

Suggestions for the Cutting, Stacking, and Storage of Rough Lumber

Transcribed from handout at Milner and Jim Carden presentation October 25, 2007 Shop tour.

1. Cut trees while the sap is down – October through February as this helps prevent worms, warping, and splitting.
2. Logs – Pant the ends – Helps prevent splitting
 - a. Buy the best logs possible – small, crooked, wind-shook, and metal (blue in the ends) will not produce good lumber
 - b. Cut logs in the limb or knot to avoid having the knot in the middle of the boards
 - c. Cut logs into lumber as soon as possible and stack immediately.
 - d. Keep logs as clean as possible – helps preserve tool edges.
 - e. Turn logs while sawing to prevent heart crack from being in lumber.
3. Stacking – Very Important
 - a. Must have good foundations.
 - b. Stacks should be same thickness.
 - c. Put sticks directly over each other and every two feet.
 - d. Always have sticks at or near the ends to prevent splitting.
 - e. Stacks should be able to drain, never float.
 - f. Thicker boards should be on the outside row.
 - g. Top should extend several inches over lumber and several feet over lower end.
 - h. Spray to prevent worms if possible. Be careful with chemicals. Wear gloves.
4. Lumber should be dried at least 4 years if not kiln dried.
 - a. Bulk down in building after removed from stack will help straighten lumber.