



FRONT RANGE LUMBER COMPANY

The news you need to make your project a success!

INDUSTRY NEWS

Lumber Prices

Mills continue to curtail production based on very poor demand. We all agree housing has been one of the hardest hit sectors of the economy and we're still hurting bad. Pricing has picked up a little in the recent weeks but remains at historically low levels. A current handicap suffered by the mills is the wet spring, making it more difficult, if not impossible to get logs out of the forest. This means the mills have fewer logs to mill, leading many to reduce operations and/or close temporarily. This "spring thaw" issue pops up every year, but an extra wet spring has created additional headaches this year.

Housing/real estate as a group industry remains weak(er?). For the first quarter of 2011, single family housing starts were down 21.3% from a year ago, and please consider that 2010 was a weak year to benchmark to. Remember that 2010 benefitted from the first time homebuyer tax credit. A major industry supplier, BlueLinx, stated their structural product sales (lumber, plywood, etc) were down 25.2% in the number of units (pieces) sold.

Other pricing changes have slowed down on manufactured wood and steel products.

We are still seeing MANY price changes on items "further" away from raw materials. An example is Simpson StrongTie (joist hangers), a product line requiring steel coil, then galvanization then machining into hangers. Products such as these are announcing price increases with growing frequency.

KENT'S CORNER

Kent is here to help you everyday, but his article writing skills took the summer off.

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

BE A PART OF OUR CONTEST:
LIKE US on Facebook and check back often for the start of our savings contest!

PROFIT SHARING

Special Orders

Never doubt our special order capability – an average day sees us going to over twenty different suppliers in addition to what is trucked or UPS'd directly to us. Try **FRONT RANGE LUMBER**; we have the knowledge and the sources to find, procure and deliver all of your building material needs.

TAKING STOCK...

Returns

We try to stock the best quality materials possible and our staff works hard to help determine your needs. Please help us and help yourself by checking your list, using the web to find product descriptions, and carefully planning your job. This helps all of us control returns and the high cost of handling those returns.

Redwood

Availability of "uppers" (better grades – clear &/or all red) of redwood continues to get tougher. The single biggest reason for this is the oldest (and best quality) trees are no longer cut due to environmental concerns. Younger trees are not grown to sufficient size to generate the amount of heart (all-red) and clear (no knots) required meeting

grade rules for the better grades. On the other hand, we're seeing some of the best cedar in some time.

Cedar

Cedar – it's the most happening thing at **FRONT RANGE LUMBER**. We stock a full selection, including longer lengths of boards, timbers, decking, dimension sized lumber, lattice, post caps and so on. The quality we're seeing is excellent, some of the best we've seen. Watch availability and pricing. As of June, the mills are having difficulty logging; the wet spring and early summer are hampering access to the trees. This tightens the supply side dramatically creating some spot shortages and higher prices.

PRODUCT NEWS

TREX

The latest color to be released by Trex in the Transcends line is available now. The color is a light brown/grey color call Rope Swing. By the way, the display on our front porch has been there for over eight years. On purpose we don't clean it or otherwise maintain the deck. In addition, we regularly scrape our displays across it. Trex can hold up under these circumstances, and for this long, imagine what will your deck look like without that rough wear? Another example are the stair treads leading up to the second level of our shed – boots, rocks and dirt and the Trex is lasting wonderfully.

Wood

It's such a natural product and America's greatest renewable resource but it's not perfect. Regardless of grade, wood can split, twist, warp, cup, stain, weather, bow and crack. MDF moldings, engineered lumber and composite decking all mitigate some or all of the problems of all "pure" wood products. However, they come with their own set of disadvantages. For example, you

cannot stain MDF moldings for a natural wood grain color and pattern look. One of the other “disadvantages” these manmade products have created is the increased expectation for a consistent and high quality. This is where wood falls down. By its very nature wood is NOT uniform in color, grain, weight, density or appearance. With these variations comes a wide range of qualities that the industry standardizes into differing grade levels. As part of those grade rules, wood is graded under varying standards. For instance, 1x boards are typically only graded to one side and one/two edges. Think about it – most uses of a 1x board leaves only those surfaces exposed. In the case of cedar boards, they are only graded to the one rough side. Framing lumber is usually judged on its knot and strength aspects, not its appearance.

We should expect boards that simply aren't perfect, Mother Nature isn't taking orders from us humans.

Formaldehyde

Besides being a spelling lesson, this chemical has been in the news recently. In addition to something found in nature, it has been named a carcinogen by the EPA. The building materials industry has made enormous strides over the past ten years and more to reduce/eliminate formaldehyde in manufactured products. These products include particle board (of all types), doors, moldings, plywoods and engineered wood products (I-joists, LVLs and rimboard). One of the most common standards is CARB (California Airborne Toxic Control measure #93120). To the best of our knowledge, all products now in the supply chain meet/exceed this standard and its guidelines/exceptions.

CAMO

Check out the “CAMO” screw system on the web. It is a simple, low cost hidden fastening system eliminating many of the problems and difficulties in working with other hidden systems. CAMO allows for easy removal/replacement of just one board. It automatically gaps deck boards properly and sets up quickly. The screws come in two sizes to accommodate both 1x and 2x decking materials.

BUILT RIGHT...

Treated Lumber

Why buy the “old” green treated lumber anymore? The L3 process as described on the attached brochure is truly the “cat's meow”. The stabilizers in the wood minimize cracking, and warping, the added color blends better with all other types of exterior products and of course, it's treated for rot and insect resistance. Who else better to find these products than us?

And while we're talking about treated lumber, inspectors love this brand of fire-treated lumber. While being treated, a red coloring has been applied so that fire treated portions of your project stand out clearly as being fire treated. This readily apparent treatment allows the inspection to proceed more smoothly and faster, without hassle and question. See **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** for all your fire treated lumber and plywood needs.

Simpson

We have the only display of joist hangers around that shows how to use a variety of hangers AND how NOT to use hangers - come by and see for yourself. The most common error made is the improper use of fasteners. Keep in mind only certain hangers have been approved to be fastened with screws. Certain others require the use of special SDS screws. Most heavy structural hangers require the use of 10d common or 16d sinker nails. Finally, always use hot dipped galvanized (HDG) or better nails/screws on exterior applications.

Blue-Stain Pine or Beetle Kill?

Both are one in the same. Several important facts to keep in mind:

- Most commonly found in 1x6 T&G siding/paneling, it is available in 1x4 thru 1x12 sizes, 8' to 16'
- Even though there are large stands close by of beetle killed pine, most lumber of this type is not locally sourced.
- Graded as #3 pine because of the blue stain, most of the boards are much better in quality, but can occasionally have very large knots.

Quality

Often less expensive translates into just plain cheap. Take wood lattice panels, you get exactly what you pay for, that's why **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** stocks ONLY the full 1” thick lattice panels staying together longer and stronger. We carry the redwood –both square and diagonal patterns and cedar in a diagonal pattern in standard and economy grade (Economy has larger openings).

CONSUMER NEWS

My, how things have changed!

18,000 years ago, winter temperatures were 27 to 36 degrees cooler. Ice Age Florida was like Quebec.

The last decade had the highest average temperatures on record.

Every square mile of ocean contains 46,000 pieces of plastic trash.

Sea levels are predicted to be 3 feet higher in 2100.

In the last 8,000 years Earth has lost 11,000 square miles of forest.

Average U.S. house size grew from 983 sq. ft. in 1950 to 2,377 sq. ft. in 2010.

FUNNIES

Paraprosdokians

A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part.

Check out the following for examples:

- I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.
- Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.
- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
 - War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
 - Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
 - The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse always gets the cheese.
 - A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a workstation.
 - Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of a pool and throw them fish.
 - I thought I wanted a career, but it turns out I just wanted paychecks.
 - Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, "In an emergency, notify:" I always put, "DOCTOR."
 - I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.
 - Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but always check when you say the paint is wet?
 - Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they are sexy.
 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
 - You do not need a parachute to skydive. You definitely need a parachute to skydive twice.
 - The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some darned good ideas!
 - Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.
 - Hospitality: Making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.
 - I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot.
 - There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.
 - I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.
 - When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.
 - You're never too old to learn something stupid.
 - To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
 - Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
 - Some people hear voices. Some see invisible people. Others have no imagination whatsoever.
 - A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it.
- Ponderings**
- If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's the famous erudite scientist who once said: "I woke up one morning, and all of my stuff had been stolen and replaced by exact duplicates." His mind sees things differently than most of us do... Here are some of his gems:
- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
 - Half the people you know are below average.
 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
 - 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
 - A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
 - If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.
 - All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
 - I almost had a psychic girlfriend, but she left me before we met.
 - OK, so what's the speed of dark?
 - How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
 - If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
 - Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
 - When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
 - Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
 - Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.
 - I intend to live forever.... so far, so good.
 - If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
 - Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
 - My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
 - Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
 - If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
 - A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
 - Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
 - The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
 - To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
 - The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
 - The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
 - The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
 - Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.
 - If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
 - If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?
 - A motion to adjourn is always in order.
- Great quotes that still hold water...**
- "Can anybody remember when the times weren't hard and money not scarce?"
- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)*
- "A fool and his money are soon parted. What I want to know is how they got together in the first place."
- Cyril Fletcher (1913 – 2005)*

“If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some.”

Benjamin Franklin (1706 – 1790)

“The reason a lot of people do not recognize opportunity is because it usually goes around wearing overalls looking like hard work.”

Thomas Edison (1847 – 1931)

“Success is simply a matter of luck. Ask any failure.”

Earl Wilson (1907 – 1987)

“Never tell people how to do things; tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

General George Patton (1885 – 1945)

“The right people (need to be) in the right jobs.”

Otto von Bismark (1815 – 1898)

“Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes.”

Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900)

“Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm.”

Publilius Syrus (Maxim 358)

“The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man’s foot long enough to put the other somewhat higher.”

Thomas Huxley (1825 – 1895)

“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”

Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955)

“A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.”

Francis Bacon (1561 -1626)

“All mankind is divided into three classes: Those who are immovable; those who are movable; and those who move.”

Benjamin Franklin (1706 – 1790)

“Action is the foundational key to all success.”

Pablo Picasso (1871 – 1973)

“There is only one boss. The customer. And he can fire everybody in the company, from the chairman on down, simply by spending his money somewhere else.”

Sam Walton (1918 – 1992)

“If a man writes a better book, preaches a better sermon, or makes a better mousetrap than his neighbor, though he build his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)

“Showing up is eighty percent of life.”

Woody Allen (1935 –)

FRONT RANGE LUMBER COMPANY, INC.

Your best source for all your building needs!

1741 S. Wadsworth Blvd.

Lakewood, CO 80232