



Front Range Lumber Company

The news you need to make your project a success!

INDUSTRY NEWS

Economic News

Despite mixed signals on the economic front for 1st quarter results, most economists expect results for the 2nd quarter and the entire year to improve. The bounce back will be helped by job gains, rising wages and increased consumer confidence (spending). The trucking industry expects moderate growth going forward. Demand for trucking services in construction and energy was particularly strong. Labor shortages are impacting growth. Remodelers, specifically, are facing challenges as labor supplies are tight, and costs for materials, such as lumber, are rising.

In other areas, iron and steel scrap prices are increasing - hinting at increases for all steel products.

In April, the Commerce Department levied a 19.88% duty rate on Canadian lumber. This makes official what the lumber industry had expected and we had communicated for months. This duty has dramatically impacted lumber prices over those same months.

Lumber News

At this time, lumber prices remain fairly steady at this time. The impact of the Softwood Lumber Agreement has taken place, summer-type weather has settle in for the most part and mills are running products as best they can. We forecast the current pricing levels will be approximately what we see for the next 90 days or so. In other words, we feel the current prices are what we will see in a narrow range for a while.

We continue to see announcements about price increases on a broad range of other materials. We suspect metal items will be the next grouping to increase significantly. Our best advice is to request a quote – watch the expira-

tion dates and be aware that considerable price changes can be made without warning. (*see related articles*)

1984

That's the average build-date of homes in metro Denver that are being purchased by millennials. Young buyers getting older homes isn't anything new, but it used to be that the homes were cheap so the deferred maintenance was easy to afford. These older homes are maxing out budgets before the overdue maintenance projects can even be started. Millennials are renovating at a breakneck pace, but they don't have much choice based on the condition of the homes.

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

KENT'S CORNER

Got hail? At our store, we only had small, but intense, hail on May 8th causing few problems in our part of Lakewood. However, northern Lakewood, Golden, Arvada, Wheat Ridge, and Applewood got it good. New roof and 2 cars (?) for me! So my thoughts on the aftermath:

Many homeowners will still get conned no matter how many times they have been warned. In my neighborhood, planes are flying around with roofing advertisements. Ice cream trucks with roofer's names on them are dispensing free treats. My neighbor had someone uninvited on his roof "inspecting" without his permission! Personally, I would not hire someone unless they had a real office in the area for at least 5 years.

We do not sell much roofing or modern gutters. We do sell Velux skylights; if they get cleaned out of standard sizes, re-stocking should take 2 weeks or so. Velux makes laminated glass standard in their products. We do not sell (nor recommend) plastic bubble type skylights. They all were shattered in the hail. Expect big delays on getting these and difficulties in finding the correct sizes and types.

We did not hear of many windows being damaged, except for screens on the west side of houses. Vinyl windows are most vulnerable in two other places: the vinyl "glass bead" (about 5/8" wide) around the glass. This may be replaceable, if you can find the brand name of window, or it happens to match another brand's bead. The other vulnerable place is the horizontal vinyl strips in the middle and bottom face of the window. Often the angle of the hail pops holes there. I have heard of insurance adjusters saying these holes can be fixed. I disagree; patching holes may void the window's warranty and cause water drainage problems.

Of course, vinyl siding did get ripped up. We do not sell these products as they are in a world unto themselves. Try a siding supplier that specifically names *vinyl siding* as a product line. As to more common sidings, we have not heard any stories yet; but probably lots of fascia and soffit will need replacing. Grooved fascia is harder to get than in the past. Remember the standard location of the groove is 5/8" up from the bottom edge.

We drove by a HOA with a large amount of fencing that looked very strange and finally figured out why – someone had painted the cedar fence and the hail had literally knocked off divots of paint. Our advice would have been to use some of penetrating stain so even if you sustained hail damage pock marking the wood; the color/finish

would have penetrated in and not impacted the appearance as much.

My best suggestion: be careful and don't let the urgency of repairs trap you into an overly expensive or poor quality fix. I am praying that all the natural disasters are done for this year!

PROFIT SHARING

Workers' Compensation Cost Containment Certification

The Premium Cost Containment Program is an effort from the Division of Workers' Compensation to partner with employers to protect Colorado's workforce. Through this program, employers will find ways to control work-related injuries while qualifying for a workers' compensation premium discount by having a certified Safety and Loss Control Program. The Premium Cost Containment Program is an equal opportunity program meaning that there are no requirements based upon the size of the business or how many years they have been in operation. Companies large and small are all subject to the same basic six steps. Save your company some money and get signed up! Steps to becoming certified:

1. Declaration of a Safety Policy
2. Designation of a safety committee or coordinator
3. Drafting safety/loss prevention rules
4. Conducting ongoing safety/loss prevention training
5. Providing a list of designated medical providers
6. Written claims management procedures

For further resources, visit their website [noted below] or contact the Division of Workers' Compensation at (303) 318-8700.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/safety-and-loss-control>

Saving Money

Despite increasing lumber prices, we can assist you in completing your project by providing advice to lower cost products/methods without affecting the end result. In fact, in some cases we can provide many ideas to help you. A sample idea we've suggested before is using

lumber in uncommon lengths – for example, use 14s instead of 12s – the result is a cheaper, larger deck, pergola or other project.

BUILT RIGHT

Wood Siding Installation

Here's a few general tips on installing wood sidings:

On T&G siding you should not be nailing through the overlapping piece. Use the best fasteners possible. On exterior applications, preferably use stainless steel with ring or spiral threaded shanks. Use casing nails to blind nail the siding; siding or box nails to face nail. Bevel style sidings should be only used for horizontal applications only.

Horizontal or vertical applications are fine for tongue and groove type patterns. For channel rustic and log cabin varieties, the tongue edge should be installed up in horizontal applications of T&G patterns. This is also the case on T&G patterns in exterior uses.

PREPARATION. Precondition siding siding/paneling by storing in covered area 7-10 days prior to installation. Remove packaging and separate layers with spacer material for proper air circulation. This will allow the material to acclimate to the existing environment.

FINISHING. Wood characteristics must be taken into consideration prior to application of finishing material with paint or stain. Consult your local supplier for recommendations.

PRODUCT NEWS

Cedartone and Redwood Tone

We hear more and more from customers about "treated cedar, treated redwood, cedartone" and so on. This is TREATED lumber that has been stained to mimic the look of cedar or redwood. "Treated cedar" (or redwood) is a contradiction of terms. Both redwood and cedar have natural tannins to resist rot, therefore these woods don't need further treatment. Be very careful in looking at and purchasing these labelled items; some suppliers are confusing the situation with their vocabulary! BTW, **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** has the REAL deal with it comes to redwood and cedar!

Ceremonial Shovels

FRONT RANGE LUMBER sells ceremonial shovels – these brass or nickel plated shovels provide a great gift or adds a uniqueness to your major project – Present this to a dignitary (or yourself!) and make the start your project noteworthy!

Cedar – we have it!

FRONT RANGE LUMBER carries the deepest and broadest selection of cedar in the area in boards, dimension lumber, timbers, and siding. Cedar is the best choice considering cost, ease of use and wide product assortment. It is the best choice for decks, pergolas, fences and yard projects. Supplies will tighten up during late May and June. Supplies of logs flowing to the mills are small and limiting production. Mills cannot get logs out of the forest as the area still has deep snow preventing harvesting of the trees.

One final unrelated note; virtually all smooth sawn cedar was rough sawn one step before – it has been re-milled to the smooth surface.

Sustainability

Virtually all lumber is now produced under some sustainability rule or guideline. Certainly, any Canadian or American lumber is controlled by various county, state and federal restrictions and laws. Key among those rules are re-planting, responsible harvesting, biomass energy production, and limited damage to the area.

Deck Ledger Installation

See the attached flyer regarding a new product to better protect the ledger connection between the ledger and your home. It allows for superior moisture drainage by providing a space between the ledger and the building. With minimal effort and expense, you can vastly improve the longevity of your deck.

CAMO

Also included with this newsletter edition is information about the CAMO brand deck fastening system. The reasons we like this product are simple – it's simple, effective and low cost. Building a deck should not be a summer-long project – instead, it should be a job completed and enjoyed all summer long.

Garage Door Seal

One of the simplest and yet most difficult items to locate is the replacement weatherstrip around a typical home's garage door. We do stock the vinyl trim with the flexible flap to help seal the joint between your garage door and trim. This trim comes in 9' pieces in both white and brown colors and can easily be painted to match your homes exact color.

TAKING STOCK...

Blue Stain Pine

Beware of false blue stain pine products that are in the marketplace now. Some of these look-alike items are merely pine boards are literally stained to mimic the look of blue stain boards. Remember this stain is skin-deep meaning any cuts, sanding or wear will not be "blue stain" pine.

CONSUMER NEWS

Treated Lumber

The types of treated lumber available today are formulated for better safety and longevity; however treated lumber is still chemically treated. We get multiple inquiries daily asking about treated lumber uses to our knowledge are not appropriate. We remind all users:

- Treated lumber should never be used in food contact purposes. For example – NOT for BBQ, cutting tables or boards.
- Food contact extends to garden beds – don't use treated here.
- Use prudent measures after handling treated lumber – wash hands, separate clothes worn in the laundry, etc.

Rattlesnake Safety and Awareness

The end of May marks rattlesnake "rush hour" as wintering rattlesnakes emerge from hibernacula (hibernation groups) and head out for a summer of lying in wait for mice, voles, lizards and other small game.

Rattlesnakes are commonly spotted in Jeffco Open Space parks. Do your part to protect yourself, children, and pets from negative encounters with prairie rattlesnakes while enjoying the outdoors.

PREVENTION

- Wear appropriate footwear. Closed-toe shoes are best.
- Be aware of your surroundings. This means one ear bud out at all times, if you are listening to a device as you enjoy the trail.
- Leash pets and keep them on a short lead. Dogs investigate with their face. This means curious dogs are often bitten on the face, neck and chest.
- Look before you step, sit or grab. Snakes may be sunning on the trail or on a rocky ledge. They may also be tucked under rock or brush for shade.
- If you encounter a snake, practice the 30/30 rule: back away by 30 feet and give the snake 30 seconds to decide to leave. Repeat, if necessary. Throwing rocks or trying to move a snake only makes them defensive. Ask yourself, "Do I really want to engage with an angry rattlesnake?" The answer should be, "No."

FIRST AID. In the unlikely event of a rattlesnake bite, remain calm and call 911. Be prepared to provide your exact location on the trail (trail name, park name, and closest trail junction). Keep the bitten area at or below the level of the heart. Do not attempt to cut, suck, ice or otherwise mess with the bite area. Anticipate swelling and remove rings, bracelets or other items that might constrict with severe swelling. Monitor for severe allergic reactions and immediately update dispatch if you experience trouble breathing.

If a pet is bitten, the animal needs to be evacuated and will need immediate medical attention. Call ahead to make sure your vet stocks anti-venom. If they do not, they can advise of the closest location that does.

*Reprinted from "Panorama,"
Jefferson County Open Space Newsletter,
May 2017*

Belmar Summer Concerts

Once again, it's time for the City of Lakewood's *Sounds Exciting Summer Concert Series* held at Belmar Park on Wednesdays for six weeks. These concerts start on June 21st. 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/>

FUNNIES

Scotch with Two Drops of Water

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water. As the bartender gives her the drink she says, 'I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it's today....'

The bartender says, 'Well, since it's your birthday, I'll buy you a drink. In fact, this one is on me.'

As the woman finishes her drink, the woman to her right says, 'I would like to buy you a drink, too.'

The old woman says, 'Thank you. Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water.'

'Coming up,' says the bartender

As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says, 'I would like to buy you one, too.'

The old woman says, 'Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water.'

'Coming right up,' the bartender says. As he gives her the drink, he says, 'Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?'

The old woman replies, 'Sonny, when you're my age, you've learned how to hold your liquor. Holding your water, however, is a whole other issue.'

C A L E N D A R

You can count days or make every day count.

June	
6 th	D-Day (WW II)
14 th	Flag Day – fly 'em!
18 th	Fathers' Day
20 th	First day of summer
21 st	Belmar Concert
28 th	Belmar Concert
July	
4 th	Independence Day (Front Range Lumber is closed)
5 th	Belmar Concert
12 th	Belmar Concert
19 th	Belmar Concert
23 rd	Parent's Day
26 th	Belmar Concert