



Front Range Lumber Company

The news you need to make your project a success!

INDUSTRY NEWS

Lumber Pricing

It's been a wild couple of years with pricing on all varieties of wood products—*up, down and all-around!* In framing lumber, construction plywood and OSB, prices continue to drift downward through August, September, and into early October. This decrease continues despite strong demand, increasing freight rates, mills suspending production (reducing supply) and a bevy of other reasons that SHOULD, in fact, be pushing prices upward.

For EWP (I-joists and LVL), there's talk of another decrease in price, however, we believe a new "normal" will be prices much higher than what they were two-three years ago and doubt they will ever fall again to those pre-pandemic price levels.

Cedar has decreased in price substantially over the past 2-3 months. Leading the charge is 5/4x6 decking, which over the past two years was in the stratosphere. It has since resumed its very competitive price level compared to composites and other wood options. The cedar items that have not decreased in price are similar to many other categories – better grades (clears and related) are holding firm in price or actually still increasing!

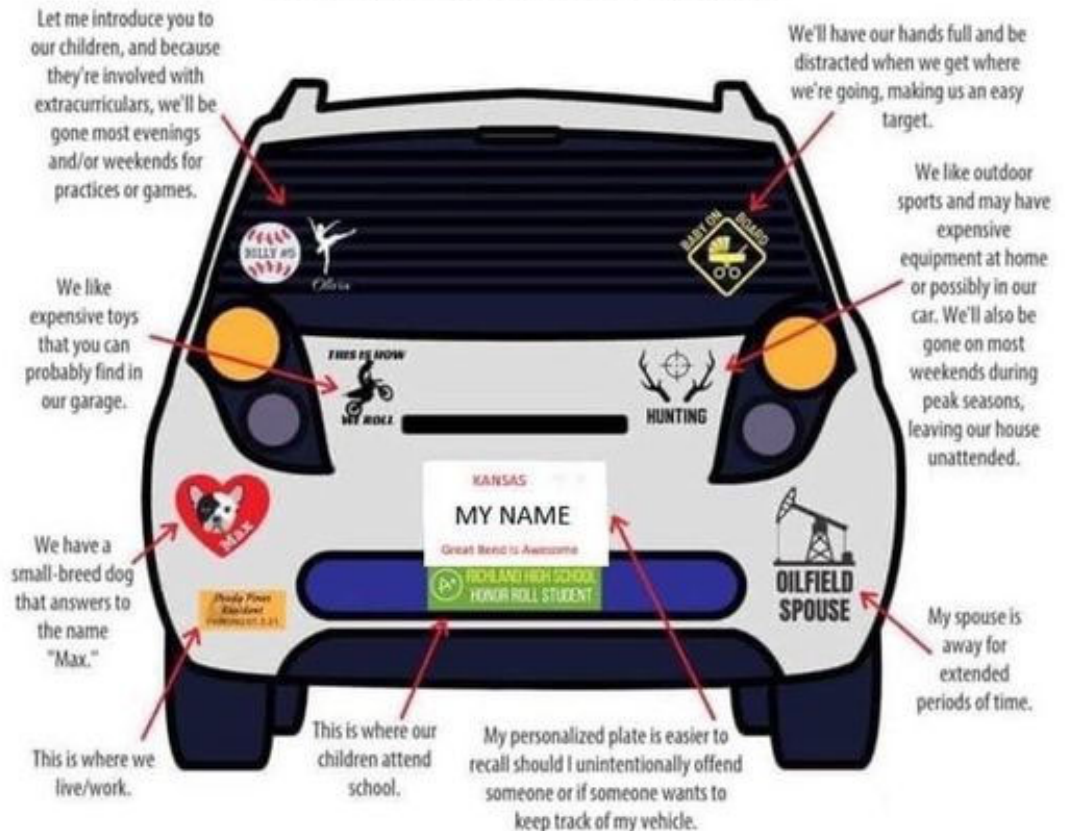
We expect fencing pickets to continue to slide in price over the winter and into 2023.

Our take on "supply chain problems" is simply the world (literally) has become so interconnected and reliant on smooth operations and anything that upsets the apple cart creates a ripple throughout the chain. Contributing to supply chain factors include just-in-time inventories, outsourcing components, offshoring and varying wage scales across the world.

When something goes wrong somewhere, there's quite a ripple effect throughout the whole process. Supply of all types of adhesives continue to be hit-or-miss (at best). We are hearing that imported items will continue to increase in price and experience supply chain issues. We just received notice after-the-fact of an increase on hardboard siding price, indicative of the fact that both prices are still increasing AND VERY late notice of upcoming price changes.

Be Careful What You Advertise About Yourself!

What information are you DRIVING around?



KENT'S CORNER

Several topics today... Hurricane Ian just passed. I have family in Tampa, Florida, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Besides lots of wind and rain, they and their houses are OK. I hope all of your friends and family are safe.

People ask us for advice on what to use on their trailer beds. There are high end products like ship lapped apitong. This is a tough Asian wood, commonly used for truck flooring. Most are looking for something cheaper and easier to come by, so you have two real choices: plain construction lumber or treated lumber. How to decide what to use? I think that the most important thing is whether you think it will get beat up (requiring replacement again) or rot first. The treated wood is Southern Yellow Pine locally, and fairly hard, but may experience more splitting and cupping in our arid climate. Construction lumber is a bit cheaper and you do not have pesticides that some may object to.

I get asked about interior wood windowsills regularly. Some people think that you just go buy one that is already cut to fit, it will match the thickness, curves and design of their old one. Sorry, it's not that easy. Is it 3/4" or 1" thick? You can use MDF or a plain pine board or, if 1" thick, I think that 5/4 (pronounced "five-quarters") poplar is a good choice. It will need to be milled specially.

I have been fixing some outside paint problems on my house recently. Following my own preaching, I looked at a couple of YouTube videos by pros about caulking. Am I the only one that did not know that you should cut the nozzle square and not at an angle? Also, you should hold the caulk gun at a 90 degree angle to the surface, and never use your finger to smooth the caulk? I tried it and agree; I will get better with more practice.

Enjoy the pleasant fall that we are having so far!

FRLCO NEWS

Curbside Pickup

Based on the types of material we sell, "curbside" pickup poses extra challenges for numerous building materials. These include the length, weight, awkwardness, and overall size. Many customers simply may not have the equipment to carry their purchases – one of the many reasons we offer delivery service at a nominal cost. Then consider the alternatives to protect merchandise from theft or the weather until you arrive. Certainly, space constraints factor in. Most items we sell are difficult to handle unless there's adequate assistance. Finally, many items may require a forklift to load.

Fort Lupton

Speaking of space, we invite you to visit our Fort Lupton location. But even if you don't go there, this newer location can help you. Let's face it, our Lakewood location is cramped and we can't carry everything there. Fort Lupton allows us to carry more inventory, a broader variety of items and additional ones which we can't handle in Lakewood. For example, need a 6x6-20' fir post? Although we simply don't have the room at Lakewood for these, we do stock them regularly at Fort Lupton. We can readily move material back and forth between the stores to either deliver to your job or for you to pick up. This means faster response times on those hard-to-find items, while providing a buffer inventory to tide us over on items temporarily out.

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

TAKING STOCK...

Timbers

While many timbers we stock are only at our Fort Lupton location (we can readily deliver or "transfer" to our Lakewood store), we do carry a broader assortment than most other suppliers. We just added 8x8-12 rough sawn fir and 6x6-20 smooth sawn fir recently to our mix. See our website for a chart of the sizes we stock. And while we are talking about timbers...

Temporary Power Poles

Whether it's a:

- 4x4-16 Douglas fir
- 4x4-16 treated
- 4x6-16 smooth Douglas fir
- 6x6-16 smooth Douglas fir
- 6x6-16 treated
- And a few others....

...we have your temporary power pole need covered.

LVL

FRONT RANGE LUMBER stocks LVL (microlams) in 5-1/2" to 18" heights. Few other suppliers can respond to your needs in this category as well as us.

5 x 10? Yes!

We get at least a few requests every week for 5x10 plywood and in the past, we've had to say NO – now we say YES. Well, at least in high quality, 5x10 in a 3/4" thickness Baltic Birch plywood. This is just another example of the sought after and yet hard to source items we know about and have in stock, ready without delay.

BUILT RIGHT

Siding

We address siding very commonly; it persists as one of the most difficult categories we sell. Specifically, when matching siding, an actual sample or a scaled (measured) picture emailed/given to us to the only real way to ensure a match. Verbally describing it, guessing at thickness and width or a picture without measurements (any perspective) does really move the ball down the field.

Quality

FRONT RANGE LUMBER always seeks the best quality possible while remaining competitive. However, quality is elusive, even in the best grades from the best mills. Anyone will agree different batches or production runs will result in differing qualities. There are many factors to this: log size, log quality, wood species, care taken at the mill, type of equipment and so on.

PRODUCT NEWS

Smooth Sawn Cedar

Where does smooth sawn cedar come from? Mills produce cedar in rough sawn sizes. Any smooth sawn item then has the additional step of being milled to smooth sawn. The smooth sawn is generally “nominal” sizing (a 2x4 is approximately 1-1/2 x 3-1/2”) – rough sawn to closer to full measure. Smooth sawn cedar will also normally have been kiln dried. These additional procedures add to the expense, explaining why smooth sawn cedar is more than the rough version in the “same” size. At of this writing, the spread for smooth sawn is about 13% higher.

PROFIT SHARING

Buying Hardware

Many customers purchase their lumber needs from us because we have competitively priced quality products. However, when we inquire about their matching hardware needs, they say they haven’t figured it out yet. Well, we advise being as cautious about where you buy your hardware as you when you buy lumber. The table below is a sampling of prices we compared in early October. And while prices change all the time, this sampling does confirm what we’ve known all along: the Big Box stores aren’t always the cheapest!

Item	Front Range Lumber	Blue Box	Orange Box
LUS210Z joist hanger	1.97 each	2.68	2.68 each
ABW66Z post base	\$32.97	\$36.48	\$36.63
½” x 8” carriage bolt	\$2.63 ea	\$3.44 ea	\$3.79 ea
50 count Trex hidden fasteners	\$32.47	\$36.98	\$34.97
Deckfast colored deck screws	\$32.47 (350 piece count)	\$23.61 (100 piece count)	\$37.47 (similar item)

WHAT’S COOKIN’?

Tomato Sandwiches

So simple, great for a snack or an appetizer...

Slice tomatoes, sprinkle with a little salt, lay on a couple of paper towels to get as much juice out as possible.

Cook four cloves’ garlic, chopped, in some canola oil until golden. Blenderize together the oil/garlic, two uncooked egg yolks, 6 or so basil leaves, a little lemon juice and a few drops white vinegar. Season with a little ground mustard, salt and pepper.

Spread the dressing on toasted bread of your choice, top with the tomatoes and another slice of bread and enjoy. For a more sophisticated serving, remove the bread crusts.

CONSUMER NEWS

Fire Danger

At a recent summer event, various fire departments were showing off their equipment. We thought this was a good time to ask about an old wives’ tale: *should you keep your toaster plugged in when not in use?* The fireman (a Fire Forensics Expert) says unplug everything you possibly can for the best safety approach, especially anything that creates heat! In his opinion, electrical items that create heat are tied with flammable items close to stoves and ovens as the leading causes of household fires. He went on to detail a whole laundry list of household items which, obviously, included toasters and toaster ovens. He personally unplugs his clothes dryer when not in use!

Plumbing Hint

Protect your pipes from a plumbing nightmare!! Be sure to dispose of the pumpkin seeds and guts properly this Halloween. Never put them down your sink or toilet! Pumpkin guts can easily stick to the inside of your pipes or wrap around the blades of your garbage disposal creating a bad (and expensive) clog.

Regardless of Season, Your Trees Need Water

As we approach another winter and people are blowing out their sprinklers, it’s a good time to remind folks that trees need water in the winter. It’s a lot less water, but they still need it. If we go a month without a decent rain or snow (6+ inches), then you need to drag the hoses to your trees on a warmer day and get some water to them. Too many people lose trees during the winter from a lack of moisture. And don’t forget to detach your hose from the faucet and drain it after watering.

Stay Safe This Winter

Here’s some tips to keep you warm and safe this winter:

- Keep snow and ice off your natural gas meter and external appliance vents.
- Remove snow and ice buildup on roofs and trees that could fall and damage or cover your gas meter.
- Stay away from sagging or fallen power lines.
- Ensure your carbon monoxide detectors are working and placed in the right locations.
- Don’t relight gas appliances if a natural gas outage occurs—call your local gas provided (e.g., Xcel Energy will relight them for you *free of charge*).
- Call 911 to report damaged utilities and power lines, then call your local energy company.

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You can count days or make every day count.

October	
28	Frankenstein Friday
31	Halloween—watch for those kids!!
November	
24	Thanksgiving Day (Front Range Lumber will be closed)
25	Front Range Lumber will open at 7AM (regular hours)
December	
18	Hanukkah begins
21	Winter solstice – shortest day of the year
24	Christmas Eve (Front Range Lumber will be closed)
25	Merry Christmas (Front Range Lumber will be closed)
26	Front Range Lumber will open at 7AM (regular hours)
26	Kwanzaa (through Jan 1)
31	New Year's Eve (Front Range Lumber will be closed)
January 2023	
1	Happy New Year!! (Front Range Lumber will be closed)
2	Front Range Lumber will open at 7AM (regular hours)