



FRONT RANGE LUMBER COMPANY

The news you need to make your project a success!

Special Fencing Issue

FRLCO NEWS

Announcement

We are very excited to announce **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** is a certified retailing affiliate of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association (WRCLA). This is in part due to the knowledge base, the stocking position and other support **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** gives to a wide range of cedar products.

Watch For It!!!

On June 12th, **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** will hold a special gun nail event. We'll offer special savings on the tools, accessories, nails and brads and advice. Watch for more details soon.

GRADES/QUALITY

Mills have responded to the public's wish for inexpensive cedar. While fencing is a valued item to add to your home, it probably doesn't carry the "glamour" value like a deck or home theater room. However, built correctly it can provide many years of security, privacy and utility. Cedar is the predominant wood used in fencing today because it has the combination of low cost and long lasting characteristics needed for such an exterior product. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** provides a generally higher grade/quality than most suppliers. **We strongly encourage customers to look at the material that they are planning to purchase prior to purchase. Simply put, there are many different qualities, along with vastly different prices.** By judging your buying decision on price alone, you'll also get the cheapest quality available.

It is important to realize that there are no grading specifications generally accepted in the nation regarding cedar, specifically fencing products. Labels such as "premium" or "#1" or "select" are subjective and placed on products by the mills, distributors or retailers to market their own products. Note that unlike most other lumber, cedar boards do NOT have a grade stamp printed on every stick. However, a few terms are universal:

CLEAR – no knots, cedar is graded to the rough sawn side (as applicable). All grading applies to just one side and one or two edges.

SELECT KNOTTY – or STK (Select Tight Knot) is not in any grade book. It refers to boards that are chosen for their



general good appearance with solid, tight knots that should not fall out.

ROUGH SAWN – Milling process leaving the wood rough – typically the treatment most people identify with cedar. Typically graded on one side and one edge only.

SMOOTH SAWN – Milling boards to a smooth appearance

S1S2E – One side and two edges are smooth, leaving the opposing side "rough". These boards are graded only on the rough side.

"NO HOLE" – generally refers to pickets where the picket ****when graded**** had no open knotholes

Like all wood products; splits, bark, missing edges and other flaws are inherent in cedar fencing products. Plan on the fact every board will not be perfect

The 2x4 and 4x4 for fencing will generally always be of Western Red Cedar and cut from "green" rough sawn logs.

"Green" lumber is harvested, and promptly machined and shipped – the wood has not been seasoned or dried.

Remember that rough sawn lumber will be of varying dimension, but closer to full measurements (4x4 will be close to 4"x 4").

There are two major differences you'll find in cedar fencing pickets. Pickets can be either be "dry" or "green". This refers to the wood being dried before machining &/or shipment. A dried product will be much more stable with less splitting, knot-popping and warpage. Green pickets are mostly 3/4", 5/8" or even thinner. Dry pickets will be 3/4" or thicker (primarily 7/8" thick). Obviously a thicker, more substantial

picket brings much more value to you. The species or type of cedar available in pickets will vary.

INSTALLATION

FRONT RANGE LUMBER suggests the following tips for installing a fence (residential applications):

Posts

- At least 24" should be below ground level. Cut all the posts after the concrete is dry to a uniform height.
- You CAN just pour the dry concrete into the hole and add water without mixing. This will result in a poor mix. We strongly recommend that you mix the concrete prior to pouring it into the hole. We advise that the concrete go in first, filling the remaining portion of the hole with dirt – this will aid in stabilizing the post until the concrete dries – allow at least 24 hours before nailing on the rails/pickets.
- Use a stick or putty knife to slope the concrete from the post to the edges of the holes, this aids water draining away from the post, delaying rot and failure.
- Check carefully that your posts are installed and held plumb until the concrete dries completely.
- Use between 2/3 and one full (80#) bag of concrete per post. Aim for 1-1/2 bags on corner posts or posts bracketing gates.
- Place posts a little less than 96" on center apart. It will be much easier to cut a little off the horizontal rails than work hard at achieving exact spacing between posts.
- For posts in low-lying locations, we recommend using a treated post for additional rot-resistance.
- 4x4 cedar is available in both 6' and 7' lengths. These may be a cost savings or be better suited for your specific fence style.
- We suggest you consider using 4x6's or larger for posts holding gates for their higher strength and stiffness.

Rails

- Generally cross rails should not exceed 8' in length due to the "sail" effect that the fence panel will have once constructed. Due to the winds we experience at times, wider panels will blow off the posts much more easily. Attach rails using 16d galvanized nails or other 3" fasteners. Check for consistent gapping between the rails.
- Although there's a good side/bad side element to which side you install the rails and pickets, we suggest you consider the prevailing wind direction and install the rails/pickets to be "pushed" against the posts instead away from the posts.
- We suggest you use three rails between posts.

Pickets

- ALL nails/screws will eventually "stain" cedar or redwood except stainless steel fasteners.
- Fasten each picket with two fasteners at each rail using a 7d nail (or other fastener – no longer than 2").
- Figure 3.5 pickets per lineal foot of fencing when using 1x4 pickets. Use 2.2 pickets per foot using 1x6 pickets. 4" pickets are ALWAYS less expensive (on a per each AND

a per foot of fencing basis) although they will require more nailing effort. Generally speaking, 1x4 pickets will be a better overall better quality.

- Remember that while aesthetically pleasing, staining or painting your fence will set up a future maintenance cycle.
- Pickets should be gapped slightly to allow for expansion. Unfortunately, a lower quality picket will "shine" through here with time; as they will experience far more shrinkage. This will mean a privacy fence suddenly isn't quite as private with large gaps in between pickets as they dry out during the hot summer.
- Check for plumbness every dozen or so pickets to ensure the best appearance – do not rely on the posts to guide you.

SPLIT-RAIL TYPE

A picket-type fence is most common, but a good alternative where privacy is not an issue is a split rail type fence. These are available in 2 or 3 rail versions. Rails are 10' in length – cheaper versions available elsewhere are only 8' long. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** recommends that you do NOT install these posts in concrete to allow for easy replacement. Metal netting can be affixed to this type of fence to contain smaller pets.

Other Styles

There are many different styles of fencing – frankly, it's limited by your imagination. A few styles are described as:

- "Standard" 4" or 6" pickets.
- Alternate sides of the rail.
- Alternate width of pickets, their heights, and using varying patterns of the same.
- Having an open top portion built over a standard fence using lattice, cross pieces and so on.
- Custom lattice pieces.
- Horizontal boards fitted into slots in posts or surface fastened to the posts.
- Panels of fencing on same or alternate sides of the fence.
- Fancy cut pickets – spearhead, pointed, rounded or other patterns
- Sloped board applications.
- Using T&G boards to construct a gapless fence.
- Use of wider boards with narrower boards to cover any gap, even as the fence weathers.

FASTENERS

- Any installation of pickets should be at least using hot dipped galvanized fasteners (screws or nails) to minimize staining/discoloration.
- Stainless steel fasteners are the only type which will never stain or discolor the surrounding wood. Front Range Lumber carries both hand drive screws and gun nails for fencing in stainless steel.

FINISHING

Using any sort of paint or sealer will probably create a maintenance cycle. This periodic maintenance will presumably only get more difficult to complete with time. Landscaping will grow and mature, gardens or other impediments may discourage application of chemical sealers, cost and time needed all are factors to consider.

AVAILABILITY

Please refer to the size chart below for rough sawn cedar sizes readily available. Other sizes are available with some lead time to be expected.

Lengths:	6'	7'	8'	10'	12'	14'	16'	18' ¹	20'
1 x 4	X		X	Pickets					
1 x 6	X								
2 x 2			XS	X	Other lengths can easily be obtained by ripping 2 x 4 in half.				
2 x 4			X*S	XS	XS	X	XS	X	X
2 x 6			XS	XS	XS	X	XS	X	X
2 x 8			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2 x 10			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2 x 12			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1 x 4	X		X	X	X	X	X		
1 x 6			X	X	X	X	X		
1 x 8			X	X	X	X	X		
1 x 10			X	X	X	X	X		
1 x 12			X	X	X	X	X		
1 x boards are 7/8" thick, smooth two edges and one side, rough reverse side – graded to the rough side only.									
4 x 4	X*	X*	X*S	X	X				
4 x 6	X*		X	X	X				
6 x 6	X*		X	XS	X		X		

* Fence grade primarily.

¹ 18' lengths may not be in stock at all times, but are readily available within 1-2 days. In some cases, 20' lengths may be less expensive than 18s.

S Readily available (in stock) in a smooth four sides finish

The most common height for pickets is 6 ft. You may want to check with the building department or your homeowner's association before installing ANY heights/type to ensure that their rules do not preclude higher fences. These rules may even dictate the style you must construct. For example, some HOA's require a stylized fence made from shorter 4x6's and 2x8's.

Pre-made sections are available through some suppliers, although extra thought should be taken before using these panels:

- They require exact placement of posts.
- These products are of generally lower quality materials.

CONSUMER NEWS

City of Lakewood News

ANNUAL SIREN TEST. Lakewood will conduct a test of its outdoor siren system at 11 a.m. on May 14th. All 26 sirens in the system will be activated with a long wail, followed by a voice message over the public address portion of the system. The test will conclude with one long siren wail. Watch a video about what to do when the outdoor sirens sound at www.lakewood.org/safetyvideos.

Also on 4/19/14, the City will conduct an **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING** event from 10-3pm at the Historical Center (Wadsworth and Ohio). This is a great time to be able to recycle electronic in an environmental responsible way.

Clean out Your Medicine Cabinet

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY. Bring unused prescription or over-the-counter medication for proper disposal. No needles, sharps, mercury thermometers, oxygen containers, chemotherapy or radioactive substances, pressurized canisters or illicit drugs.

April 26, 2014; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lakewood Police Department's upper parking deck
445 S. Allison Parkway

FRONT RANGE LUMBER COMPANY, INC.

Your best source for all your building needs!

1741 S. Wadsworth Blvd.

Lakewood, CO 80232-6821