

Jarand Building Products Ltd.

Watson Lake

Started: 1976

Contact: David Kalles

Jarand Building Products sells and installs sealed glass units, manufactures trusses, and makes lathe and dunnage. Lathe is the thin strip of wood that is usually placed between every few rows of lumber in a stack and dunnage is a 2x4 with a groove to hold metal strapping that is used under the stack. In addition to owners David and Alice Kalles, 2-3 people are employed on an “as needed” basis. Tom Cove is a partner in the lathe and dunnage part of the business.



Getting started: In the 1970s, David decided to open a building supply store but it took a number of years of financial juggling before he could open in 1984. The store grew steadily and Beaver Lumber bought it in 1997. David kept the glass and truss manufacturing parts of the business and last year he successfully approached South Yukon Forest Corporation with a proposal to supply the wooden strips and 2x4s used in their lifts of lumber.

Key to success: David’s knowledge of building products and Alice’s financial management skills provided an important package of skills for the business. They kept a careful handle on the finances, being realistic about their cashflow and not overstepping their financial limits.

Lessons learned: Learning to let go and delegate was a challenge David had to deal with as his store grew. Selling the store has brought him out from behind the desk and he is learning the steps of lathe and dunnage production firsthand in order to work out the kinks before hiring additional staff.

Future of business: A new shop is being built for the lathe and dunnage business. There are many opportunities for secondary processing of lumber for export and local use that will be explored once operations are running smoothly.