



# FRONT RANGE LUMBER COMPANY

*The news you need to make your project a success!*

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Lumber Pricing

Lumber pricing continues to be strong with fluctuations both up and down with impacts such as weather or the approaching summer. As we informed you before, supply and demand (im) balance tilts pricing more than any other factor. Even though housing starts still aren't anywhere near the peaks we saw in the last decade, production has been dramatically reduced as many mills closed permanently. We are hearing lumber prices should remain strong heading into summer. Be aware MANY manufacturers are looking for price increases: engineered wood products (I-joists, LVL,'s and rimboard), insulation, rebar and other steel products and many others. Watch your quotes and contract needs. Treated lumber has taken very significant increases over the past two months. Cedar across the board is increasing, especially on higher grades. Concrete recently went up a little. Timbers have increased consistently month after month for over six months in a row.

One item where large increases (if any) are not anticipated is waferboard (OSB) items. Large amounts of additional production will be coming on line during 2014 adding more supply to existing demand.

You can also keep a good feel for where pricing is heading by staying tuned to the media reports of interest rates, bad weather in large areas of the country, housing starts and so on.

## FRLCO NEWS

### Holidays

Looking forward to the summer and so are we! We will be closed all day for all three summer holidays: Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day. We will be open regular hours before and after each of those holidays.

### We be social!

We are now using social media!

FOLLOW us on TWITTER:  
[www.twitter.com/frontrangelumbr](http://www.twitter.com/frontrangelumbr)

LIKE us on FACEBOOK:  
[www.facebook.com/frontrangelumberco](http://www.facebook.com/frontrangelumberco)

FOLLOW our BLOG:  
[frontrangelumber.blogspot.com](http://frontrangelumber.blogspot.com)

## KENT'S CORNER

Every sign that we see indicates that this will be a very busy year for us, our wholesalers and contractors. Even in the dead of winter, business levels are better than last year. Contractors are racing to get materials quickly. Wholesalers already are hardly keeping up with demand on their short staffs.

Remember that during The Great Recession, businesses reduced stocks and employees. As demand skyrockets now, these wholesalers will not magically expand capacity as quickly as we wish! Already, we see door and window suppliers floundering. I-joists are not getting cut in hours as we are used to. At the same time, these wholesalers are feeling comfortable raising their prices.

Your customers are still Recession scarred, expecting low prices and exceptional service. They have come to assume that contractors and suppliers are overpriced. My strong advice to help us all:

- Expect picky customers and manage their expectations. Low cost AND high quality AND speedy action are unrealistic.

- Plan ahead. Action may not happen as fast as you wish and may disappoint you, not being able to react as fast as you hope. Last minute orders needed urgently are almost the norm.
- Consider raising your prices. Also, experts say that you should hire now for this summer's needs.
- Think about getting a pick-up truck with an 8' bed. This was an automatic accessory of contractors in the past. You may have to haul some of your own needs to keep up this summer.

## TAKING STOCK...

### Cedar

Few lumberyards sell as much and as many different cedar products as we do. Running from fencing to boards to timbers to pergola and decking items and finally siding – remember us on your next project. If we don't stock your needed item, we have the contacts and knowledge to obtain it in a timely manner.

One of the key criteria in selecting cedar products is the grade involved. Few, if any cedar items have a grade stamp printed on the board like most other lumber. One of the key factors to look for in cedar is determining whether the item is "green" or dried. You surely have seen cedar siding or fence pickets where the gap between the boards has grown excessively. This may reflect poor installation, but far more commonly the use of green (undried) cedar. As the boards lost their natural moisture, they shrank far smaller than a dried product would have. You don't have to be a lumber expert to see the differences in qualities. We always urge you to look at what you're getting before making a purchase decision.

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER** brought in a range of s4s – smooth four sides –

cedar. In some uses, a smooth sawn finish is desired. Cedar pricing has remained strong and we're expecting increases as summer approaches. There may also be isolated supply issues on specific items as the season wears on. As a final note, we can source a cedar glulam for your deck or pergola project. This provides a better looking (and stronger) main beam or other component for your job.

As the finishing touch, we stock all types of gate hardware, including wheels, fancy pulls, strap hinges and nail covers.

Watch for our cedar fencing specials starting in mid-March.

### **"Appearance" Grade Posts**

Everyone wants better looking lumber and in applications like sign posts, deck posts and railing, stair columns and so on this appearance is more important than ever. We attempt to stock only an export grade of 4x4 white fir posts in 8', 10' and 12' lengths for these applications. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** stocks this grade as it allows for far fewer visually apparent defects. Fewer knots, full four edges (instead of "bark") and a finer grain quality all contribute to a higher grade post.

### **Blue Stain**

Beetle kill pine or blue stain boards are available in a 1x6 tongue and groove in 8' through 16' lengths. What isn't so common are 1x4 through 1x12 "square" edge boards. More spottily, blue stain lumber comes in 2x4 through 2x8 dimensional sizes. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** stocks all these sizes. We can get blue stain boards machined into whatever pattern you'd like. For example, we ordered some "channel rustic" shiplap pattern for a customer recently – they were beautiful. Blue stain plywood is now available in 1/4", 1/2" and 3/4" thicknesses.

### **Special Orders**

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER** deals with over 250 suppliers throughout the nation. We can locate, price and get the special item you need for your project. Just ask one of our staff, who have a combined 262 years of experience in the lumber industry. We ask for no minimum order unless required by the supplier/manufacturer.

## **Odd Items**

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER** prides itself on stocking a lot of items needed in special projects that the competition doesn't even know exist, let alone stock. Some of these items include:

- Bending plywood – 3/8" thick, 8x4 sheets, this specialty plywood can be used for radiuses and other curved applications where the strength of plywood is desired.
- 2x6 redwood handrail with finger groove to meet building code.
- Azek Brick mold – PVC – will never rot, degrade.
- 5/4 cedar decking in 20'
- Post bases for rough sawn cedar or fir posts
- Non-combustible in dimensional lumber like 2x4-16's.
- 1" thicknesses of plywood and particle board
- Square style redwood and cedar lattice
- 1/4" drywall in 4x8 sheets
- Double, concealed flange hangers

## **PROFIT SHARING**

### **Landscape Timbers**

Don't get stuck with a short-sized landscape timber; many yards sell a 5x5, 4x6 or 5x6 sized timber as a true landscape timber. True, these are generally a little less expensive. However, when you put a pencil to it, you will find the full-fledged 6x6 timbers sold are a far better value – they "cover" more height, they're sturdier and you end up using the same number of spikes and rebar as you would on a smaller timber. These timbers come in green and brown treated colorations.

### **Who's Cheapest**

Next time you visit our store, check out our "who is cheapest" feature. We showcase a common item where we are by far the least expensive when compared to the competition. There are stores portraying themselves as the "cheapest" on everything – well, not so fast.....Don't spend more than what you need to unless there is a perceptible quality difference.

## **PRODUCT NEWS**

### **TREX**

The days of the "original" style composite decking are fast coming to an end. This generation was a blend of sawdust and plastic. Some brands are still trying to sell this version, but most, including Trex have transformed their product into the newer version. The newest generation is a "capped" product which has a PVC colorfast cap surrounding the composite core. This provides far better color maintenance and easier care. Trex's offering includes the Selects range in Saddle Brown, Woodland Brown, Madiera Red and Pebble Grey – similar to the "old" Accents range. Other ranges include other shades of browns and reds. A quick peek onto Trex's website will provide a visual reference for you. Of course, we can provide samples of any/all the Trex colors available.

One of the outshoots of having as many different color options as Trex and other brands of composite decking is matching screws to the exact color of decking.

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER** has moved to the DeckFast brand of screws, offering screws in colors to match any Trex color. Most screw manufacturers have moved to a 2-3/4" length to cover applications using either the 1x, 5/4 or 2x decking thicknesses. Finally, we've brought in the 1-5/8" length for installing 1x trim (like fascia), avoiding the screw from penetrating through the substrate boards.

### **Tru-Dry Timbers**

A proprietary process called Tru-Dry dries timbers more slowly and completely than other processes. It does add to the cost, however, it provides a much more stable timber and reduces any further cracking and twisting. Not all sizes and types are available at once, but with adequate lead time, any need can be fulfilled.

## **BUILT RIGHT...**

### **Stainless Steel**

Stainless steel fasteners are always the best performing screws and nails to use to avoid staining and streaking. We offer deck screws, trim screws gun nailer nails for fence installation among others are part of our selection.

## Flashings

Metal flashings and trim pieces used between layers of sidings, at deck ledgers, in valleys over doors and window openings are very under-appreciated. These are necessary for most installations and in most cases for any siding product warranty to be valid. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** stocks a full range of these items, mostly in 10' lengths.

On a related note, we stock a variety of siding corners and joint covers for hardboard lap sidings. This includes for double and triple "lap" patterns.

## Ferche Moldings

Need a special molding? In a special type of wood? Look at the Ferche.com website to find your need in many different types of wood. Anything shown can be in your hands in approximately two to three weeks at a very reasonable cost. So the next time you need hickory door casing to match your kitchen cabinets or cherry trim to complete a special dresser you're making for your daughter, look to this great resource and find what you need.

## Fascia

After siding, we are asked most commonly about matching existing fascia. The "standard" fascia up to the late 1970s was a fingerjoint redwood product in 1x6 or 1x8. Due to its fingerjoint nature, this item was always painted. This is no longer commercially available. Since the mid-1980s, a variety of other products have been used in varying degrees. We feel the best substitute for any fascia installation is a primed hardboard product, specifically the Miratec brand name. It is a two sided product, providing either a smooth or wood textured finish to meet your job's needs. This is a manufactured product with a warranty, something natural wood items don't carry. It is available in both the 1x6 and 1x8 sizes and comes with the plow (or groove) to accommodate soffit. Like all other Miratec exterior trim products, it is a one piece construction avoiding delamination and other product failures we commonly see in competitive brands. As a final note, we can custom plow any item when given some lead time to complete. Therefore regardless of your specs, we can provide an exact match.

## Housewrap

Housewrap such as Tyvek is being required in Douglas and Arapahoe Counties up to the roofline. Therefore, previously uncovered portions that are normally covered by the soffit and fascia now need housewrap.

## CONSUMER NEWS

### High-Intensity Activated Cross Walk

Lakewood Department of Public Works recently installed an unusual-looking traffic signal at 260 Union Blvd. Although the traffic signal will not be operational until the end of February, they are providing local residents with some information about how it works.

The traffic signal is called a HAWK (High-intensity Activated Cross Walk) and its unique design will make it easier for pedestrians to cross busy Union Blvd. to access both businesses and the Federal Center Station. It will also minimize traffic delays.

To drivers, the signal looks like a triangular arrangement of traditional traffic lights. If a pedestrian presses the walk button, the lower light will flash yellow, alerting drivers that someone wants to cross. The flashing yellow light will then turn solid yellow to warn motorists to slow down and prepare to stop. Next, the top two lights will turn red, requiring cars to stop. After four seconds, the red lights will flash indicating that drivers may proceed after stopping if there are no pedestrians in their lane. When there are no pedestrians present, the HAWK signal is not lit. You are encouraged to visit the City's website at <http://www.lakewood.org/HAWKsignal> / to see a visual representation and a video of how the signal works.

Use of the HAWK system is common in Europe and since its introduction in the United States, studies have shown that it results in a decrease in pedestrian-related accidents.

The signal is part of the Union Blvd. Corridor Urban Design Plan and was funded by FASTER (Funding Advancement for Surface Transportation & Economic Recovery), a state program to improve highway safety. It appears this installation will be the first among many planned in Lakewood.

## FUNNIES

### Why is that...?

Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to 'put your two cents in' ... but it's only a 'penny for your thoughts'? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway...

Why is 'bra' singular and 'panties' plural?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME junk, why didn't he just buy dinner?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

Did you ever notice when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window? Why, Why, Why

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are almost dead?

Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough money?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose idea was it to put an 'S' in the word 'lisp'?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologizes for doing so, why do we say, 'It's all right?' Well, it isn't all right, so why don't we say, 'That really hurt, why don't you watch where you're going?'

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

And our FAVORITE.....

The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons are suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends... if they're okay, then it's you.

<b>C A L E N D A R</b>	
<i>You can count days or make everyday count.</i>	
<b>March</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday
9 <sup>th</sup>	Daylight Saving Time begins (Spring forward)
17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's Day <i>Wear your GREEN!</i>
20 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of Spring
<b>April</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	April Fool's Day
15 <sup>th</sup>	Income Taxes Due!
16 <sup>th</sup>	Passover
20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Earth Day <i>How BIG is your carbon footprint?</i>
<b>May</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Cinco de Mayo
6 <sup>th</sup>	Nurses Day
6 <sup>th</sup>	National Teacher Day – <i>Thank one!</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day
17 <sup>th</sup>	Armed Forces Day
26 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day <b>(Front Range Lumber will be closed)</b>

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER COMPANY, INC.**

*Your best source for all your building needs!*

1741 S. Wadsworth Blvd.

Lakewood, CO 80232-6821