



Pile Your Lumber Correctly —

Moisture Content

When lumber is first sawed from a green log, one-third to one-half of its weight is moisture. It should be dried to 14-18 percent moisture content before being used. This can be done by air seasoning for from four months to one year. June, July and August are best for rapid drying. Thin lumber seasons more rapidly than thick lumber.

Drying

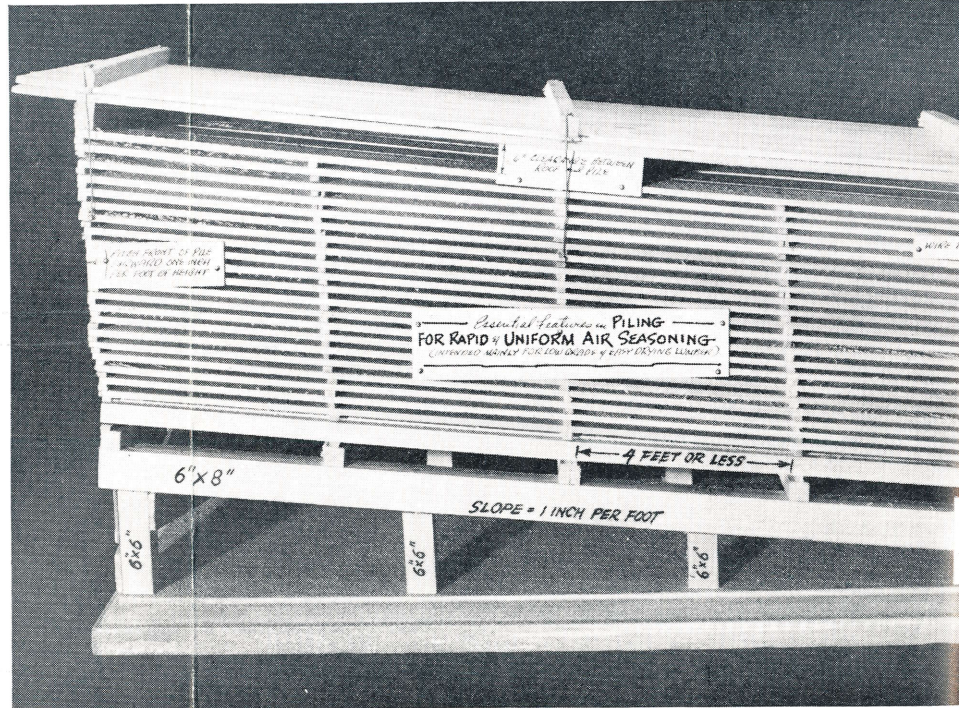
As the moisture is removed lumber has a tendency to warp, twist, cup and bow. Therefore, it must be properly piled to hold it straight while it dries.

When to Pile

Pile lumber immediately after it is sawed. Do not delay. Pine lumber will stain if not properly dried. All lumber will deteriorate rapidly if not well piled.

Where to Pile

Select an open, well drained site for the pile. You must have good air circulation to dry lumber. Weeds and grass cut down air circulation and represent a fire hazard.



Essential Features in Lumber Piling

1. Select an open, well drained site for pile.
2. Build a solid foundation, with a slope from front to back of 1 inch per linear foot.
3. Make the height from ground to bottom layer at least 18 inches.
4. Remove weeds and trash from around pile.
5. Place heavy-dimension lumber near the bottom of pile so the weight above will prevent warping.
6. All 2 x 4's should be set on edge for drying.
7. Each layer should contain lumber of the same thickness.
8. Dry stickers should be placed between each layer of lumber. Stickers should be not more than 4 feet apart and directly above each other.
9. Front end of pile should be lapped forward 1 inch for each foot of length.
10. Use double course of bottom layer. These should be lapped to prevent water.