

*Please Print This Page and have all operators read the instructions before using your Lumber Buddy™ Portable Workstation.*

## Lumber Buddy™ Productivity Platform Instructions Packet



### LUMBER BUDDY™ Uses

The **Lumber Buddy™** is a portable workstation that is comparable to stacking/bump posts used in lumberyards throughout the United States. However, the unique difference between stacking posts and the **Lumber Buddy™** is that the **Lumber Buddy™** is mobile, and can go where the work requires it to go. It gives workers better visibility while splitting various types of material and it also provides a reliable stacking platform to hand stack and flat-deck material. Whether you are pulling from a cantilever racking system or units stored on the ground, the **Lumber Buddy™** portable workstation helps your team Work Safe and Work Smart.

Cutting engineered wood products like I-Joists, Glue-Lams, Parallam, and LVL is also made easier because the **Lumber Buddy™** is mobile and it saves time driving back and forth from stationary systems which create time saving which translates into a labor cost savings. The platform is 18 inches off of the ground, reducing the need to bend over to stack materials and thereby reducing back injuries from bending and lifting. The main appeal of the **Lumber Buddy™** portable workstation is that it makes your forklift a more valuable tool, not just an expensive stacking platform.

The **Lumber Buddy™** is designed to perform three essential tasks, each extremely beneficial to a lumberyard's efficiency and time-management.

- 1) It helps individuals work safer, smarter by reducing strain on the body.
- 2) It increases the rate of productivity by decreasing the amount hand stacking needed.
- 3) It reduces the amount of damage done to inventory by over-handling or processing.

These are three excellent reasons to make the LUMBER BUDDY™ a part of your team, but there are much more...

## **The Lumber Buddy™ is Built To Last and Tested Tough**

Built and engineered by a team of professionals, the **Lumber Buddy™** portable workstation has proven itself for over 15 years, from Alaska to Hawaii. The Lumber Buddy™ is at work in 48 of the 50 states and all the Canadian provinces. The Lumber Buddy™ portable workstation was first introduced in 2000 and we are proud to report that most of the original units are still in service. The **Lumber Buddy™** has been tested in a large, wholesale distribution centers as well as smaller pro dealer yards and has passed the test with flying colors.

## **Lumber Buddy™ portable workstation features:**

### **I. Fork Pockets**

The fork pockets are a crucial part of the **Lumber Buddy™**.



This feature does not allow the **Lumber Buddy™** to shift from side to side. It also puts the forks of the forklift directly under the main frame of the **Lumber Buddy™ Portable Workstation** keeping your load balanced.

**NEVER transport your Lumber Buddy™ Portable Workstation without using the fork-pockets!**



Only lift the **Lumber Buddy™** off of the travel surface six to eight inches for safe travel. The **Lumber Buddy™** weighs approximately 900 pounds and should be handled with caution.

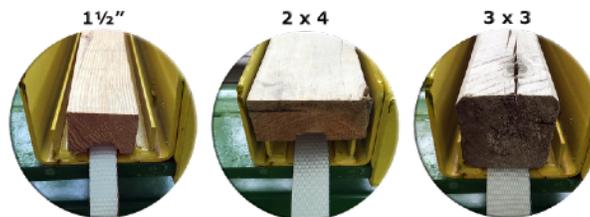
***Read all Caution stickers on the unit.***

## II. Banding Channels



The banding channels are there if and when you need them. Not all units require banded feet, but in some cases you may want stickers attached to the unit. Total quality management comes into play here, because it is much easier to move units around without getting on and off the forklift and to set stickers. If you have high-grade material that you want to protect, then the banding channels place an optional third sticker in the center of the unit keeping the unit from sagging in the middle. These banding channels reduce possible fork damage to material from sagging in the fork's path. By using the banding channels, placement of the feet are uniform on all units, so weight transfers uniformly for tighter loads on the truck.

Our new Combination Banding Channel accommodates all common sizes of strapping and dunnage: 2x4, 3x3, and 1 1/2" grooved dunnage.



## III. Cover Sheets

Cover sheets are also easy to apply with the **Lumber Buddy™**. Simply put the stickers in the banding channels and then lay the cover sheet on the **Lumber Buddy™** frame. Pull the order, and then apply the top cover sheet and finally band it all together into one solid, well-built unit.

*Note: Always challenge yourself to work smarter, not harder. Always think ahead to the next step. Your job is not only to sell building material, but also to sell service and a quality product. We at **Lumber Buddy™** feel confident that by using our product it will make your job much easier. You'll work safer and smarter, while delivering a better value to your employer, and ultimately your customers.*

## IV. Splitting and Stacking Panels

Splitting and stacking panels has never been easier. First you must decide how you want to package the unit.

Do you want stickers banded to the unit?

Do you want a cover sheet to protect the material?

**Splitting Panels** – Begin by bringing the panels to the **Lumber Buddy™**, leaving the unit on your forks. Strip the unit of banding and any other unwanted debris that could get tangled up in your work and then set the unit in the **Lumber Buddy™**.

If you're just pulling a few sheets and you're working out of a rack, take the unit out of the rack and bring the material to the **Lumber Buddy™**. Using the forklift to adjust the elevation of the material, pull your order, sliding the material into place. This procedure helps reduce strain on your body. Remember there is no reason to work harder when all you need to do is work smarter.

If you're pulling a large order, put the unit in the **Lumber Buddy™** and take excess material off by hand or fork splitting, depending on the grade of material. Then return excess material to the rack. If you are pulling large orders of mixed material, backsliding panels are the way to go.

### **Backsliding Panels** –

**First Step:** Clean the unit of banding and any other debris.

**Second Step:** Set the material in your **Lumber Buddy™** and then remove excess material by hand or by fork-splitting.

**Third Step:** Return excess material to storage. *Adding additional products to order.*

**Fourth Step:** Bring the next product to the backside of the **Lumber Buddy™**.

**Fifth Step:** Clean the material of unwanted debris.

**Sixth Step:** Lower unit down behind uprights of the **Lumber Buddy™** to about two inches above material already stacked in the **Lumber Buddy™**. Square the two products and then back the forklift up, sliding one unit on top of the other.

**Seventh Step:** Remove excess material by hand or forklift and return it to storage.

This process can be repeated as many times as needed to complete the order. Then complete the banding process you have chosen.

### **Wide Units** –

The **Lumber Buddy™** frame has 48" inch uprights and a 48" inch base. If you have units wider than 48" inches, there is a simple solution. Before cutting the bands on the unit, take the full unit to the backside of the **Lumber Buddy™** and lower the unit down over the uprights like you would if you were backsliding material. Then put two pieces of 2x4 about 48" inches long in the banding channel. Pull the 2x4 material out far enough to hold the outside edge of the unit of the material. Then back the material up against

the uprights. Lower the unit into place, be sure the unit is firmly in place, and the main part of the unit will keep the 2x4's firmly in place.

*Note: Use solid 2x4's. If you use poor quality or damaged material, stickers could break causing possible injury to workers. If you are banding stickers to a wide unit, cut the 2x4 stickers to the length of the finished unit.*

## **V. Hand Stacking Panels**

Hand stacking panels is much easier with the **Lumber Buddy™**. Panels are hard to handle, to stack and keep them square, but using the **Lumber Buddy™ Portable Workstation**, it allows you to leave the product you're stacking on your forklift. This gives the ability to raise or lower your work height, giving you the use of leverage as a means of reducing strain on your body. The uprights make it easier to keep units square and well organized. Panels are very expensive; you should handle them with care. This also keeps customers happy by reducing chipped and damaged the material.

*Note: To reduce damage to panels and other material, keep your forks well manicured by grinding down rough edges. This will reduce chips and scratches to material.*

## **VI. Splitting and Stacking Lumber**

Lumber products such as timbers, treated lumber, framing lumber, and finished lumber is easily handled in the **Lumber Buddy™**. Splitting units is a simple process.

**First Step:** Place the **Lumber Buddy™** near the unit of material. Before you set the unit in the **Lumber Buddy™**, strip the unit of banding and unwanted debris.

**Second Step:** Set the unit in the **Lumber Buddy™** then end split the unit. Because the **Lumber Buddy™** is 18" off of the ground, this should give you better visibility reducing the possibility of damage. The uprights keep the material flush and square on the backside of the unit. The front side will vary depending on the dimensions and various sizes of material.

**Third Step:** If you need to take off extra pieces, just back up, leaving the extra material on your forks. Adjust the elevation of the forklift and take the additional pieces off using leverage. Then return extra material to stock. Once again, shipping the bottom boards before they are damaged by repeated handling.

## **VII. Adding Material**

Backsliding additional material on top of material already in the **Lumber Buddy™** is simple.

**First Step:** Take material to the backside of the **Lumber Buddy™** and remove banding and any other debris from the unit.

**Second Step:** Lower the next product on the other side of uprights. If the unit is not level, take enough pieces from the next product to even up the lower unit. Once you've completed leveling the bottom unit, you're ready to backslide the material.

**Third Step:** Lower the unit down to about two inches from material already in the **Lumber Buddy™**. Then tilt the material, so it is almost touching the material at the tips of your forks.

**Fourth Step:** Back out from the material being stacked. The material should slide off with ease.

**Fifth Step:** Come around to the front and split off extra material and return to stock.

**Sixth Step:** When dropping large timbers on top of your order, backslide the timbers and then slide the timbers into position by hand. With the **Lumber Buddy™**, there is no reason to muscle these heavy materials.

*Remember: work safer and smarter, not harder.*

## **VIII. Hand Stacking Material**

Hand stacking material is quite simple when using the **Lumber Buddy™**, especially if you're pulling from a racking system.

**First Step:** Set the **Lumber Buddy™** next to the area you will be working.

**Second Step:** Bring material down from the rack, leaving the material on the forks at waist level. Proceed to pull the material you need, using leverage as a tool.

**Third Step:** Return excess material to the rack, then repeat the process until your order is complete. *Bear in mind that you can attach feet to the unit or a cover sheet depending on the material being pulled.* During this procedure the main unit of material should

never leave the forks, this reduces the possibility that the material could be damaged. You do not need to set the unit down or set stickers.

## **IX. Cutting E.W.P.**

Cutting long and heavy beams like Glue-Lams, Parallam, LVL, and Timberstrand Header Stock is made much easier with the **Lumber Buddy™**.

**First Step:** Set the **Lumber Buddy™** in the area you will be cutting.

**Second Step:** Cut your material and place the bottom row in the **Lumber Buddy™** from the front side.

**Third Step:** Backslide the additional product on top of the first row. If needed, position the material by hand. It is much easier to slide material than muscle it into place. This procedure can be repeated until the order is completed.

## **X. Wing Extensions**

An exciting new feature of the new Lumber Buddy™ all-in-one Extender unit is a wing extension that allow your standard LB90 Series 7.5' Lumber Buddy™ portable workstation to extend its stacking platform to 10.6', 12.6' even 14.6' for use with hard-to-handle composite products. Your LB120 Series 10' Lumber Buddy™ portable workstation will extend its stacking platform to 12', 14', even 16' with wing extensions.



**First Step:** Simply pull the bullet pins and slide each of the extensions to the same width then engage the pins and you are ready to go.

**Do not use the unit with only one extension pulled out.**

Always keep the unit balanced.



The extensions can be pulled completely out, so use caution when adjusting to the full 14.6' width.

Remember to check your **Lumber Buddy™** Platform daily for loose connections or damaged parts. Always keep your **Lumber Buddy™** Platform in good working order. Replacement Parts are available by calling 1-88-844-4708.

## **WorkSafeWorkSmart.com, LLC**

*To assure safe use of your Lumber Buddy portable stacking platform we firmly suggest that you replace all missing or worn stickers. Replacement stickers will be provided FREE of charge by calling toll-free 1-888-844-4708 or by emailing your request to [worksafe@lumberbuddy.com](mailto:worksafe@lumberbuddy.com).*

**Direct: 417-661-4386**

**Fax: 253-590-2875**

**Email: [info@WorkSafeWorkSmart.com](mailto:info@WorkSafeWorkSmart.com)**

**Toll Free: 888-844-4708**



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