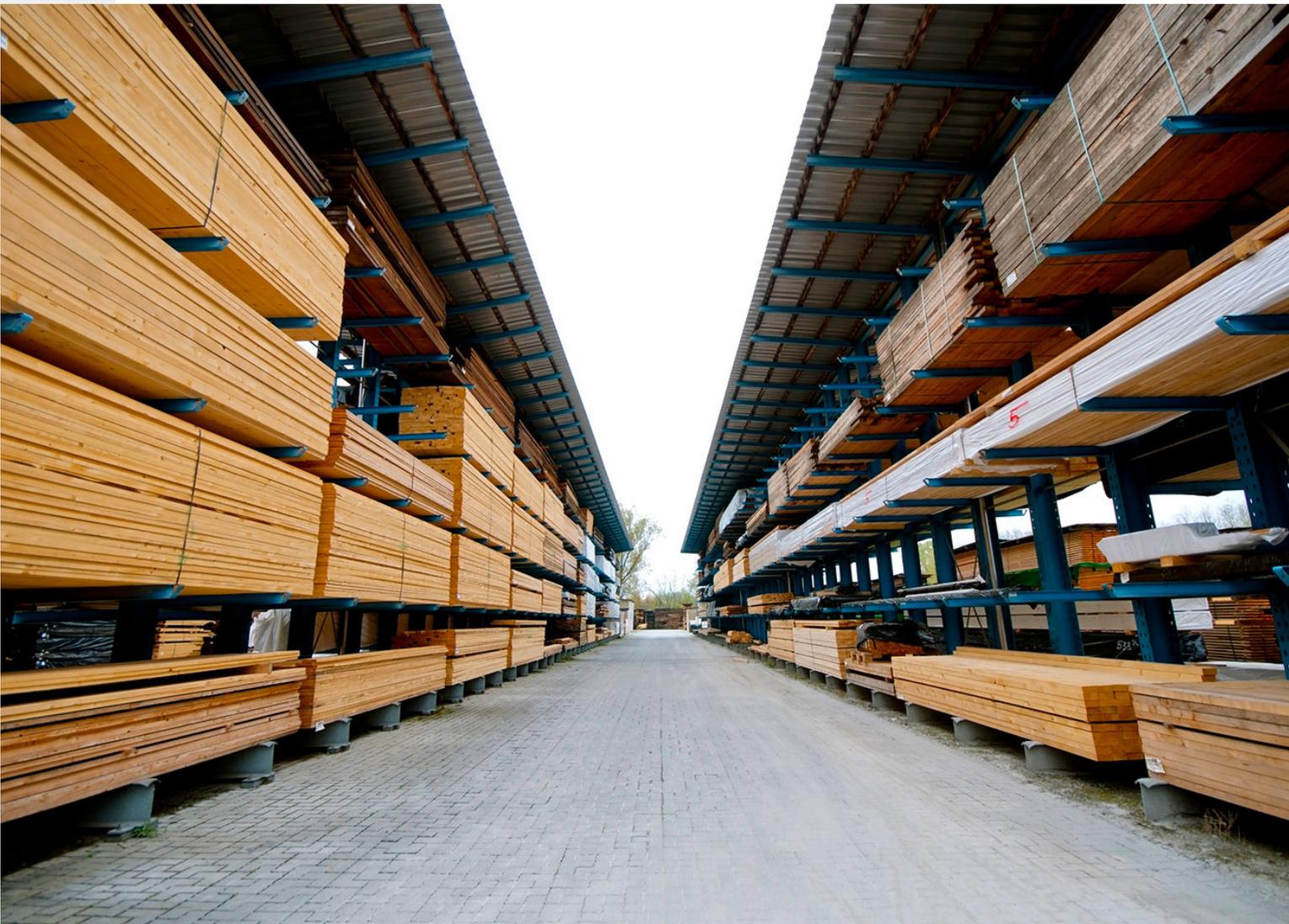




Lumber Yard Checklist

A quick-reference guide for a smooth trip to the lumber yard

At J&W Lumber, we work with a lot of first-time customers at our stores. We understand that while we do this every day, it's often a new and possibly confusing experience for homeowners. In an effort to make your upcoming visit to a lumber yard quick and painless, we've put together a quick worksheet on how to prepare for your visit to the store and what to bring with you.



Lumber Yard Checklist

Whether you're building a new deck, patio cover, garden box or fence, purchasing your wood and other materials means you're ready to get to work. If this is your first visit ever, your first visit in a long time, or you want to get a jumpstart on an outdoor building project, this checklist will help make your lumber yard trip smooth.



Bring Your Measurements

Measuring helps determine the amount of materials you'll need and the best way to create a structure that fits comfortably. All you need to start is a simple two-dimensional calculation of the space you intend to build in. A task easily accomplished with a measuring tape, a pencil and a piece of paper. Once you have your measurement multiply length times width (or height) and that will give you your rough square footage.

ITEM: _____

_____ Length x _____ Width (or Height) = _____ Square Footage

ITEM: _____

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_____ Length x _____ Width (or Height) = _____ Square Footage



Sketch the Project

In order to help communicate what you're looking for to a lumber yard's experienced staff, it is good to have a rough sketch of your plan on hand. You don't need to be an artist, just provide a general visual outline of the space you're working with and what you're looking to create, and the staff can help guide you in the right direction.



Take Pictures

Taking a picture – or better yet, pictures – of where you plan to build helps both you and the people you'll be working with visualize your plan. The pros may notice something that you don't and offer suggestions, or caution you about potential roadblocks.



Do Some Research

Researching your project, for both costs and ideas, is a great way to home in on what you want and what you need. Researching websites of lumber distributors, their advertisements, or checking out websites like Pinterest can help you get inspired and come up with new ideas.



Know What You Want

Before you're ready to estimate your project, it's important to determine exactly what you want (and don't). Here are a few questions to answer that will make your trip to the lumber yard smoother:

- What style(s) do you like/dislike?
(Craftsman, Modern, Traditional, Unfinished, etc.)
- What materials are "must haves"?
(Redwood, Polished Hardware, Composites, etc.)
- Do you have a target completion date?
(Does it need to be done by a certain holiday?)
- Will you hire a contractor or do the work yourself?



Ask Questions

Established lumber yards have experienced staff who are ready help guide you on whatever project you have in mind. Below are a few great questions to ask the friendly staff that can help with your project.

Questions to ask:

- What type of lumber do you recommend for this project?
- What materials work best for my budget?
- Are there new materials on the market I should check out?
- Can you help design my project?
- Do you have any contractors you recommend?
- Can you match the existing materials at my house?



Grab a Sample

If you want your wood or other outdoor building materials to match an existing part of your home, bring a sample of the material into the lumber yard. Bringing a sample ensures you will find the closest available match for your project.



Set a Budget

Determine your budget before you start your project. A budget – or at least a budget range – helps you set limitations and determine a plan for purchasing materials.



Call Ahead (Or Complete an Online Form)

If you know exactly what you're looking for, call ahead. Even if your local lumber yard is out of stock, they can call other locations or order it for you and call you when it's ready for pickup.



Have a Transportation Plan

If you're going to the lumber yard to pick up building materials, plan ahead and consider how you are going to get them home. Keep in mind that many lumber yards deliver materials for a nominal fee.



Bring the Decision Maker

Bringing along the decision maker – generally your spouse and/or your contractor – will help you save time and avoid confusion. With all the project stakeholders present, you'll be able to zero in on exactly what you want, how much you're willing to spend, and what materials you'll need.



Starting a new home improvement project is an exciting time. The outdoor building experts have the know-how to help your project go smoothly and produce exactly what you are envisioning. Contact us today for an Estimate Request or take your checklist to the nearest J&W Lumber yard.

Create a Project You Love

El Cajon

430 S. Marshall Ave.
El Cajon, CA 92020
Phone: 619-442-0658
Fax: 619-442-8749

Murrieta

25217 Jefferson Ave
Murrieta, CA 92562
Phone: 951-698-0215
Fax: 951-677-7687

Sorrento Valley

11135 Sorrento Valley Rd.
San Diego, CA 92121
Phone: 858-452-0520
Fax: 858-452-0506

Chula Vista

3817 Main St.
Chula Vista, CA 91911
Phone: 619-585-3620
Fax: 619-585-4746

San Marcos

2709 S. Santa Fe Ave.
San Marcos, CA 92069
Phone: 760-727-1510
Fax: 760-727-3557

Escondido/Corporate

1179 W. Washington Ave
Escondido, CA 92025
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