



Front Range Lumber Company

The news you need to make your project a success!

INDUSTRY NEWS

Lumber Pricing

Lumber pricing has (and is) frankly just dumped downward. Good old supply and demand are far out of balance – the mills are reeling in production, and they can't do it fast enough. Everyone is scared of holding the hot potato of inventory as prices fall. Again, these specific comments pertain mainly to 2x4's and construction plywood and waferboards. That's the story for framing material items. For the rest of the story, here's a quick review:

Siding – Hardboard siding and trim items went up in price in October. James Hardie has announced an increase for the first of the year.

Cedar – is echoing the down movement in framing, although not as fast or hard. Overall, cedar prices are now in the normal or "reasonable" range as opposed to the past 2-1/2 years of high pricing.

Engineered Wood Products – LVL and I-joists – availability is no longer a concern as inventories are piling up at all of the distribution chain. Further, pricing is sliding down bit by bit. Although the general sentiment is that this category will never go back to "old" pricing levels.

Redwood – is stable.

Treated – is all over the place, however it IS far less expensive than a year or even three months ago.

Timbers – a light drift downward.

Manufactured Items – a real mixed bag – a FEW decreases, but some increases – overall maybe stabilizing??

Steel – has stabilized and some decreases. Specifically, rebar is drifting downwards.

Composite Decking – looks like prices changes which usually occur over the winter for the next year are NOT happening for 2023.

Windows – no decreases here, however, lead times are improving.

Concrete – lots of pressure as usual from energy and freight costs, expect increases in January 2023.

This is John Sr., still going strong after almost 68 years in the industry!! He is proudly seated in our newest forklift at our Fort Lupton location. This unit has an enclosed cab with heater/defroster for use in *all* temperatures. It also has the latest safety light package, which projects blue and red colored light in a perimeter around the forklift to indicate blind spots and a "stay-away" area.



☞ We wish you a safe and prosperous 2023! ☜

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KENT'S CORNER

As I write this, Christmas is approaching so fast, I hope that we are all ready for it! This time I want to write about miscommunications that plague our business. One is the word "plywood". If we are careful, and ask the right questions, we find out that OSB is the actual desired product. Another is "fascia", the board under the gutter above the soffit. When you ask for fascia, we may assume that you need it grooved, to accommodate the soffit. Often a groove is unnecessary, in which case it is just a "board". That could be cheaper and gives you more choices.

Since I sell a lot of windows, I sometimes hear that someone wants a window, but really, they just need glass. The word "slab" can mean different things, but to me it just means any style of door with no machining like hinge mortises. "Slab" is not the name of one type of door. And I have previously written about how the "French" in French doors can mean different things.

We understand that homeowners and some contractors don't use these terms commonly, we just need to get it right to avoid costly miscommunications. Structural beams like PSL, LVL and glulam are commonly confused. We are happy to help you understand the actual and cost differences between these.

Here is something that we often give people bad news about: The old cherry or walnut tree in their backyard has no lumber value. We know hardwood boards are pricey, but it is because they are from much larger trees and machined and dried. Our cherry trees are nothing like the ones that thrive in Pennsylvania!

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

TAKING STOCK...

Need 4x4?

FRONT RANGE LUMBER believes it stocks the best 4x4 around in douglas fir in a #2 grade or better. Indeed, most of our stock is graded as a #1. While what we stock is not graded as a clear grade or better, because of how we buy these, who we buy them from, and the type we purchase; these 4x4's are beautiful. These, although not a clear grade, can be your go-to source for sign posts, porch and deck posts and other uses where a great looking 4x4 is desired.

Baltic Birch

FRONT RANGE LUMBER stocks all thicknesses in Baltic Birch: 1/8", 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 5/8", 3/4" and 1" in 5x5 sheet sizes and many of those in 4x8 sheets. A quick review of the grades which are possible:

b – very significant amount of patching on both sides

b/b – patches both sides up to 3-6

b/bb – patches on one side only – this is the grade Front Range tries to stock.

bb/bb – no patches whatsoever on either side – tough to find!

Then a quick cross reference chart:

Thickness	No. of plies/ veneer layers	Millimeters
1/8"	3	3
1/4"	6	5
3/8"	9	7
1/2"	12	9
5/8"	15	11
3/4"	18	13
1"	24	17

Baltic birch plywood has far more plies (layers) of veneers than other types of plywood. This can be readily seen in the pictures or actual product. This results in an extremely stable and flat panel. By the way, as with most plywoods, Baltic Birch is manufactured with an odd number of plies. This additionally enhances the stability (flatness) of the sheet. It provides a great painting surface as all birch plywoods do. Further, the fineness of the edge means that edge can be machined to a detail (like a routed edge).

These veneers have few, if any, voids (or gaps/holes) in the veneer/plys. Voids create issues best illustrated by the example of if walked on, a high heel concentrates weight at one point and if that point is so "unlucky" to be at that point, the heel could punch into the surface. Other examples could be where a fastener is placed, a corner or an edge. Therefore, voids may be problematic based on your need. Structurally, the high grade of this plywood gives a great fastener and adhesive end-result. The face veneer is a pale tan color, which is VERY uniform in grain and color. A perk of Baltic Birch over regular (domestic) birch is that it stains very evenly.

Gorman Pine

GORMAN

The Finest Boards

When you are choosing quality boards for your projects, we want you to be able to make the best choice for you. Gorman pine boards are carefully graded so you know you are getting the right board for your project – but remember:

- These products are all graded above the NLGA or WWPA industry standards.
- Every board has a furniture finish – the Gorman edge that is smooth and splinter resistant.
- All of our products are heat treated and kiln dried to ensure a stable board, resulting in a product that is not prone to bowing or cracking.

We offer a variety of patterned products. The T&G pattern is created with the same care and quality as other Gorman products. Remodel with a tongue and groove pattern to give your home that warm, welcoming look.

While we talking about pine, remember **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** stocks 1x10 in 8' to 16' lengths. Many other suppliers "skip" the 1x10 width. If you only need 1x10, buy it!! Don't waste your money on a 1x12 and still have to cut it down to a 1x10. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** also stocks 1x10 in knotty cedar and exterior trim boards.

BUILT RIGHT

Ozark

This is the real deal – cedar closet lining – don’t settle for cedar particle board or plywood with just a thin cedar top veneer. Ozark cedar paneling is 5/16” thick – 4” nominal wide individual boards which will last a lifetime. Each board is tongue and grooved AND end-matched for a long lasting and beautiful installation. In 15 square foot packages, ready for simple installation. End matching is the additional milling on the ends to create a tongue (or groove) for a finer installation. While rarely found and generally an expensive add-on, it is a very desirable feature.

Clear Pine

Clear pine boards are a tough item to carry in stock: the availability varies wildly, it’s expensive and the investment adds up quick and it can literally “go bad” while in stock. **FRONT RANGE LUMBER** is committed to stocking this product line in 1x4, 1x6, 1x8 and 1x12 widths. We may not stock every length possible; we believe we inventory one of the widest selections of 1x clear pine boards around. These boards are sourced from the same Gorman Brothers mill as above.

PRODUCT NEWS

Smooth Sawn Cedar

Where does smooth cedar come from? MOST smooth sawn cedar “started life” as a rough sawn board. They were then planed and kiln dried to arrive at a finished smooth sawn board.

Fence Posts

One of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to improve any fence you build is to use 4x6 posts instead of 4x4’s – especially at gates, ends, corners and similar post location. The extra bulk of a 4x6 adds significantly to the strength, stability and stiffness of your fence. Using a gate location as an example, a gate hanging off of a properly installed 4x6 will certainly not sag because the weight of the gate is supported by a beefier post.

PROFIT SHARING

Buying Hardware

Many customers purchase joist hangers, gate hardware, fasteners and other hardware items elsewhere because they had not thought about those items at the same time as buying their lumber. They might believe the “boxes” are less expensive.

We urge you to think again. The boxes are not always the less expensive source to buy from. Further, mating the hardware with the lumber may be problematic. A great example is rough sawn lumber- since it’s closer to full measure, that 6” bolt that would have been OK with a smooth sawn post measuring 5-1/2” is not. The rough sawn post itself is close to 6” plus you’ll need more length to handle the post base, washer and nut.

CONSUMER NEWS

Avoid Online Shopping Scams

Here’s four tips for safer holiday shopping online:

WATCH FOR RED FLAGS. Pressure to purchase immediately, rude or pushy language, or unusually specific ways to pay such as gift cards, crypto, or payment apps. Pay with a credit card if you don’t know the seller.

KNOW WHO YOU’RE BUYING FROM.

Check out the seller before checking out — remember, anyone can set up an online shop or social ad. Do an online search for information or complaints and be sure they are legit.

MAKE SURE IT’S THE REAL DEAL. Be wary of hidden costs like shipping, insurance, special handling, fake COVID-related costs, or product shortage related fees.

PAUSE BEFORE YOU BUY. If an online deal seems too good to be true, take a moment to talk to a trusted friend or family member before you buy.

STAY AHEAD OF IMPOSTER SCAMS.

Scammers may pose as bank employees, utility companies, or online stores and pressure you to pay. Be wary of phone calls, texts, or emails that come out of the blue and don’t reply. Instead, reach out directly to your bank or the company to confirm the request.

GUARD YOUR INFORMATION. Scammers might ask you to share passwords, one-time passcode, or account details — this is called “phishing.” We’ll never ask you for your confidential information. When in doubt — contact us directly.

AVOID ANYTHING TOO-GOOD-TO-BE-TRUE. Beware of scams that involve someone trying to sell you things you’ll never actually receive: concert tickets, pets, cryptocurrency, or jewelry that sound a little too good to be true.

Christmas Tree Disposal

The City of Lakewood will offer tree recycling from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 26 through Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, for Lakewood residents. Tree drop-off will take place at Lakewood’s Greenhouse, 9556 W. Yale Ave. The greenhouse is located between Estes and old Kipling streets. Please follow posted signs and drop trees in the designated area. Tree recycling is free for Lakewood residents, and trees dropped off for recycling must have all wire, ornaments, nails and tinsel removed. This service handles Christmas trees from residents only; wreaths, garland, tree limbs, and trees from private contractors will not be accepted. Mulch will be available upon request. For more information, please call 720-963-5240.

The City of Littleton will offer free Christmas tree recycling from December 26 to January 15th. The Littleton collection site is located at Cornerstone Park at the corner of West Belleview and South Windemere.

C A L E N D A R

You can count days or make every day count.

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)