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Common Lumber and Firewood Dry Kiln Questions

The Most Commonly Asked Questions About The Global Container Kiln

1. What is a dry kiln and how does a conventional kiln work?

Conventional dry kilns have been in existence for over 50 years now. The basic concept is to dry wood products using airflow, humidity control and moisture extraction. Fans evenly distribute the heat which extracts moisture and the vents allow the humid air to be removed from the kiln. A simple controller constantly monitors and adjusts the heat and venting to maintain proper humidity in the kiln for accurate drying. Over a given period the temperature is raised and humidity reduced until a desired moisture content is reached.

2. Why is a dry kiln important to my operation?

A kiln can give you a door to value-added profits. Custom drying and filling customer orders in a timely manner enhance customer satisfaction and reduce inventory cost (especially costs associate with delays in drying from larger mills). Selling KD (kiln dried) lumber gives you access to \$200-\$1,000 per thousand board feet value added. Selling KD lumber gives you better market access versus selling green or air-dried lumber. Customers perceive the KD stamp as one of quality and a stable product.

3. Why not use custom dry kilns from other larger mills?

Trucking your green lumber to a larger mill costs time and money. First, a larger mill may not schedule your lumber to be dried until space is available. Second, a larger mill may have such large dryers that they will mix your specie of hardwood with others, thereby compromising the quality of drying (a kiln chamber can follow only one schedule). Third, many green mill operators are concerned that large custom kiln drying operations may not handle their bundles with as much care. Probably the most critical factor now is the severe overtaxing of current kiln space. In most parts of the country there is simply no room for custom drying and many larger mills are no longer offering its kilns for the use of green mills.

4. What must be done daily to run the kiln?

Since the operation is automatically controlled by the industrial Controller there are only three basic checks every day.

(1) Make sure the equipment is operational.

(2) Check the moisture content of the wood with the included Moisture Meter.

(3) When a desired moisture content is reached, change the set point on the controller [this is done 4-6 times during a given schedule].

5. How is the kiln different from other kilns?

Global received a great deal of help and advice when it designed this kiln. It is in all means, a conventional dry kiln. The basic concept was to provide an affordable kiln which was easy to operate and simple enough to be put together by the buyer. There is nothing new about this kiln except that the kiln chamber is a aluminum shipping container or insulated refrigerated van. Vince Schneider who has built hundreds of kilns assisted with the design and made the blueprints. Since all of the parts are off-the-shelf there are no custom components to service or replace, saving on
