



Front Range Lumber Company

The news you need to make your project a success!

INDUSTRY NEWS

Lead Times

Windows and doors are leading the pack as far time frame with very extended lead times. In most cases, any window is taking the better part of 2-4 MONTHS for delivery. Obviously, this cannot be construed as a good bragging right. It does remind us of the ramifications of a long lead time:

- You cannot make changes or you may get put at the back of the line.
- Budget impacts – perhaps the wait isn't planned for or causes ripple effects elsewhere in your project.
- You may be financing everything else while waiting for back-ordered or long lead time items.
- If there's a mistake or damage on an item, it requires a long lead time to resolve/replace/repair.
- It simply holds up jobs. We know of many jobs on hold because of windows not arriving – holds up the siding install, drying in the building shell and so on.

Freight Difficulties

According to the numbers we're seeing the nation is short 160,000 drivers. Aside from the well-publicized difficulties at the ports for imports, there are major issues moving merchandise within the country on land. We see delays of 2-4 weeks consistently. Short term – the added loads of holiday items (Christmas trees and gift items) and the weather factor only add to the hurdle height. Freight is a huge consideration in the cost structure of heavy and bulky items like so many building materials are.

New Normal

You're probably just as tired of the expression as we are, but the reality is in many items/categories we are experiencing a new normal of both price levels and availability.

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
- 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

As I write this (early November), it is forecast to be 70 degrees with a teeny chance of a snowflake or two tonight. True story: I was still picking tomatoes in my Wheat Ridge yard in mid-November! Damnedest winter I can remember in 61 years.

A couple thoughts to help reduce product misunderstandings:

- People call and ask for "hardyboard" siding. We do not know if they mean "hardboard", which is sawdust/glue or chips of wood, OR James Hardie cementitious sidings. There is no such thing as hardyboard.
- We also hear "shake shingles". It is one or the other. Cedar shakes are hand-split, thicker and will vary in thickness. Cedar shingles are machine sawn, thinner and consistent,

about 3/8 inch thick. Both will vary in width from piece to piece.

- Many think that lumberyards carry a higher grade of 2x wood (like 2x6) that is suitable for furniture products like tables. This is generally not true in an off-the-shelf manner. Pine is rarely available in these sizes. Even if it is, it will probably not meet their expectations. Remember that higher grade lumber, like #1, denotes higher strength, not necessarily "better" appearance. And splitting and bowing that might be tolerable in-home construction is disastrous for a table!
- Describing how a door or window opens is confusing. Architects on their blueprints, and window companies describe openings as they are viewed from outside. So, if you say "opens into the room from the right", we will need clarification.

BUILT RIGHT

Moldings

Moldings may seem like a pretty stable product category, however looking at them over the years, there have been huge changes. Among them are:

- Oak moldings are almost a thing of the past.
- Mahogany molding were quite common in the 1950s; they are a bigger dinosaur than oak.
- Even solid pine moldings have lost out to primed finger-joint pine or primed MDF types. This reflects interiors which are painted instead of stained/clear coated trim. This also represents a cost savings used now – saving in both the trim cost and finishing effort/cost.

We wish you a safe and prosperous 2022!

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- Rounded styles are slowly giving way to more milled patterns. In other words, more angles and corners than rounded/eased edges/patterns.
- While MDF (refined particle board) moldings are very popular, we discourage their use anywhere where water might contact the trim. For example, even wet mopping a kitchen floor can damage MDF as any type of particle swells with moisture.

Formaldehyde

We get asked about formaldehyde commonly. Bottom line: government regulations have changed over the past few years. Specifically in plywoods, ESPECIALLY for any interior product (Baltic, MDF, ACXs, hardwood plywoods, etc.), there is no ADDED formaldehyde and production steps have been taken to reduce the amount of “natural” formaldehyde in the wood.

“Uppers”

We’ve addressed the shortages and availability of many products in this newsletter. Here, we speak to the availability of better grades, known in the industry as “uppers”. Regardless of the type of wood - pine, redwood, cedar, hardwoods and others, any board that is more/all free of defect (including knots) will be harder to produce and will be more expensive. Based on the current market conditions, we only expect availability to continue to be paramount in importance.

PROFIT SHARING

Tongue and Groove Fir

Front Range Lumber does stock 1x6 tongue and groove knotty Douglas fir. This is a great “rustic” alternative when you’re seeking a warmer look, more color variation, and less uniform grain patterns than pine. While pine is a great choice, it does present much more of an even “blonde” appearance. This Douglas fir product can range from the blonde creamy coloring of pine to a medium brown; with hints of redness and grey at times. Price-wise, it’s a little less expensive than knotty pine in the same size.

Weld Strike Team investigation yields 8 recovered vehicles, \$140K in stolen tools

A recent Weld County Sheriff’s Office Strike Team investigation has resulted in the recovery of eight vehicles and more than \$140,000 in tools stolen from jurisdictions throughout the Denver metro area.

One of the suspects in the case, is in the Weld County Jail on \$63,000 bond stemming from three active cases unrelated to the Strike Team investigation. Charges are pending and will likely to be referred to other jurisdictions as investigators continue to connect stolen property to open investigations throughout the Denver area.

A second suspect in the case, is in the Adams County Jail also on charges unrelated to the Strike Team investigation. Additional charges are pending against her as well.

The ongoing investigation began Sept. 1 when Weld County Sheriff’s Office deputies responded to a self-storage business east of Longmont to conduct a follow-up investigation into an assault case involving the suspects. While at the business, deputies discovered two suspicious vehicles parked near a storage unit rented by the suspects.

A check of the vehicles through the Colorado Crime Information Center revealed they had been reported stolen out of Firestone and Westminster. Deputies contacted the owners to return the vehicles. While doing inventories, both owners noted the vehicles were packed with tools and other items that didn’t belong to them.

Deputies recommended the case be forwarded to the Strike Team, a specialized unit that hunts fugitives and conducts investigations into crime rings. The Strike Team later executed a search warrant at the self-storage business, recovering eight stolen vehicles worth an estimated \$113,000, one trailer and approximately \$140,725 in stolen tools and other high-ticket items.

To date, investigators have connected recovered property to more than a dozen active criminal cases, including one out of the Estes Park Police Department, two out of Westminster, two out of Firestone, four out of Weld County and five

out of Longmont. Property also has been connected to two active Denver Police Department cases, including an investigation into 11 vehicles stolen from Denver International Airport.

Investigators continue to try to connect property to other active cases. Strike Team members also are trying to reunite owners with their stolen tools, but most are marked simply with the person’s initials. Although that might be helpful if a lost tool is found by a coworker at a jobsite, it makes it nearly impossible for investigators to identify the owner.

The sheriff’s office would like to remind residents to take the following steps to prevent and protect themselves from tool theft:

- Take an inventory of your tools, noting the serial numbers for high-ticket items.
- Mark tools with your name, phone number and company logo for easy identification.
- Do not leave tools out in the open at the jobsite or in the bed of your pickup.
- Store tools securely, whether that’s in a storage container at the site or by bringing tools into your garage at the end of the workday.
- If storing tools onsite, be sure to purchase high-quality locks.
- Be wary of your surroundings and report suspicious people and activity by calling 911.

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is asked to call the Weld County Sheriff’s Office at (970) 356-4015 or Northern Colorado Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Tips can also be submitted through the Crime Stoppers website at www.crimeshurt.com. Those submitting tips through Crime Stoppers that lead to the arrest and filing of charges on a suspect(s) may be eligible for a cash reward.

The reason we told the long version of the story is increase awareness and provide suggestions on how NOT to become a victim.

PRODUCT NEWS

Hardie Trim

With virtually no warning, James Hardie announced various product line changes, with the perhaps most important – dropping all trim sizes. This placed even more pressure on other siding/exterior trim manufacturers who are already far behind in production. Most siding and exterior trim products are on extensive allocation – and despite ordering far ahead, delivery promises from these manufacturers are NOT being kept. PLAN AHEAD (where have you heard that before?).

Siding/Exterior Trim

To continue with the topic of sidings and exterior trims, it might be beneficial to look at what the major milestones in this product segment have been over the years from our perspective:

- Early 1990s – Masonite, the company that literally supplied most hardboard siding to the area, ceased production.
- 2000s – Cementous types (like James Hardie) arrive in the market.
- 2020 – LP stops production of all “fiber” type sidings, transitions to “strand” version, simultaneously eliminating many sizes/types. Even the wood texture pattern of the Strand products is slightly different, meaning matching older siding is difficult.
- 2021 – All suppliers are currently on some sort of allocation to their customers.

The bottom line is a very restricted supply chain with demand at relatively high levels.

Choices

In wood stains, wood types, decking colors and railing options, there are many colors of the rainbow – way too many choices!!

Our recommendation is to not get sucked into ALL the choices, restrict yourself to “reality”. A great example is if your house is painted grey, brown decking simply may not be a real contender.

Trex

Trex Company has announced preliminary information regarding their products for 2022. We expect no/few product changes in the line-up. It does appear there will be another price increase effective in January of 2022. Higher freight costs is the largest “current” culprit, see our article concerning freight.

TAKING STOCK...

Shortages

Like so many other industries, we continue to see lots of product shortages. It’s really gotten far too extensive of a list to enumerate here; however, even if we rattle off the lengthy list, the situation constantly changes. Our two best suggestions are:

- Plan far ahead with flexibility in your needs
- CALL us for the most up-to-date information.

Allocations

Plan ahead, strangest things (metal and cedar shims)

We anticipate little to no winter catch-up and even if the manufacturer’s catch up – there will be little left to actually build inventories. For example, composite decking sales are much higher in the “summer” part of the year, but production is somewhat flat through-out the year. Therefore, manufacturers need to build up inventories to meet the peak demand during the “winter”. If they don’t have this build-up, shortages are inevitable again the next season. Many of what might be considered the strangest things to be in short supply, ARE. A great example is that both cedar and metal shims are very tough to come by!

18/20’ Material

Very few lumberyards carry the diversity of materials which Front Range Lumber carries in stock. This extends to many items which we stock 18 and 20’ lengths. Some of these items include treated 2x, redwood in both 1x and 2x, rough sawn cedar in 2x, 2x framing lumber and others.

Plan Ahead

(where have you heard that before?) – but we repeat ourselves.

Cedar

Cedar products for the most part continue to slowly climb in cost. There are exceptions in a few items where costs have dropped. This is due to: higher log costs, additional duties placed on imports, freight issues and higher costs throughout the supply chain. Availability has improved on most items with fence pickets being the major exception. Of course, we have 18 and 20’ in 2x thicknesses. The latest hit has been an additional duty (tax) on imports – All western red cedar comes from Vancouver Island, Canada.

Timbers

Note most of our STOCKED inventory 6x6 (8’ and longer) is 100% FOHC - free of heart center. This means the timber has been cut so as to NOT include what used to be the center of the tree. Any timber that DOES have the center of the tree will crack and twist far more than those that don’t. The cracking will radiate out from that tree center as the timber dries out. Therefore, our FOHC timber perform better in such uses as pergolas and deck posts. Of course, any wood can still warp, split, twist and crack, but a FOHC timber will generally do so far less.

Naturally this better version of timbers comes at a small additional cost, but to avoid the huge cracks that are inevitable that small difference sure seems worth it!

WHAT’S COOKIN’?

Simple is good... a quick tasty salad made with items you have handy, such as leafy lettuce topped with Granny Smith apples, nuts and hard cheese with a simple vinaigrette dressing.

CONSUMER NEWS

How To Call 911 in the Wilderness

- Stay calm and speak clearly.
- Get critical info communicated first – like your location and that it’s an emergency!
- Use the compass app to find your latitude and longitude coordinates.

- iPhone users, be aware of Siri.
- Send a text message - be concise!
- Enable automatic location sharing.
- Turn off your phone to conserve power.
- Find the best coverage.

Personal Safety Tips

Everyone should take 5 minutes to read this. It may save your life or a loved one's life. Crucial because of recent abductions in daylight hours, refresh yourself of these things to do in an emergency situation... This is for you, and for you to share with your spouse, your children, everyone you know. After reading these 9 crucial tips, forward them to someone you care about. It never hurts to be careful in this crazy world we live in.

- Tip from Tae Kwon Do: The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do!
- Learned this from a tourist guide in New Orleans. If a robber asks for your wallet and/or purse, do not hand it over. Toss it away from you.... chances are that he is more interested in your wallet and/or purse than you, and he will go for the wallet/purse. Run like mad in the other direction!
- If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back tail lights and stick your arm out the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you, but everybody else will. This has saved lives.
- Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and just sit (doing their checkbook, or making a list, etc. **DON'T DO THIS!** The predator will be watching you, and this is the perfect opportunity for him to get in on the passenger side, put a gun to your head, and tell you where to go. As soon as you get into your car, lock the doors and leave. If someone is in the car with a gun to your head, gun the engine and speed into anything, wrecking the car. Your air bag will save you. If the person is in the back seat, they will get the worst of it. As soon as the car crashes bail out and run. It is better than having them find your body in a remote location.

- A few notes about getting into your car in a parking lot, or parking garage: A.) Be aware: look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor, and in the back seat B) If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door. Most serial killers attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars. C) Look at the car parked on the driver's side of your vehicle, and the passenger side. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest your car, you may want to walk back into the mall, or work, and get a guard/policeman to walk you back out. **IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.** (And better paranoid than dead.)
- ALWAYS take the elevator instead of the stairs. (Stairwells are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot. This is especially true at NIGHT!). Get your exercise in a safer place.
- If the predator has a gun and you are not under his control, ALWAYS RUN! The predator will only hit you (a running target) 4 in 100 times; And even then, it most likely WILL NOT be a vital organ. RUN, Preferably in a zig-zag pattern!
- As women, we are always trying to be sympathetic: STOP It may get you raped, or killed. Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a good-looking, well-educated man, who ALWAYS played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked "for help" into his vehicle or with his vehicle, which is when he abducted his next victim.
- Someone told me her friend heard a crying baby on her porch the night before and she called the police because it was late and she thought it was weird. The police told her "Whatever you do, DO NOT open the door." The lady then said that it sounded like the baby had crawled near a window, and she was worried that it would crawl to the street and get run over. The policeman said, "We already have a unit on the way, whatever you do, DO NOT open the door." He told her that they think a

serial killer has a baby's cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes thinking that someone dropped off a child.

HUMOR

Why do they only pack 239 beans in a can?? Because any more would be too far-ty!

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You can count days or make every day count.

| November | |
|------------------|--|
| 25 th | Thanksgiving Day (Front Range Lumber will be closed) |
| 26 th | Front Range Lumber will open at 7AM (regular hours) |
| 28 th | Hanukkah begins |
| December | |
| 21 st | Winter solstice – shortest day of the year |
| 24 th | Christmas Eve (Front Range Lumber closes at noon) |
| 25 th | Christmas Day (Front Range Lumber will be closed) |
| 27 th | Front Range Lumber will open at 7AM (regular hours) |
| 26 th | Kwanzaa (through Jan 1) |
| 31 st | New Year's Eve (Front Range Lumber closes at noon) |
| January 2020 | |
| 1 st | New Year's Day (Front Range Lumber will be closed) Happy New Year!! |
| 3 rd | Front Range Lumber will open at 7AM (regular hours) |