

Darby Distribution

Darby, Montana –TPM Member since July 2000



Midway between Missoula, Montana and Salmon, Idaho is a professional, contractor-oriented lumberyard . . . Darby Distribution. Darby Distribution has been serving the Bitterroot Valley since 1976. Mike Dembisky purchased the store in 1983 and has grown the small local business into a full service building materials and hardware store. The store services contractors and homeowners throughout western Montana and the Greater Salmon, Idaho area with a fleet of modern versatile delivery trucks.



Darby Distribution moved into its current location in 2008. Prior to this location the company had a smaller facility across the road.



Two Darby Distribution customers, Gordon McKinney and Scott Kaminski, catch up on their projects at the service counter.

Mike moved to Darby from Southern California in 1983 when he purchased the Darby store. He had his first job in a hardware store in 1966 and enjoyed the work. Mike is very pleased to call the Bitterroot Valley home and said, “I am very happy to no longer be associated with California. I met my wife Rhonda when I moved to Darby and we have been married for 22 years! She is the rock of the company.”

Meeting all of the needs of the Bitterroot Valley builder is the goal of Darby Distribution. Besides all of the lumber and hardware that a customer would need, Darby Distribution has its High Mountain Truss Division which has 2 full-time truss designers on staff and a complete state of the art facility capable of building trusses from a small garage to a building requiring 70’ long trusses and up to any height.

Darby Distribution works hard to service its customers’ unique needs. Customer service is what sets Darby Distribution apart. Its employees have an unparalleled commitment to meet the needs of the customer and their projects and the employees will go out of their way to help the customer. The staff at Darby Distribution has a combined total of over 355 years of experience in the building industry, including hands-on construction. Mike said, “This experience, along with Darby Distribution being a member of the Do it Best co-op (which gives us access to over 70,000 building material related products) makes Darby Distribution truly a one-stop building project destination.” The Darby store also meets the needs of the Bitterroot Valley with a full-line rental department with anything from hand tools, compressors, and concrete tools to scaffolding, space heaters and water pumps, and much more.



Employee, Brian Ruby, is kneeling on the truss table in front of the gantry. The gantry rolls across the trusses once the plates are ready and waiting to be affixed.

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Material quotes or take-offs can be provided in the very planning stages of a project, at the point where a foundation has already been poured, or questions can be answered if you just need help with a do-it-yourself project. The knowledgeable and experienced professionals have the means to provide the numbers and materials for a project and to get those materials to the job site in a timely fashion.

In 2008, the company expanded the store and now offers over 15,000 square feet of hardware, paint, gardening, plumbing and electrical shopping. The store also has an additional 12,000 square foot drive-through, under-cover lumber storage area. If that isn't enough, the store has a drive through "Hardware Café" espresso bar to keep customers warm in the winter and refreshed in the summer.



The Hardware Café serves customers with items such as: espresso, lattes, muffins and breakfast sandwiches. The café has a walk-up counter and seating area for customers inside and the drive-up window for the customer on-the-go!



A load of trusses headed to a building site in the Bitterroot Valley. The truck and trailer set-up can haul a stack of trusses 14 feet in height and up to 70 feet in length.

Civic pride and duty are part of the fabric of Mike and Rhonda's life. They proudly display the flags of the United States of America and the state of Montana in their store and have a full sized, framed copy of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights on display. Over the years Darby Distribution has given out thousands of free pocket Constitutions to anyone wanting one and to any schools that have asked.

Mike and Rhonda employ about 30 full time people year round. Darby Distribution employees are first and foremost, quality people and also great employees. Many have worked for the store for over 10 years and some for over 20 years. Mike said, "Our employees really are what sets Darby Distribution apart from any other retail operation."



Darby Distribution employs a specialized boom truck to deliver palletized loads directly where the customer needs it. The boom expedites delivery to hard-to-access areas.

Darby Distribution can be reached at
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