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**Duke Concrete Products**

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**Otsego Ready Mix**

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# Contractor Bulletin

April - 2017

**NEW**

## Patriot Blast - Silica Free Blasting Abrasive

Patriot Blast™ and Patriot Blast ELITE™ blasting abrasives are fast-cutting, durable, low dusting, and silica free.

### 1240- Medium Grade Patriot Blast™ - 54 bags / Pallet



60# Bag - \$10.20

A medium grade coal slag abrasive is used for general purpose applications.

Removal of mill scale, rust and paint stripping on structural steel, ships, bridges.

### 2040- Fine Grade Patriot Blast™ - 54 bags/ Pallet



60# Bag - \$10.20

Fine grade coal slag abrasive is used for light paint and rust removal and new construction application.

Removal of light mill scale, light rust and light paint stripping on new structural steel, bridges, frames and trucks.

## SILICA TRAIN-THE-TRAINER COURSE

**Provider:** Mason Contractors Association of America

**Discipline:** Safety

**Credits:** 6.00



On June 23, 2017, OSHA's silica rule will be implemented. All jobsites will be required to have:

1. A written exposure control plan.
2. A competent person who has been trained on the exposure control plan and silica on a jobsite.

The MCAA's Silica Train-the-Trainer Course is a six-hour program that will train a key employee to train other employees to be a competent person with regard to the written exposure control plan. Certificates will be provided to those who complete the program.

### Upcoming Dates & Locations

**Speaker:** Jerry Painter Jerry Painter is the President of Painter Masonry, Inc., in Gainesville, FL. He has served as the Technical Committee Chairman for the Mason Contractors Association of America.

**Members Price:** \$350

**Non-Members Price:** \$700

July 12, 2017 Pittsburgh, PA	July 14, 2017 Buffalo, NY	August 1, 2017 New York, NY	August 3, 2017 Philadelphia, PA
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For more information or to register, visit <http://www.masoncontractors.org/education/silica-train-the-trainer-course/> or contact Mason Contractors Association of America at 800-536-2225.

# Skyrocketing Lumber Prices Put Builders in a Bind



Relations between the U.S. and Canada haven't exactly been neighborly thus far in 2017. The disputes over potential changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement are causing some serious international rifts.

Home builders are particularly concerned with the now-expired Softwood Lumber Agreement. The uncertainty surrounding a new trade agreement is impacting businesses on both sides of the border, as it was the primary culprit behind the surging lumber prices between mid-January and mid-February.

Tim Jackson, president and owner of Tim Jackson Custom Homes in Allen, Texas, says his market is already challenged with increased labor costs due to the labor shortage, and any increase in the price of materials only compounds the problem.

"Our company does fixed-price contracts so we are on the hook for any price increases from the time of the contract to the actual time of material purchases," Jackson said. "We do have a small contingency built in, but the recent price increases have far exceeded this contingency. The bottom line is that our margins will be eroded."

It's a similar situation for Kurt Dinnes, senior partner of Sun Custom Homes in Oklahoma City, who estimates lumber prices in his market are up about 15% from a year ago.

"It's impacting us the most with our custom homes that we bid on several months ago when prices were much lower," Dinnes said. "Even then, we were trying to adjust for the inevitable price increases, but we didn't adjust high enough."

"Our dilemma is that we have to stay competitive; that's the key," Dinnes said. "So when we bid on a project, we still err on the conservative side because the last thing we want is to price ourselves out."

In a recent Eye On Housing post, NAHB's tax policy analyst David Logan explains in greater detail why lumber prices began to skyrocket. Logan notes "the framing lumber composite price rose \$25 between February 3 and February 10, the largest one-week increase since August 2003."

In the weeks since then, buyers and traders have determined that prices "overshot lumber's true market value, and consequently they've flattened out," Logan said.

The outlook of a new agreement is "highly uncertain" at this point, according to Logan. But he predicts additional hikes looming in the near future, as more tariffs will be announced in April and again in May.

<http://nahbnow.com>

