Recording Moisture Meter is the Stat Pak, a personal computer (PC) compatible software package.

The Stat Pak for Windows® statistical software lets you download and store readings, making it easier to record your results for future comparison.

Click here for more information on the L622 and Stat Pak.

L722 LUMBER STACK PROBE SENSOR

This accessory is meant to be combined with the L622 Digital Recording Moisture Meter. Though the L622 can be used alone, it is more powerful when paired with the L722.

When the L722 is attached to the L622 meter, reaching deep into stickered units of lumber is easy. With the electromagnetic wave technology, you can take accurate, multiple readings of an entire stack in minutes—all without the danger of broken pins or compromised wood.

The L722 attachment when paired with the L622 Digital Recording Moisture Meter allows you to store readings taken either inside or outside the kiln. And it can even be used with lumber that has been removed from the kiln and put into storage prior to planing.

Like the L622, you can use the Stat Pak to download the readings from the L722 and produce reports.

Here is the full list of L722 features.
PIN-TYPE VS PINLESS: WHICH TYPE IS BEST FOR YOU

The key difference between moisture meters lies in the way readings are taken: resistance measurement vs electromagnetic sensors, or pin-type vs non-damaging pinless. Understanding the distinction between these two methods will enable you to make more qualified decisions based on your specific needs.

PIN-TYPE MOISTURE METERS

Pin-type meters typically use the electrical current between two metal pins—which come in a variety of sizes—to measure the moisture in wood. To get a reading, these two pins must physically penetrate the wood’s surface.

The resistance technology of these meters uses the pins, or “probes,” to calculate the amount of resistance detected in the electrical current as it moves between the pins. The wetter the wood, the less resistance there is. Drier wood produces greater resistance.

Problems with pin-type meters include:

• Damage to the wood surface
• Difficulty inserting pins in dense wood
• Inaccurate readings due to the wood’s temperature
• Limited test area (only the space between the two probes)

Testing only one area of the wood is not recommended for accuracy. With pin-type meters, that means the pins need to be inserted in multiple locations to get a full assessment of the MC, which makes for a time-consuming, tedious process.
**NON-DAMAGING PINLESS MOISTURE METERS**

The alternative to invasive, pin-type moisture meters is pinless meters that use electromagnetic wave technology.

Instead of using pins to penetrate the wood and get a reading, pinless meters use a sensor pad that sends and receives electrical waves through the wood to measure the moisture. These meters must be placed flat on the wood, with enough pressure so there aren’t large air gaps between the sensor and the wood’s surface.

Pinless meters send out electrical waves which create an electromagnetic field in the area under the sensor pad. Depending on the amount of moisture in the wood, the signal strength of the waves correlates to a moisture content percentage. This method provides precise, accurate readings.

Advantages of pinless meters:

- Non-damaging
- Easier than forcing pins into the wood’s surface
- Quicker results due to the scanning method

Both pin-type and non-damaging pinless moisture meters will give you a percentage reading that reflects the wood’s moisture level. However, pinless meters will get you the results you need in the time you can afford.

Shop the Wagner Meters Industrial Hand-held Moisture Meters here. For more information, call Wagner Meters toll-free at (844) 444-5641.

For more information about industrial hand-held moisture meters for use in the forest products industry, or in inquire about the best system for your mill, please call Wagner Meters toll-free at (844) 444-5641 or visit us online at www.wagnermeters.com. We’ve been in this business for over 55 years, and we’d be happy to lend you our expertise and make sure your moisture measurement system is exactly what you need.