



FRONT RANGE LUMBER COMPANY

The news you need to make your project a success!

CEDAR THOUGHTS

One of us recently had the opportunity to visit some cedar mills, attend “Cedar School” and meet with cedar manufacturers. Here’s a few thoughts about this great type of wood:

- Consumers have many choices for their exterior projects – cedar is a great product to fill those needs.
- It is best to educate yourself as much as possible in the unique product.
- Best estimates are that only about 1/3rd of 1% of the available cedar forest is being harvested every year. Approximately 200 million seedlings are planted annually; about 3 for every one harvested. Obviously, Western Red Cedar is a very sustainable product.
- Cedar is natural, real, connects you to the outdoors – a great material to utilize for interior or exterior applications.
- Cedar is NOT treated chemically. There’s no need to as cedar naturally contains the tannins to resist rot and insect deterioration.
- It provides a great “nesting” feeling in your home or office.
- It’s remarkable the safety measures taken at the mill level to prevent accidents.
- Most cedar logs are still being “delivered” to the mills on the water via rivers and channels.
- We encourage you to look up YouTube videos showing how a log is cut up. It’s fascinating. Search under “head-rig”.
- Seemingly slight grade differences translates into vastly different wood types and appearances. You get what you pay for and on exterior projects where longevity is desired, don’t cut corners on inferior grades and cuts of cedar.

GENERAL PRODUCT NOTES

- Remember that even though rough sawn lumber has the reputation for being closer to full measure (i.e., a 2x4 is close to 2”x4”); any 2x material is going to be actually very close to 1-11/16 by 1/4” less than the stated size. Therefore a 2x4 is 1-11/16” x 3-3/4”.
- According to the grading rules, knots are proportional to the thickness of the board.
- Good quality Western Red Cedar will be darker in color, lower quality will be more crème-like in color (2x and bigger sizes).
- Much of the machinery in the mills actually touching the wood is now being switched to stainless steel to prevent any oxidation/metal markings.
- Remember most cedar is graded to only one face and one edge.
- Clear grades come from older, bigger logs. The manner in which trees grow is as the tree grows, lower branches break/fall off – they are shaded by branches above them and no longer has access to sun. Then, as the years go by and the tree adds age and more tree rings; that material is the area of the tree from which clear (no knots) lumber can be cut from.
- For strength, always choose flat grain boards.

WOOD SIDING INSTALLATION

- Fasteners should penetrate 1-1/4” into solid wood – not sheathing (OSB or plywood). Always use stainless steel fasteners for best results, blunt point, thin shank and small head.
- Nailing patterns must be met – visible nails aren’t pretty but the nailing pattern provides for solid installation,

allows the wood to shrink/expand, prevent water infiltration and provides years of serviceable life.

- Do not use any clear caulk or any caulk which is 100% silicone on cedar siding.
- Any cut must be painted/stained at the end grain. We suggest joints be cut at a 45 degree (scarf joint) so any shrinkage isn’t as noticeable. All joints must end at a stud and fastened.
- Tyvek should be on top of ALL flashing, step flashings, window trim, etc. Think how then the housewrap can shed water into the flashing, not behind it.
- Increasingly, code and “best practices” is steering toward a dedicated rain screen, water draining layer. Different brands and types are now available, with more surely to come. The leaders right now are Tyvek DrainWrap and Driwall Rainscreen. This layer is installed immediately under the siding itself. It eliminates moisture problems, increases ventilation, prevents mold and extends siding lifetime.

FINISHING TIPS

- There are three finishing families in dealing with cedar: natural weathering, opaque finish (i.e. paint), and natural finishes (stain). A solid color stain should be considered a paint of sorts. Staining allows the natural beauty, grain and color of the wood to shine through by penetrating the fiber. However, it provides less color, less protection and a shorter service life. A solid color paint provides better protection and more color. If painting, a good primer cost is a must.
- The BEST way to finish your cedar product is pre-staining. This provides a good, uniform, 6 sided and cost effective finish to the material.

- Before any version of finishing, all woods should be left to acclimate on the jobsite under protected conditions. This allows excess moisture to leave the wood, the grain to open up for better absorption and allows extractives to get washed away.
- Always use a good quality finish – protect your investment in both appearance and longevity. Always follow application instructions carefully.

DECKING

Our 5/4x6 cedar decking is graded TWO sides and therefore might be more expensive if customers are shopping for the best price. The reason why we stock the two sided product is normally the only one sided version is graded only on the best side and therefore the other side can be worse in appearance and structure. On 2nd floor decks where you can see the underside of the boards this isn't a great selling point. More importantly, decking should ALWAYS be installed crown up – that side is generally more likely to have defects, most specifically wane. Well...if the ONE good side means the side that will be "crown down" then the decking will likely cup over time.

If you're seeing a spread on cedar pricing in 1x boards – verify that the other price isn't a 3/4" thickness – if so, it is VERY likely that it is a green (undried) cedar and more likely to split, warp, crack, etc.

KENT'S CORNER

We answer lots of questions every day. We are complimented that people consider us experts on many building materials. Here are some of the answers to FAQ's:

1. Wood prices can change, without notice. Lumber is a commodity, just like pork bellies, orange juice and silver! When we give you a quote, it is good for only a few days or as specifically noted only. Contractors have to "out-guess" what prices will do by the time they actually purchase items. Bidding a job with no price escalation clause is risky for YOU.

2. Pergolas should be built out of rough-sawn cedar. Just ask me why. Some put a deck type finish on it. This is a color protector only. It will not make the cedar last longer. And make sure you will

re-coat in a few years, or start a maintenance cycle?

3. Planter boxes should also be from rough-sawn cedar – never treated lumber. The most common design: 2 or 3 stacked two by sixes or two by eights, with short pieces at insides of corners to attach corners. I see no point in putting tar or plastic on the inside surfaces.

4. We love all of you! As to discounts: We base discounts, if any, on large volumes. Who are we to judge who deserves discounts and who doesn't? Seniors, military, police/firefighters, teachers, contractors, girl scouts, etc. are all special people. The truth is we all deserve a discount. But no games here. When our competitors offer amazing deals, like buy 2 gallons and get third for free, or 40% off windows, that indicates their huge standard mark-ups, with lots of fat to trim. We strive to be fair to everybody.

5. "Straight". The request we hear all day. We want all of our lumber to be straight. If only Mother Nature complied! We buy the BEST we can, not the CHEAPEST, as much as our competition does. We cannot guarantee straight, but we do have the best that you will find.

6. Returns of special order items. This is painful for all. If we made the mistake, it is all on us. But if it is your fault? Our wholesaler will not take it back. And we cannot. All the more important to double check before ordering – size, quantity, color and lengths.

7. Blue stain pine (aka "beetle kill") is hot, hot, hot! Remember the facts: availability varies, amount of blue varies. It is #3, a low grade, so expect occasional holes, missing edges, and other rustic characteristics. If you buy boards at different times, the appearance could be very different.

8. Do we stock Trex? Not much, simply because the Trex product line has grown so broadly and changed so much. Luckily we can get your color, length and type (about 132 different products for the deck planks alone) in for you in a day or two.

9. Homeowners will let our contractors and us become their (unpaid) consultant, interior decorator, engineer, etc. This is a hard spot to be in. It transfers lots of work, and potential blame/liability to you and us. We see all the time

where a decision is made on behalf of the homeowner, then they see the result and reject it. That means you or I will have a loss. We want to help as possible, but we have to let the end user take responsibility.

Have a great SPRING!

BUILT RIGHT...

Deck Ledger

We see and hear increasingly about deck failures with the two leading faults being stairs and the ledger board.

FRONT RANGE LUMBER suggests the use of the LedgerLOK screws. These ledger board fasteners has been designed specifically for attaching the deck ledger to a rim joist or band board of the house in a code compliant manner. When installed as instructed, the LedgerLOK can be used to replace the 1/2" Lag Screws. In addition, the proprietary coating on this fastener exceeds the corrosion protection provided by code approved hot-dipped galvanized coatings.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

- Choose a 3-5/8" or 5" LedgerLOK length so that threads fully engage the rim material and fastener tip extends beyond the inside face of the rim joist.
- Follow the minimum spacing and fastening patterns.
- Install fasteners through the ledger and sheathing. Continue into the rim joist until the washer head is drawn firm and flush to the ledger board. Do not overdrive.

SPACING REQUIREMENTS

Fasteners should be staggered in a "V" pattern and spaced as follows:

- Minimum distance from end - 3-3/4"
- Minimum distance from any edge - 1-3/4"
- On-center spacing – see detailed instructions, varies by wood size, loading and use

GENERAL FASTENING GUIDELINES

- Connections and joints should be properly flashed to prevent water from contacting the rim joist.
- Where a positive connection to the rim joist cannot be verified through inspection, decks shall be self supporting.

- Ledgers should not be attached over cantilevered portions of the house where the rim is unsupported by a foundation.

Non-Combustible Plywood

While “non-com” or fire-treated plywood is one of our better items, we also stock several lumber items. This type of wood/plywood has been chemically treated to resist/delay burning. Used primarily for electrical panels and/or in commercial applications. One of the best features of our version is that with the chemical treatment, the treating solutions has been dyed red, therefore staining the wood. This makes it instantly recognizable even from a distance. It’s popular with inspectors because they also recognize it and can easily verify code compliance.

TAKING STOCK...

Gate Hardware

FRONT RANGE LUMBER stocks a complete selection of gate hardware for your new fence. Remember these parts besides the more basic hinges and latches:

- Use spring style hinges to ensure the gate closes (and you don’t have to worry whether the kids closed the gate!)
- Although the “standard” color to use is black, many items come in a satin/brushed chrome color for a more modern clean appearance
- There are many different styles of hinges to use – even more conventional styles like what is used on house doors. Might be best to SEE what’s available to make the best choice for you.
- Cane bolts hold a gate in position, they are especially useful on double gate applications.
- Maybe just a pull style handle with a spring hinge is the perfect solution on a gate that you need to push open with full hands or a wheelbarrow!
- A combination type latch may secure the gate without the hassle of a key.

Emtek

We’ve added a great line of door hardware, specifically door locks under the Emtek brand. The two leading features of these locks are the great quality and the wide choice of styles, finishes and functions. Please refer to the attached brochure for more information.

2x2 Deck/Porch Balusters

FRONT RANGE LUMBER has the best selection and great quality balusters for your deck or porch anywhere in the area. Inferior grades/qualities allow for knots and other imperfections that cause those balusters to crack and break more easily. Obviously on a small piece of wood like a baluster it doesn’t take much to make it an unacceptable piece. Our selection includes:

- 2x2-8 and 10’ clear, all heart (all red) redwood
- 2x2-8, 10, and 12’ knotty rough sawn cedar
- 2x2-8 smooth sawn clear cedar

Redwood Decking

We are the ONLY lumberyard in town stocking 2x6 B grade redwood. This superior grade is essentially clear – no knots and contains both red heartwood and white sapwood. Other lower grades allow for knots and even knots that have or could drop out. Even amongst other independent lumberyards, we remain unique by stocking lengths up to 20’.

Keeping Stock

FRONT RANGE LUMBER stocks quite a few items most other suppliers hardly even know exist. Try us for any of the following:

- Wavy edge cedar siding
- 3/4x10” cedar bevel lap siding
- Plowed (to hold soffit boards) fascia
- 2x8, 2x10 and 2x12 B grade redwood in lengths 8’ to 20’
- 1x3 cedar
- 1x6 Clear T&G cedar paneling/siding
- 16” wide Miratec trimboards
- Marine grade plywood
- Homasote
- 20’ treated lumber

FRLCO NEWS

We be social!

We are now using social media!

FOLLOW us on TWITTER:
www.twitter.com/frontrangelumbr

LIKE us on FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/frontrangelumberco

FOLLOW our BLOG:
frontrangelumber.blogspot.com

Belmar Summer Concerts

FRONT RANGE LUMBER sponsors the City of Lakewood Concert Series held at Belmar Park on Wednesdays for six weeks. These concerts start on June 22nd. For a relaxing time, bring a picnic dinner and enjoy a very affordable evening in the great Colorado outdoors. For more information, see <http://www.lakewood.org/summerconcerts/>

Send Pictures!

Starting *TODAY*, every month we’re asking for a picture of a recent project you completed using materials from **FRONT RANGE LUMBER**. Then, each month, we’ll pick one to receive a \$100 in-store credit. See our website for complete details. WWW.FRLCO.COM

CONSUMER NEWS

GAS PRICES

WHY GAS PRICES AREN’T BOOSTING CONSUMER SPENDING

It may take more than one year of low gas prices before consumers start to feel the change is “permanent” and relax about how they use the money they’re saving, according to a recent study by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco that called the expected boost from cheap oil “elusive.” The economic study went on to say that consumers won’t start spending their gas savings until they’re convinced lower prices are here to stay. Meanwhile they’re saving what they don’t spend at the pump.

Lower gas prices aren’t all good news – they actually hurt governmental spending. California’s transportation budget is taking a hit because of gas and excise taxes. As gas prices drop, so too does the budget revenue for governments.

During the 2016 April-through-September summer driving season, U.S. regular gasoline retail prices are forecast to average \$2.04 per gallon, compared with

\$2.63 last summer. For all of 2016, the forecast average price is \$1.94 per gallon, which would save the average U.S. household about \$350 on gasoline in 2016 compared with 2015, with annual average motor fuel expenditures at the lowest level in 12 years.

FUNNIES

TSA

The summer traveling season is upon us and there is a lot of talk about the expected delays at airports caused by TSA. You know the TSA – Toiletry Search Agency, Take Scissors Away, and Thousands Standing Around.

Prayer

A bus driver and a priest both go to heaven and are set up into separate places. The priest is given a nice, but plain and small condo with no view. On the other hand, the bus driver receives a palatial 3000 square foot luxury home complete with a view, a pool, and tennis courts – the works! After about six months the priest, although appreciative of what he got, wonders how this arrangement came to be and goes to see St. Peter at the pearly gates. St Peter looks into his card files and arrives at the answer. He tells the priest that he was good and conscientious in his duties, but that anytime he started to preach, everyone fell asleep. Conversely, every time people were on a bus with the bus driver, they all were praying non-stop!

C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R
<i>You can count days or make everyday count.</i>							
June							
14 th	Flag Day – fly 'em!						
19 th	Fathers' Day						
21 st	First day of summer						
22 nd	Belmar Concert						
29 th	Belmar Concert						
July							
4 th	Independence Day (Front Range Lumber is closed)						
6 th	Belmar Concert						
13 th	Belmar Concert						
20 th	Belmar Concert						
24 th	Parent's Day						
27 th	Belmar Concert						
August							
1 st	Colorado Day						
21 st	Senior Citizens Day						