



# FRONT RANGE LUMBER COMPANY

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

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Lumber Prices

With oil prices falling dramatically, you'd conclude prices would decrease in a broad spectrum of products. With the exception of the gas price at the pump, we are not seeing the effects of lower fuel prices on construction materials. This is due to many reasons:

- Relative scarcity of drivers for semi-trucks to deliver goods, this is dramatically impacting the speed in which materials are moved from the mills to us.
- The west coast port's slowdown is slowing the movement of a broad range of goods and the situation is worsening at this writing.
- Increased concerns over the worldwide geopolitical situation.
- More than a third of all diesel refined in the U.S. is being shipped overseas.
- Other cost pressures are in fact **RAISING** prices – health insurance, increased regulation, etc.

In fact, we're seeing notices of increases on many items – insulation, dry-wall, gun nails, and many other categories. We anticipate these increases being effective over the next 60-90 days – right when the summer season really gets going. Looking at specific categories:

- Cedar products are slotted for a 5-8% increase. Better grades always increase more than common or lower grades/qualities. Prices overall are already higher than last year and some items are in short supply.
- Trex has announced a price increase effective 4/1/15 – it appears only certain items will be impacted.
- Gun and hand drive nails and screws 5-8%

- Regular framing lumber appears to be relatively stable at this time for the next 3 months
- Plywood and OSB products are staged to increase over the spring season.
- At a recent conference we attended, our producers and suppliers are seeing 2015 as the year of solidifying economic stability in the construction industry. They are making substantial commitments to inventory levels, capital investments and looking for statistics like new home starts to increase. These all will add additional pressure on trucking difficulties, availability of certain items/sizes and prices.

## FRLCO NEWS

### Deliveries

Our policy is to call before every delivery. We're trying to be as efficient as possible and get you your delivery ASAP. Help us help you by giving us a phone number that you can be reached at. This provides a lifeline to address questions, job issues, incorrect addresses or delivery delays.

### Two Trucks

Over the winter **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** purchased another "box van" which doubles our ability to deliver doors, windows and related products to you.

### Credit Card Security

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER** makes every effort to protect your credit card information. We installed the new style swipe pads more than a year before the required cutoff. We do not retain your credit card information. Any written record of your card information is shredded.

### Website

After loads of effort, our new website should be live any day now – if it isn't already. Our new site will have much more information for your reference. Among the items added are:

- Profiles (shapes) of most common moulding patterns
- Siding patterns and coverage charts (also conversion from square feet to lineal feet needed)
- Common hardware finishes (colors)
- Frequently asked questions (FAQ)
- Door handing chart
- "Tip" sheets on a variety of categories
- Most of the site is accessible in Spanish
- New links to popular product lines
- Project plans

So keep up to date and check it out!

**WWW.FRLCO.COM**

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)

### 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.

## KENT'S CORNER

Pity the poor newbie in the construction business! You just have to know certain facts to avoid delay, misordering, and general embarrassment. It is just assumed that you know certain things:

- Windows are always called width x height (in that order), opening direction is described as facing the house from outside. “X” means the side that slides, “O” is the fixed side. If there are dotted lines, the point they form is where the hinge is.
- Windows can be ordered actual (net) size or rough opening sizes. Different manufacturers allow different shim spaces, so ask if exact size is important.
- Popular steel or fiberglass doors are 79” tall. This compares to uncut wood doors at 80” tall. Any of these could have been cut down.
- Wood comes with no warranty. Dry climate, natural variations, and high expectations must be considered when using lumber.
- Trusses and other special orders take widely varying amounts of lead time. Trusses were at 5 or 6 weeks just a couple months ago, now about 2 weeks.
- Delivering/unloading/handling of big, heavy items is a big deal. Wholesalers (think windows) do not send much help. Obstacles in the driveway (e.g., dumpsters, dirt piles, cars) add to the difficulty. Contractors may have little help, or people that want to help. We all have aging work forces!
- Hardware finish will vary between manufacturers. That means that the hinges on exterior doors may be different from those on interior doors, because they came from different sources.
- Smooth and rough sawn lumber are usually two different sizes. This means appearance and fasteners will be different.
- Moulding in your house, even a newer house, may not still be available. You also may not be able to get lengths you wish for.

The take-away: You are just expected to know some things. If you do not, problems can follow. A great example: A window installer did not know that weep holes go to the bottom. Many of his installed windows were upside down or on their sides.

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER** is enjoying our 50th anniversary in 2015. We were established in Lakewood in 1965 (*before* Lakewood was even incorporated into a city). As part of our thanks to our customers, we are offering local delivery at only \$19.65 a trip; some conditions may apply.

### BUILT RIGHT...

#### TREX

An important handrail consideration: if using their universal rail and using deck boards as a cap to the top universal rail holding whatever balusters you’re using, Trex installation instructions call for using Transcends decking boards due to their greater thickness. This specifically avoids screws bursting the thickness of the decking used for the handrail “topper”.

Trex has announced a price increase effective 4/1/15 – it appears only certain items will be impacted.

Don’t just get fasteners close in color – get the exact match for any color of Trex decking. The DeckMate line of screws provides these and the easy cross reference to match any color of Trex you use.

#### Raised Garden Bed Thoughts

It’s the time of year when folks think they’ll use their green thumb to better use. A common improvement to your garden is a raised garden bed. Not only do the walls delineate the garden, but raising the level of the gardening dirt surface reduces the effort to garden. Before you go non-stop on a new garden area, remember the following:

- Treated landscape timbers should never be used in contact with food – including vegetable gardens.
- Used railroad ties should not be used for the same reason – creosote is a known carcinogen. In addition, the ties that are available are very “used”.
- There are alternatives which can significantly lower the cost of constructing these beds as long as you’re a little flexible with your plans. For example, we can supply 6x6-4’ rough sawn cedar timbers that are great quality and very cost competitive with landscape timbers as above – a 6x6 wall would certainly be very sturdy!
- Proper galvanized fasteners and connectors should be used to maximize the life of your project.

### TAKING STOCK...

#### Hardwoods

We increased our selection of hardwoods to include oak, walnut, poplar, cherry and maple ready to use boards. We now stock a wide variety of exotic hardwoods ready for your next project. Most of these items are in a nominal 1” Finally, we stock some thicker sizes in clear pine, walnut, red and white oak. Come by to see what’s all possible. Good quality aspen has become available to us again in both boards and 1x6 T&G patterns. The creamy white color is especially prized for fireplace mantle and other accent walls.

#### Blue Stain/Beetle Kill

Nobody does it better. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** stocks this type of wood in boards, T&G siding/paneling and plywoods. 8’ to 16’ lengths are readily available. We can supply more unique items such as flooring, molding and custom cutting in blue stain. Come by and see for yourself the possibilities! We repeatedly have blue stain pine orders in varying patterns and sizes.

#### Simpson Joist Hangers

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER** has EXPANDED OUR ASSORTMENT OF HANGERS. We aim to have hangers needed for the needs of current construction methods – concealed hanger, hangers for all sizes of LVLs, powder

coated, double and triple sizes and the needed fasteners.

## OZCO

The lumber industry isn't known for its fashion sense and radical changes; however a new line of pergola and deck hardware named OZCO broke through last year as a blazing success. This decorative, powder coated hardware is a cinch to install, adds a structural connector, is very economical and has great looks. Great ideas and information can be sourced at [www.ozcobp.com](http://www.ozcobp.com).

## Cedar

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER** has established itself as a leading source of great quality cedar products. We're a sponsoring member of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association. We stock items in 18' and 20', even in 1x6 T&G siding. We continue to add more products to our diverse selection. This spring, we've added 3x12-16 and 8x8-10 rough sawn cedar timbers, 5/4x6 clear decking (in addition to the knotty version we've had previously), clear grade items, and many more smooth sawn items for components in deck construction. We believe cedar offers a great look and value for exterior projects due to its great appearance, long life, rot resistance and easy workability. As always, you should see what you're getting before you make a purchasing decision.

## Redwood

Availability in all better redwood grades will remain limited. In addition, key (popular) lengths will be very tight in supply AND more expensive on a per foot basis. Certain sizes and lengths are very tough. In some cases, we're waiting months for shipments. We encourage you to be flexible with your plans. In some cases, going to 18' decking may actually save money compared to buying 16's – and you'd end up with a bigger deck!

## Landscape Timbers

The classic 6x6-8 green and brown colored landscape timbers should be more readily available this year. Last year, the mills simply could not supply any for about 90 days during the summer and then only limited numbers. Note other sizes are available, however, the 6x6 size is the most economical and easiest

to install. For example 4x6's are available and are less expensive, but you need more of them to construct a wall of the same height. In the end, you'll spend more time, effort and money.

## Rebar

Remember in all your landscape timber and garden bed walls, **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** carries rebar in pre-cut lengths: 12", 18", 24", 36" and 48".

## Siding/Trim

We carry a variety of sidings and trims. One of the most common sales we make is matching an older siding to complete a painting or other remodeling job. We are very familiar with all types of wood and hardboard sidings, along with trim required. Keep us in mind the next time you face a challenging job like this.

## Upgraded Treated Lumber Selection

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER** has upgraded our treated lumber selection to a version named "treater series." While the chemicals and process are very similar to other treated lumber, this wood is warranted for certain types of warping. Specifically in deck construction, warpage after installation causes product failure and poor appearance results when the framing of a deck affects the decking applied to it. This version of KDAT (kiln dried after treatment) has been dried prior to your purchase to eliminate these types of product issues. By drying the product before purchase, it also enjoys the advantage of being lighter as the water weight has been reduced. Therefore, handling is much easier!! The cost is slightly higher but the advantages of the warranty and easier installation add only a small fraction to the overall cost of a deck.

## Wood

There are so many angles to grades and types of wood. Come to us to get the real story and untangle the confusion caused by these differences. Whole milk is whole milk – unless it's organic or goat's milk and so on. Wood on the other hand, because of its natural variations can be a bewildering item to evaluate. For example, clear vertical grain fir boards are knot free and have the grain running straight up and down the

length of the board. Even in this relatively narrow type of lumber there's a major difference affecting the end result. The grain itself can be coarse or tight grain – irregular grain and varying widths of tree rings OR consistent, narrower rings – most everyone will pick the more regular grained product – which is slightly more expensive. There are a variety of qualities, costs and end results to most wood products. Look to us to provide the best information to obtain the result you want. Relying on lowest cost only may provide a result which wasn't what you had in mind. One of your best steps would be to view the actual product before buying – you don't have to be a lumber "expert" to see very significant quality differences causing different price levels. For example, thicker lattice panels are of course, thicker, and also better looking and sturdier. They are more in price, but the advantages in product outweigh the added cost. Another example is redwood – redwood is a very visual product – check it out.

## PROFIT SHARING

### Records

In these days of warranties, tax record needs, proof of purchase documentation, and wide variety of merchandise the need to retain documentation is very high. While each business is different, we're surprised at the number of customers simply keeping few, if any long-term records. You should check with your accountant or other professional, but we strongly urge you to keep records for at least seven years to comply with many governmental requirements. This also would assist in determining what exact product you bought for any given project and provide warranty/replacement information as needed.

## FUNNIES

### Travel Plans for 2015

- I have been in many places, but I've never been in Kahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone.
- I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes your there.
- I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several

trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

- I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.
- I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.
- I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.
- Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.
- One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!
- I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there.

C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R
<i>You can count days or make everyday count.</i>							
<b>March</b>							
	8 <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					
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday					
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Income Taxes Due!					
	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>					
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day					
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Armed Forces Day					
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day ( <b>Front Range Lumber</b> will be closed)					

**FRONT RANGE LUMBER COMPANY, INC.**

*Your best source for all your building needs!*

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