



How creating your own lumber solution can save you money



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INTRODUCTION

Hardwoods are beautiful. Their special qualities and unique physical characteristics have made them treasured for generations. Product manufacturers from cabinet makers to flooring companies have used hardwoods to create their products for decades and most of it has been with the traditional accepted packaging practice of random lumber.

Does hardwood lumber have to be delivered in random widths, lengths, and color? No!

Have you ever experienced one of these scenarios?

- Your machine operators have to slow down production to visually inspect if the lumber used is acceptable.
- You use assign personnel to sort through lumber bundles for the required pieces prior to production.
- You utilize portions of your warehouse space to store unusable lumber with the hope that it can be used in the future.

If you have, you are not alone. Most manufacturers have had experiences similar to this when dealing with random hardwood lumber products.

Wouldn't it be nice to prevent, or at least limit, scenarios such as this? Wouldn't it be nice to create your own lumber product that would enable you to be more efficient and save you money?

You can! It is about creating your very own custom lumber solution.

WHAT IS A CUSTOM LUMBER SOLUTION

A **custom lumber solution** is about developing and receiving a specific classification of lumber that works best in **your** manufacturing process. A custom lumber solution enables you to get more value out of each load of lumber. Whether that means only receiving a certain board width or length, ensuring all hardwood lumber meets a specific color specification, or even increasing the amount of long clear lengths of lumber, utilizing a custom lumber solution for your manufacturing process enables you to decrease manufacturing costs and save money!

BENEFITS OF A CUSTOM LUMBER SOLUTION

The benefits of a customer lumber solution vary; however, they typically can be categorized into one of the following categories..

More usable product

By specifying criteria for each board you receive, you ensure that the lumber is usable in your manufacturing process. This reduces the waste you create and the amount of boards you have to remove from production.

Improved employee productivity

When you develop a custom lumber solution you reduce or even eliminate the amount of additional employees needed to sort and handle the lumber prior to your required production process. You can reassign these people or reduce the number of man hours required for your manufacturing process.

Increased lumber yields

Being able to use more of each board to produce your products enables you to purchase less lumber over time. Even a one percent improvement in lumber yield can save up to \$100 or more on the average bundle of hardwood lumber. When you develop a certain board width, length, color, or even grade specification you maximize the usable surface area per board and save money on material costs.



More warehouse space

When you receive more usable hardwood lumber you have to stock less material and you have more space to house your finished product, or increase production. You can also develop better working conditions enabling employees to be more efficient by eliminating the amount or time restacking and moving bundles around the warehouse.

EXAMPLES OF CUSTOM LUMBER SOLUTIONS

The following are examples of how a custom lumber solution improved a customer's bottom line.

Scenario

A cabinet maker was experiencing color consistency issues working with Cherry and struggled to produce enough clear pieces from random width lumber

Solution

We co-created a custom lumber solution for this customer with 100%/75% red color restrictions and conducted a cross-grade sort maximizing clear one face material in each bundle.

Result

100% usable product per bundle resulting in a 88% lumber yield and a cost savings of \$700 per bundle.



Scenario

A manufacturer of high end mouldings was experiencing low yields because of unusable lumber issues when utilizing random 1F & Better lumber, which resulted in an increase of unusable inventory.

Solution

The customer worked with us to design a proprietary moulding grade that worked best with their production process. Only boards with a length of 8' 3" and a defect placement where usable surface area could be obtained when cutting for their products was allowed.

Result

The customer was able to use all the boards received in the bundle and eliminated thousands of board feet of unusable lumber per month.

Scenario

A flooring manufacturer was experiencing an increase in secondary lumber handling and an increasing accumulation of narrow board inventory in their warehouse.

Solution

The customer now uses a specifically designed lumber sort. Their program is based on 5" and wider material only from rustic grade inventory all with square edges and split restrictions to enhance their manufacturing process.



Result

The customer was able to forego employee lumber handling altogether and increased usable boards to nearly 95% from each and every bundle, increasing productivity and reducing overhead.

SUMMARY

Custom lumber solutions have proven to save manufacturers money. The improvement in lumber consistency, enhancements in manufacturing processes, the increase in usable material, and the improvements in employee productivity can all contribute to manufacturing cost savings.

Creating a custom lumber solution is not difficult. Our proven 5 step process can be applied across multiple industries and environments to help manufacturers co-create a lumber product specifically for them.

Contact your Baillie Lumber Co. representative for more information on the process and how to get started.

It is not just about the grade. It is about the value you get out of each and every board!

Let us help you succeed!

How to contact us



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