

Easy Way To Create An “Instant” Wood Kiln

If you're looking for a quick way to add value to sawn wood, you'll like this new mini kiln that lets you set up a temporary 200 cu. ft. kiln anywhere using 2-in. thick sheets of Styrofoam.

“It's designed to dry 500 board feet or less,” says Charlie Griffin, technical sales, Logosol, Inc., about the Sauno Wood Kiln. “It's fine for small amounts of high value or specialty wood that needs to dry quickly. It comes with all the clips and plastic screws needed to quickly set up a temporary kiln. Or you can install it in a permanent, insulated structure.”

The \$999 kiln uses a drying method called “relax drying” that reduces cracking and other damage from accelerated drying. Using single-phase 220V power, the unit first heats up and steams the green lumber at temperatures of 158 to 167 degrees. This changes the cell structure of the wood, allowing moisture to move outward. The system then switches to a dehumidifying step at 104 to 122 degrees.

“It takes about 150 to 200 kW hours to dry a cubic meter of wood, which is about 50 board feet,” says Griffin.



Temporary kilns are made of sheets of 2-in. Styrofoam, held together with clips and screws supplied with the kit. Can be used to dry sawn lumber or firewood.

The end result, the company says, is furniture-dry wood that is straighter and has fewer cracks than slow air drying. While time required will vary with the type of wood and desired moisture level, softwood can be dried from 17 percent moisture content to cabinet-making quality in a week.

“If you have a larger insulated structure,

you can add kilns and use them in series,” says Griffin. “We also sell a larger unit that's sized for a 441 cu. ft. space.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Logosol Inc., P.O. Box 660, Madison, Miss. 39130 (ph 601 856-1889 or 877 564-6765; info@logosol.com; www.logosol.com).



They use a skid steer with a grapple to load up to three 6-ft. logs at a time.

Giant Wood-Burning Furnace Heats Shop

Clair Wilson and his sons operate a farming and fabrication business near Winchester, Ill. They have a huge 120-ft. sq. shop. To heat it they built a giant wood-burning furnace into an embankment next to the shop.

“We use a skid steer with a grapple to load up to three logs at a time. The logs measure 14 to 16 in. in diameter and are

up to 6 ft. long,” says Clair. “A pair of big hydraulic cylinders are used to open the lid. The cylinders are powered by a hydraulic pump inside the shop.”

Located just outside the shop walls, the furnace was built from 1/4-in. thick steel plate and measures 7 ft. sq. There's a full-wide door at one end of the stove that can be opened to remove ashes with the skid

steer. The furnace's hinged lid contains a water jacket that will eventually be connected to pipes embedded in the shop floor. The plan is to circulate heated water just beneath the floor.

For now, the shop is heated with hot air that's pumped through a plenum and into the shop by two large furnace fans. The plenum runs up one wall to the ceiling and across to the other side of the shop.

A blower mounted outside the furnace pushes fresh air into the firebox to feed the fire.

The shop's in-floor heating system goes back a ways. “We installed a home-built radiant floor heating system in the shop in 1994 and used a commercial liquid propane boiler to heat the water,” says Clair. “We placed a series of 1-in. schedule 80 pipes 1 ft. apart under the shop floor. We built the wood-burning furnace because of rising propane prices.”

He says they load logs into the furnace about once a day. A 30-ft. length of 10-in. dia. irrigation pipe serves as a flue for the furnace.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clair Wilson and Sons, 129 Hillview Rd., Winchester, Ill. 62694 (ph 217 742-3918).