



Front Range Lumber Company

The news you need to make your project a success!

INDUSTRY NEWS

Lumber Prices

It's been quite a roller coaster with lumber prices over the past 16 months... and details continue to unfold constantly.

To add some perspective: going back to the March 2020 period, the lumber/home building industry was in the doldrums AND there was huge uncertainty concerning COVID. This pattern continued until late April /early May of 2020. Then, as the COVID Situation settled in for the long haul, the home improvement craze blasted off. This combined with strengthening housing markets AND perhaps most importantly, COVID had a harsh impact on the supply chain. These impacts included diminished employees at the mills, outright mill closures due to out-breaks, more limited shipping.

Well... the good old law of supply and demand quickly set in. With consumers stuck at home working on home improvement demand quickly out-paced supply and prices started to increase throughout the summer, fall and winter of 2020. Entering 2021, everyone in the industry believed the entire story was going to be product availability and it was – until (partially) May 2021. Seemingly overnight, supply in certain categories caught up (increased) at the same time that demand fell off dramatically. Again, COVID was the major contributor in the demand drop as the pandemic eased (and more vaccinated), consumers felt free to travel and dine out and other “diversions”. Again, supply and demand ruled the day and prices fell even quicker than their meteoric rise.

The “yeah-buts” then start when we examine the current “lumber market”. The media is painting the story that ALL lumber prices are dropping. This is certainly not true across the board (pun intended). Overall, the supply chain is

running fairly lean. This means sooner or later wholesalers and retailers will need to step in and buy more simply to fill their shelves.

Dieticians say the more a food is processed the healthier it is. More fats, more salt and less nutritional. Likewise, one general statement we can make is the more “processed” (manufactured) a product is, the greater the likelihood of higher prices in effect, price increases to come and longer wait times to get what you need.

It might be beneficial to BRIEFLY review the status by category:

FRAMING LUMBER very much dropped, current levels are sitting at/below those before all the action started!

OSB just starting to drop, we anticipate significant downward movements.

CONST. PLYWOODS have been lowering price levels for several in June and July – however they are now less expensive than OSB products and availability has improved dramatically.

REDWOOD has not changed lately, pricing remains up over last year, mainly due to a stock shortage, especially on better grades. Prospects for decreases anytime soon are slim.

CEDAR is well over last year's levels with no significant decreases in sight. Although the supply side has improved, there remains many other forces at work to keep prices at their levels, including tariffs on Canadian lumber, log supplies and log quality.

TREATED has been sinking in price for several weeks, look for more decreases slowly over time and going into winter.

EWP (aka *engineered wood products*) has loads of issues here: high demand, shortage of specialty adhesives and basic costs of manufacturing – among others. We believe there are more price increases (yes, plural) to come. The EWP category includes glulams, LVLs

and I-joists. Supplies of I-joists remain very limited. We believe there will a “new normal” regarding pricing in this category (any others).

STEEL PRODUCTS: most everything in metal is up and still increasing.

PINE BOARDS supply is improving, but still not even “hand-to-mouth”

BEETLE KILL, in better quality (in this product, that means a good amount of blue coloring), availability is very limited and prices increase with every shipment we receive. We have been typically waiting 3-4 months for our orders AND then get shipped different from the order.

SIDING/TRIM, while the prices are relatively stable and generally have not increased by large amounts, many items are simply not available without very long lead times.

HARDWOODS beat to a different drummer; most hardwoods are creeping up in price. Hardwood plywoods continue to be in short supply, especially Baltic birch, which is imported.

TREX (and similar) announced a 5-8% increase in August. This is unusual, but it is an indicator of increased freight costs as this is the reason named. Freight costs are impacted most everything – shortage of both trucks and drivers – from what information we get this situation will only get worse for at least 5-10 years.

FRLCO NEWS

Privacy

Remember, we don't ask for your email and other personal info with which to send emails all the time. In addition, we do not sell/share your information. At least from our end, we have to *unsubscribe* from dozens of sites every day that send unsolicited emails to us.

We're a Lumberyard

We're a lumberyard, we don't sell phone cords, flowers, candy or magazines. As we get around ourselves for our own personal shopping, we find it amazing, especially at the cash register how customers have to "run the gauntlet" of items which don't seem particularly related to that store business. We take pride on being a lumberyard and focus on fulfilling your needs in those categories.

Delivery

We constantly surprise customer with our quick delivery timeframe – generally next day basis or better! **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** \$50 delivery charge remains THE most competitive in the area. Call us for fuller details. We have the expertise and equipment to get materials to you instead of you struggling with long and heavy materials in your pickup truck or minivan.

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
- See us on INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/frontrangelumber/
- And, of course, there's a wealth of information on our website: WWW.FRLCO.COM

KENT'S CORNER

One of my personal interests is supporting native bees. To that end, I have a large number of native plants, bushes and grasses around my home in Wheat Ridge. (This is a huge contrast to many of my neighbors with 100% grass, which is like a desert to bees.) Honeybees are important to pollinating trees and ground crops (think almonds, tomatoes, etc.) and they are in decline due to habitat loss, climate change, and invasive insect species. This makes any type of bee important to us.

Native bees can live in the soil or tree holes. They are small and can be hard to observe on flowers as they may scare away easily. Like most bees, they will not harm you unless threatened. It gives me great satisfaction to see them in my garden!

We are taking pride in new plantings at our new Ft. Lupton location, especially our trees. When we built on the spacious six-acre lot, raising the grade and creating drainage pathways, it left a lot of hard dirt for storage, some of which we enacted a nice beautification plan. So far about 25 good size trees (oaks, maples, Colorado Blue Spruce and others) are planted on our property. We hope you enjoy seeing more than just lots of lumber here, and we know that the birds will enjoy all the fruits of the serviceberries and Washington Hawthorns. It will be interesting to see these grow over the coming years.

BUILT RIGHT

Go-To

Certainly, with lumber running up as high as they did (some types remaining there), you start to wonder, but... Lumber and other wood products remain the "go-to" building materials. Lumber remains the most economical, widespread, versatile, natural, renewable, requiring few/easy tools and lightweight product to use. Think of having to use steel when building a deck. It's heavy, requires welding and special expertise. Betcha it's hot in the sun and slippery in the snow!!

Wood Decking

There's lots of choices in wood decking:

- 2x6 smooth sawn Western Red Cedar
- 2x6 B grade redwood
- 5/4x6 Western Red Cedar
- 5/4x6 Alaskan Yellow Cedar
- Treated

Of course, there's Trex for a maintenance free option of composite decking.

TREX

Simply, we offer Trex samples for free in all colors. In an effort to make a buck, the "boxes" will sell you samples. We believe we understand this product better than other suppliers. This includes offering samples in all the colors available. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** continues to believe Trex is the market leader. As a visual design aid for our customers, we've had free samples of Trex since the very beginning of Trex –

they're on our Lakewood's location front porch. They've stood the test of time (AND some rough handling).

Penofin

We've addressed Penofin before, however an important detail touched on but not explained better. Any exterior wood product must have a penetrating sealer applied for the best protection and longevity. Any topical wax, stain or paint creates just a film on the surface of the wood. The penetrating actions of a product like Penofin far better protect the wood from drying out and provide superior UV coverage. One of the best times to protect/refinish your deck is in the fall so you can still enjoy your outdoor spaces during those supposedly many "winter" days where it sure is nice to be outside!

PROFIT SHARING

Credits

Credits to a credit card take forever, this is not **FRONT RANGE LUMBER**'s computer or lack of processing – nor is this issue unique to **FRONT RANGE LUMBER**. It certainly seems ironic that any purchase goes against your account almost instantaneously now but the credits creep much slower. The best way to prevent any delay is to plan your purchases as best as possible to minimize any possible return. Complain to your credit card holder!

PRODUCT NEWS

Linx Pergolas

Linx brand pergola components provide an extremely quick and simple way to erect a pergola using standardized elements. The matte black finished hardware comes in different versions (post base, corner brackets, T brackets, etc.). The fittings are available in both 4x4 and 6x6 sizes. The system requires very few tools and with the help of a couple of friends you can be celebrating under your new pergola in a matter of an hour or two. There are fabric shades and hammocks available to mate with the system. The correlating posts (STIX) come in 8', 10' and 12' lengths to be used as both posts and beams. The hardware is sized only for the matching Stix posts or smooth sawn lumber.

Treated Lumber

Treated lumber is “injected” under pressure with chemicals to make it rot and insect resistant. Generally, the solution used is fairly colorless, some the treating plants have always used a stain to make it “different. Originally green in color, most treated lumber now is in a brown or red color.

Certainly, treated lumber can be left as is, but as you desire treated lumber can be finished to something that matches your needs/desires better. There are a few considerations:

- If STAINING, you may want to experiment with a scrap or an unseen area to test the end result. Since treated lumber is ALREADY some color, adding another color will result in a third color: think white plus black ends up grey.
- Unless the treated lumber is KDAT (kiln dried after treatment) or similar, the wood contains a lot of moisture that may interfere with any finish you apply. Be sure to check the wood for moisture before applying finish. If water is soaked up by the wood, you’re probably good to go; if the water remains on the wood, let the wood dry more before finishing.
- Be sure to apply a UV protective finish. Watch as many “popular” finishes are just a surface coat or waxy type. We recommend any product which penetrates into the wood. A penetrating finish is longer lasting and slows the drying of the wood pieces you apply it to.
- Any film forming finish (including paints) can crack, peel and delaminate from the wood.
- Obviously apply finish to a dry, clean surface, follow all manufacturer’s instructions carefully for best results. We recommend using a cheap bug-sprayer to apply a finish. You avoid cleaning brushes, etc. and the application can be more uniform.
- Virtually all finishes require/recommend wiping/removing any extra finish to avoid glossy areas.

As an aside, don’t be fooled – redwood “tone” or cedar “tone” refers to the color NOT the type of wood that was

treated. In their heartwood, redwood and cedar ALREADY have the natural tannins to resist rot and insects and don’t require additional “treating”. We also stock some sizes of treated logs. It might be best to call us for details.

Hardboard Sidings

Probably now is a great time for a refresher on the man-made sidings.

HARDBOARD siding is known as Masonite, hardboard or composite. It looks like particle board (of sorts) because it’s simply resins and sawdust.

STRANDBOARD is an OSB (waferboard) substrate. This is coming on as a replacement for hardboard.

CEMENTOUS is a cement and fiberglass strand man-made siding.

Over 20 years ago, Masonite brand supplied most of the hardboard siding in the Colorado area (and much of the nation). They have since ceased production and matching those sidings became difficult. LP and Truwood are the two brands currently in the marketplace. In 2020, LP announced they were discontinuing many patterns and switching entirely to the strand version. Supplies of siding have been in disarray ever since. Moreover, as they discontinued many patterns, matching has become even more problematic. We always advise to be as flexible as possible and plan your purchases well ahead. Also, see James Hardie section, below.

TAKING STOCK...

Availability

As discussed above, availability has been an issue and it will continue to be one. There remain loads of product availability issues in a broad spectrum of products. This situation is in a great flux of change. We encourage you to plan ahead, expect the “most-important item” may hold up your entire project, be flexible in your needs to avoid these shortages. One easy category to name as problematic are goods imported from overseas. Evidently the ports are clogged and moving slower than molasses. Another great example is doors, windows and moldings. Lead times on almost all windows is closer to four months. On doors – eight weeks. Moldings – if it’s not in stock – it’s anyone’s

guess. All of these categories are also still increasing in price. We continue to have to plan 2-12 weeks ahead to maintain a good flow of incoming material.

Special Items

Using wavy edge cedar siding as an example, **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** not only recognizes the item, we also stock many of these difficult-to-locate items. Special orders are not a hassle to be tolerated here, we source many items after customers have searched high and low elsewhere. By the way, the mill known for making wavy edge cedar siding (Haida Skirl) has announced they are discontinuing their production. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** has the contacts to get boards milled to match despite this handicap.

James Hardie

Just announced they are discontinuing all Hardi-Trim items in both regular primed and their pre-finished lines. Therefore, other than what is in the pipeline, there is none! Effective immediately, this is /was quite a bombshell. Especially in light of widespread production issues with all brands of siding and exterior trim, this action will most definitely crimp the timing on a lot of jobs!!

WHAT’S COOKIN’?

Hopefully you’re making the most out of peach season. Supposedly this is a good year for Colorado’s own Palisade peaches. Here’s a few general ideas:

- Make a peach salsa, using peaches instead of tomatoes with the balance of your favorite recipe.
- Build a bed of arugula, grill some peach halves. Top the arugula with a peach half (or two!) and a section of burrata cheese with some olive oil and a reduced balsamic vinegar dressing.
- Grill some peach sections, plate up with some of your favorite cheese (mine is blue cheese), some basil leaves from your garden and a sprinkling of olive oil.
- Combine some red onion, tomatoes, corn kernels and sliced peaches. Add some tarragon, top with a good dollop of plain yogurt to which you’ve added salt, pepper and soy sauce.

CONSUMER NEWS

Graffiti

The best way to fight graffiti is to paint over it, clean it up/off or otherwise remove it as soon as possible according to experts. The reason is similar to the *no porch light* idea. In the dark, crooks think they can get away with more. If well-lit, your house is a great deterrent against this type of activity. “Tagging” is a cumulative “artform” of sorts. These “artists” want not only to stake out their territory but show off their creativity. If you give them an inch, they’ll take a mile.

Shrinkflation

Many products commonly use shrinking package sizes to maintain a certain cost to consumers. A good example is breakfast cereal where over the years, the content weight went from say 20 ounces to 18.1. – obviously less product can be sold at a lower cost. The actual box size may or may not shrink also. Otherwise known as “downsizing” – but by whatever name it’s really a sneaky price increase. Consumers watch prices and they may catch a price increase. What they may not catch is the net-weight or content shrink. Corporations may try to steer the topic away from the lower content amounts and instead tout more choices, better for the environment, better quality or standardization. In the lumber industry, it’s not quite so easy. There are building codes, there are specific sizes required. There’s the coordination with related hardware. Wood needs to be 10’ long (or 12’ or...) – let’s just say, we don’t think you’re going to see shrinkflation on wood products anytime soon!

Passwords & Cybersecurity

Complex passwords have been advised as wiser and users have been encouraged to include a variety of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters. However, newer studies are telling us passwords utilizing a complicated string of numbers and characters are hard to remember and may be easy to hack. These studies found that users are more likely to engage in unsafe cybersecurity practices if they are required to come up with complex passwords. A study revealed over 75 percent of those

involved used tricks to remember their passwords which then compromised their E-security, such as using the same password for multiple sites. Brute force is one of the most common methods hackers find passwords. A computer program can quickly guess character combinations until the process reveals the entire password. Even complex passwords, if they are not long enough, can be easily guessed this way. As a result, IT security specialists are gradually moving away from recommending complex passwords and instead advising passwords which would appear simpler in nature but are harder for hackers to unearth. For example, using a password such as “sunlightautumnleaves” is easy to remember and long enough to prevent a easy/quick fruitful brute force attack, unlike “G7d71\$*S.”

It doesn’t take a security expert to realize that for each character in a password, there are only so many possible numbers/letters/ and special characters to be used. A short password then means less effort to determine each “successful” character in each position as opposed to a longer password. Let’s face it – all things equal a hacker is going to chase the easy, low-hanging fruit first. A long password means more effort – who wants more work!

So what should we do???

This is not recommending you should have a simple password or no password at all. You should have long and different passwords for different accounts, but ones that are not so overly complicated whereby you do shortcuts that create an exposure. There are multiple apps available to assist you in keeping track of those passwords/usernames. We like “KEEPER” [<https://keepersecurity.com>]. However and repeating: according to the most recent and ongoing studies in cybersecurity, it is better to create access information which are simple enough that you can remember them without tracking them, but still remain tight enough to stymie crooks and hackers. It is important to note that password managers do not guarantee that your passwords will be safe from cybercriminals. If those “vaults” are broken into, all your information is conveniently in one place for them to steal.

Passwords are best when easy to remember so you are able to control them without writing down or relying on a password manager. This latest research has questioned whether complex passwords keep you safe, but a few password “best practices” remain in effect.

It now seems most important to make your password as long as possible. The longer the password, the more secure you are from brute force and other hacker methods. You also should not use common words or phrases, quotes, song lyrics or your own personal information that would be easy for a hacker to look up.

One of the most important ways to protect yourself from a hack is using unique passwords for every single account you have. Reusing a strong password on different accounts/sites leaves you as exposed as using a weak password. It’s a hassle, but a necessary step in preventing a successful cyberattack on your account. Yet another reason why simple but long is superior to short and complex.

HUMOR

What’s a clock’s favorite time? 6:30, hands down!

Why shouldn’t you eat a clock or watch? It would be time consuming!

C A L E N D A R

You can count days or make every day count.

AUGUST

30 | Frankenstein Day

SEPTEMBER

4 | International Bacon Day

6 | Labor Day
(Front Range Lumber will be closed)

7 | Front Range Lumber will be OPEN normal hours

11 | Patriot Day

12 | Grandparent’s Day

19 | International *Talk Like A Pirate* Day

22 | First Day of Autumn

25 | National Comic Book Day

OCTOBER

11 | Columbus Day

29 | Frankenstein Friday

31 | Halloween—*watch for those kids!!*