The Problem: The splitting and breaking of lumber when kiln charges are loaded and unloaded by power winch and cable.

The Answer: Use a steel guard to protect the bottom courses of lumber from being split or broken by the cable or chain.

1. The guard is made from a section of standard 4-inch channel iron. It is 24 inches long, and it is bent at a 90° angle 2 inches from each end. The sides of the channel are removed at the ends that form the angle.

2. The guard is hooked on the end of the load so that the lower angle is under the bottom course of lumber. It is positioned on the load where best support is expected.

3. The cable is then placed in the channel so it follows down and under the load.

4. The guard costs about $2, including labor, and it saves an estimated $125 worth of lumber a year.

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