

# Got Wood?

**A publication from Empire Building Materials, Inc.**

## Continuing Education at “Empire University”

Since 2006 Empire Building Materials has held monthly day long cram courses on the building materials industry. We cover every thing from figuring board footage to the difference between a shake and a shingle. The building materials industry is evolving from

to midsize and large companies employing many people. With this influx of new and fairly inexperienced employees it is sometimes difficult to fulfill every training need.

“Empire University” was developed to help our customers fill a bit of that training gap as well as share our specific products and knowledge. Our philosophy follows the knowledge is power line of thought. If we are on the same page as our customers, we will be more efficient in our service.

Empire U is held roughly

every 3rd Thursday of the month at our Bozeman location. Sometimes however, during the summer this may be more sporadic due to the increase in business. Here is just a sample of the topics covered:

- Lumber Math** with Anthony Tangaro
- Lumber Grading & Terminology** with Mike Wood
- Logistics**—lead times, ordering & shipping with Mike Fauth

If your business is interested in sending any employee to Empire U just contact Anthony at [anthonyt@empireinc.com](mailto:anthonyt@empireinc.com)



local lumberyards started and continued by families

## Salesman Profile—Tim Mellgren General Manager Msla



Tim has been in the lumber business for over 30 years. In 1975 Tim was attending the University of Montana in Missoula when he began his build-

ing materials career at Intermountain Lumber. After completing his degree in Geology (ok who saw that coming?) in 1977 he moved on to the purchasing department at Intermountain.

Through the years Tim has excelled and progressed in every position he has held. From purchasing agent to general manager at Intermountain to owning a remanu-

facturing plant in the early 90's. After a few more years working in sales Tim joined Empire in 1997 as the General Manager of the first Empire Building Materials located outside Bozeman.

For the past 10 years Tim, with his great staff have made Empire Missoula a successful, thriving business.

**A recent survey of builders, remodelers, and architects, conducted by Building Products editors and independent research firm Specpan, found the following:**

- 47 percent consider themselves green.
- The greatest number of respondents believe green building increases the cost of a home 10 percent to 19 percent.
- 47 percent believe their market's demand for green-built homes will increase significantly over the next five years.

363—Number of solar panels installed on the roof of 45 Rockefeller Plaza in New York City to reduce the building's electrical consumption and help power the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree.

From EBuild Building Products News & Trends Jan/Feb 2008

### Inside this issue:

Empire University	<b>1</b>
Salesman Profile	<b>1</b>
Shakes vs. Shingles	<b>2</b>
Test Your Roofing Knowledge	<b>2,3</b>
Door FAQ	<b>3</b>
About Us	<b>4</b>
Roofing Answers	<b>4</b>

## Shakes vs. Shingles—From Top to Bottom Part 1 of 2

When ordering or even selling, for that matter it is important to be able to explain the differences in similar products. Shakes and Shingles for instance seem to be a puzzling product for some customers and certainly for some end use consumers. Here we will try and take a little mystery out of this handy cedar product.

### Shingles

There are various grades of cedar shingles. Size, width, cut and thickness determine the grading.

#1 Shingles are defined as a shingle that is thinner than a shake, is cut tapered and smooth sawn on both faces for a very neat, tailored appearance. They are cut in a choice of a few lengths.

Empire stocks a 16" called Fivex. The thickness at the butt end is 5/2" which means 5 butts stacked on top of each other total 2" thick. Also available through special order are 18" **Perfections** which have a thickness of 5/2 1/4" and 24" **Royals** which have a thickness of 4/2". #1 Grade is the best grade because of the use of clear heart wood, 100% edge grain with no defects. On a 4/12 and sleeper pitched roof a #1 shingle is applied at a 5" reveal for 16". #1 shingles are used for both roofing and sidewalls.

A #2 shingle is cut the same lengths and thickness as a #1 shingle. But the where the #1 is clear on both faces, the #2

face must be 10" clear on the 16" Fivex, 11" clear on the 18" Perfections and 16" clear on the 24" Royals. Flat grain and limited sapwood are allowed. Flat grain can easily be detected by the grain designs on the face of the shingle. Limited knots and defects are allowed about the clear portion. On a 4/12 or sleeper pitched roof #2 shingles are applied at 4" reveal for 16". #2 are most often used for reroofing, walls, and as a starter course.

The last grade of cedar shingle Empire carries is the #3 grade. As with the #2, this shingle is cut in the same lengths and thickness as the #1. The face must only be 6" clear



on the 16", 6" on the 18" and 10" clear on the 24". Sapwood and flat grain are allowed. Limited knots and defects are allowed about the clear portion. On a 4/12 pitched or sleeper roof #3 shingles are applied at 1 1/2" reveal for 16". These shingles are mostly used for the undercourse in a two course application, garden sheds, gazebos, walls for out-buildings etc.

For more information or ordering cedar shakes just give your Empire salesman a call.

Next issue....Shakes

## Test Your Knowledge—Roofing answers on pg. 4

**1. How many square feet does 1 square of roofing cover?**

- A.) 10 sq. ft.
- B.) 100 sq. ft.
- C.) 1000 sq. ft.

**2. What does "exposure" mean?**

- A.) When your roofer works topless.
- B.) When only part of the roof is completed.
- C.) The amount of shingle that the

manufacturer requires to show after overlap.

**3. What is the difference between Class A and Class C fire rating?**

- A.) The intensity of fire and subsequent protection determined in testing.
- B.) What kind of material is used to make

the roofing.

C.) The size of the roofing material.

**4. What year did the EPA prohibit the use of Asbestos in new roofing?**

- A.) 1994
- B.) 1989
- C.) 1978

**5. What is Impact Resistant Roofing Incentive?**

A.) A government program requiring hail testing.

- B.) Bonuses given to salespersons selling high quality roofing.
- C.) Percentage discounts given by insurance companies to homeowners who use high impact resistant roofing.

Continued pg. 3

## Door FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Our pre-hung door shops make Empire more of a full service organization. From the time the door is ordered until the customer walks into the home we will try to make sure the product fulfills their expectations. Education is the best way to ensure everyone is happy with the end product.

### How should I transport to and store my doors at the job site?

Door slabs should be transported and stored flat, with more stable area damage is less likely. Pre-hung doors should be transported standing up on edge. Unfinished doors should be stored in a place that is not subject to severe variations in temperature, such as forced heat or

humidity. Always allow the doors to adjust to the humidity before hanging. If the door is to be stored for any length of time you **must seal coat top, bottom and edges.**

### When I'm talking to my Empire door salesman what does he really mean by "handing"?

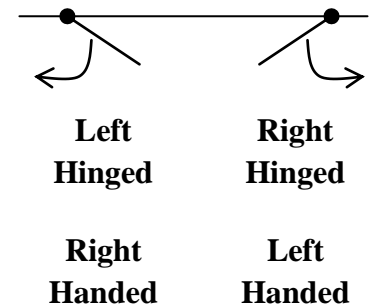
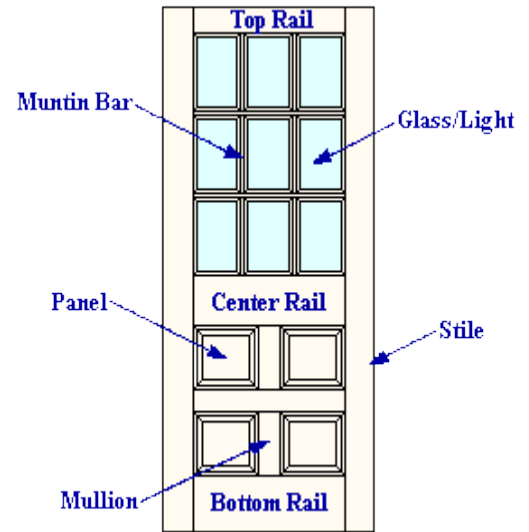
There is much debate and theory involving the accurate definition of the "handing" on a door. But when ordering from Empire (and why would you want to order from anyone else?) we define the handing as where the hinges are placed when looking at the door. So if the door is closed and the hinge butts are visible that is the side we refer the handing on. It seems backward in that you

don't actually use your hand on the hinges but on the handle but we see it from the point the door is swinging.

### What is a stile and what is a rail?

Stile and rail doors are doors comprised of separate components assembled with dowels to mimic a solid piece of wood. The stile as shown at the right are the wood pieces that run vertically through the door. The stiles are anchored to the rails that run horizontally on the sides.

If you have questions you would like answered send them to Cara at [carav@empireinc.com](mailto:carav@empireinc.com) and don't be shy all questions will remain anonymous.



## Roofing Knowledge Cont.

### 6. What does Class 4 mean?

- A.) The roofing has extensive damage during impact tests.
- B.) The roofing has little damage during impact tests.
- C.) The roof does not have ice barrier.

### 7. In roofing what is a Cricket?

- A.) The edge of a

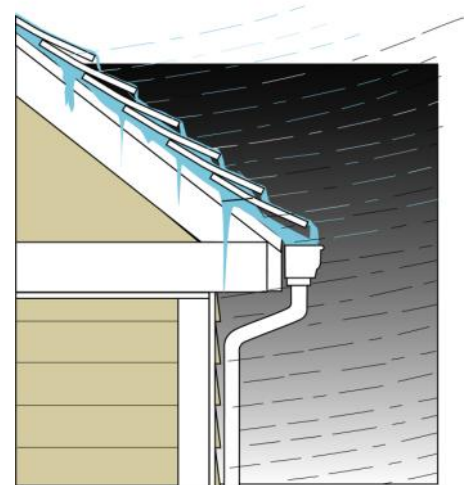
- shingle.
- B.) A non licensed roofer.
- C.) A device used to divert water around projections on a roof.

### 8. Unlike other roofing products, cedar shakes and shingles almost always have the same amount of squares per bundle, what are they?

- A.) Shakes 5, Shingles 4
- B.) Shakes 4, Shingles 5
- C.) Shakes 4, Shingles 3

### 9. How can you determine the pitch of a roof?

- A.) Run over Rise
- B.) Top to Bottom
- C.) Rise over Run



**We're on the web!**  
[www.empireinc.com](http://www.empireinc.com)

Established in 1954, Empire Building Materials, Inc. is a wholesale distributor supplying lumberyards in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and South Dakota. By distributing a wide array of building products, Empire can cover a building project from start to finish.

Whether you are looking for a basic stud, specialty siding or flooring, a certain roof shingle for just the right finishing touch, Empire can answer the call. Each Empire location also has a door shop that can hang anything from a simple flush door to a complex entrance system that will impress and welcome guests into your home.

Empire has a full sales staff (inside and outside); warehouse, delivery, door shop and administrative personnel to insure your orders are delivered accurate, complete and on time. This staff will help you make informed decisions to make certain you have the right product to complete the job.

Empire has its own fleet of trucks, and qualified drivers enabling us to have a flexible, yet consistent, delivery schedule so our customers can be assured of orders being filled when expected.

**Empire Building  
Materials Inc.**

**Providing Quality Building  
Materials Since 1954**

**Empire  
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Materials**

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## Test Your Knowledge—Roofing Answers

1. **B**
2. **C**—Manufacturers do vary in the amount of exposure recommended, so the amount of roofing may vary as well.
3. **A**—When roofing material is tested for fire rating the size of the “burning brand” (a wood square ignited on the roof) varies to determine the fire rating.
4. **B**
5. **C**—The impact testing uses steel balls ranging in size from 1 1/4” to 2” in diameter dropped at various heights to replicate 4 sizes of hail stones.
6. **B**—Class 4 is the highest impact rating, meaning it successfully withstands the largest diameter balls dropped from the highest distance. This however does not make the roof “hail proof”
7. **C**
8. **A**
9. **C**—A common roof pitch or slope is 7/12, meaning the roof rises 7” for every 12” it runs.



### Save the Date!

Empire University  
May 15, June 20  
Empire Buying Show  
Spring 2009

