



Wood Terms for Container Dry Kilns by Global Container Kiln

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The Most Commonly used wood terms for Lumber and Firewood.



This webpage QR code

PDF Version of the webpage (maximum 10 pages)

Wood Terms for Dry Kilns

Glossary of Wood Terms

Backhaul

A delivery by tractor-trailer originates from where the trailer is loaded, the load is delivered to a destination, then the trucker returns home. If the return is also a paying load to be delivered to the vicinity of the trucker's home, that load is called a backhaul. If the trucker returns home empty, that run is called a deadhead.

Band sawmill

An evolution in sawmill technology that uses a thinner band saw blade (less kerf therefore less sawdust waste) than a circular saw. It also has teeth on both sides that allows cuts to be made in two directions instead of just one, improving efficiency and productivity.

Bark

The outer protective layer of the tree. Severely damaged bark on a tree is a defect that can lower the value of the its logs. At the sawmill, logs are first debarked, then slabs are cut off leaving a rectangular or square cant to be cut into lumber. There are two main types of debarkers: Rosserhead and Ring debarkers. Before raw bark is sold as bark mulch, it is ground in a tub grinder (hammermill) to give it the proper texture and consistency. Bark quality is a function of color.

Board foot

An volume of lumber that measures 1x 12 x 12. The number of board feet in a log is estimated using one of three log scales: Scribner, Doyle, or International Rule. The standard used in Massachusetts is the International Rule. The actual yield of a log after sawn into lumber is often greater than the estimated yield. Both logs and lumber are sold by the thousand board feet or MBF.

Bole wood

The lower section of the trunk of a tree from the ground to the first limb or branch. Some loggers and whole tree operations delimb trees leaving only the bole or stem portion of the tree. If chipped in a whole tree chipper, the result a cleaner chip with fewer leaves, sticks, or pine needles.

Cant

A log is first debarked then the rounded slab or outside portion of the log is cut off by the sawyer. The remaining square or rectangular portion of the log is called a cant. Lumber is cut from the cant. The more pieces of lumber cut, the more sawdust (waste byproduct) is produced, reducing the log yield of marktable board feet.

Carriage

The sawmill device on which a debarked logged is placed which moves the log back and forth through the saw blade creating slabs, cants and lumber. The log is also turned on the carriage before making the next cut.

Circular sawmill



