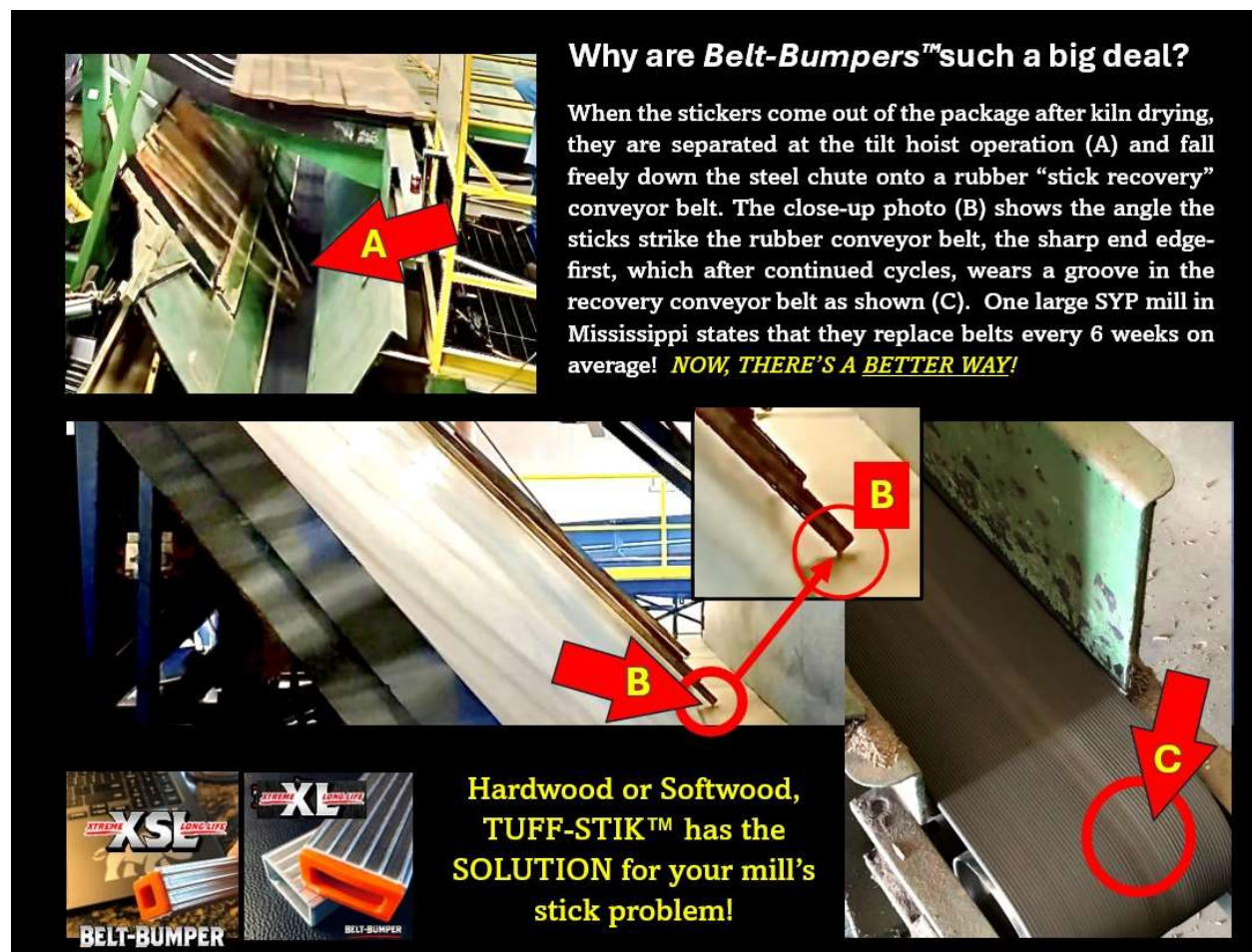


# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TUFF-STIK Introduces the Innovative Kiln Stik Belt-Bumper™: Revolutionizing Kiln Stick Operations and Minimizing Conveyor Belt Damage



**Why are *Belt-Bumpers™* such a big deal?**

When the stickers come out of the package after kiln drying, they are separated at the tilt hoist operation (A) and fall freely down the steel chute onto a rubber “stick recovery” conveyor belt. The close-up photo (B) shows the angle the sticks strike the rubber conveyor belt, the sharp end edge-first, which after continued cycles, wears a groove in the recovery conveyor belt as shown (C). One large SYP mill in Mississippi states that they replace belts every 6 weeks on average! ***NOW, THERE'S A BETTER WAY!***

**Hardwood or Softwood, TUFF-STIK™ has the SOLUTION for your mill's stick problem!**

Lake Ozark, MO – TUFF-STIK LLC, a leader in advanced dry kiln stick solutions, is proud to announce the launch of the ***Belt-Bumper™***, a groundbreaking addition to its renowned TUFF-STIK Dry Kiln Sticks. This new feature is specifically designed to protect conveyor belts from damage during the tilt-hoist operations, a common issue faced by many lumber mills which results in costly downtime and repairs.

During the typical tilt-hoist operation in a lumber mill, TUFF-STIK Dry Kiln Sticks are crucial for separating and transporting wood efficiently through the drying process. When any type of kiln sticks are released to descend down a steel chute into the stick-recovery system, they are dumped onto a rubber conveyor belt. The sharp corners of wood sticks can strike the conveyor belt with significant force, potentially cutting or prematurely wearing through the belt. This damage often forces mill operators to halt production, addressing the need for belt replacement or repair, which impacts productivity and increases operational costs.

The Belt-Bumper innovation comes as a direct response to this industry-wide challenge. Integrated seamlessly with each aluminum TUFF-STIK, the Belt-Bumper is a resilient silicone rubber device that inserts into the hollow cavity and acts as a cushion at the end of each stick. When the sticks make contact with the conveyor belt, the Belt-Bumper absorbs the impact, significantly and dramatically reducing the risk of cutting or wearing the belt. This simple yet effective solution promises to enhance the longevity of conveyor belts, thereby reducing the frequency of shutdowns for maintenance and repairs.

"Feedback from our mill customers indicated that the frequent stopping of production to repair or replace damaged conveyor belts was a significant bottleneck in their operations," said Steve Templeman, CEO of TUFF-STIK. "With the Belt-Bumper, we are not only addressing a critical pain point for our customers but also enhancing the overall efficiency and cost-effectiveness of their operations."

The development of the Belt-Bumper involved extensive research and testing to ensure it meets the high standards of both high and low temperature extremes and humidity conditions, affording durability and functionality expected from all TUFF-STIK products. Early adopters of the technology have reported a dramatic decrease in conveyor belt issues, with some mills experiencing a reduction in belt-related shutdowns by as much as 70%.

TUFF-STIK is committed to continuous innovation and support to the lumber industry, aiming to provide solutions that improve operational efficiency and reduce maintenance costs. The Belt-Bumper is now available as an optional addition to any TUFF-STIK Dry Kiln Stick order and can be retrofitted to existing sticks in use at mills across the country.

For more information about the Belt-Bumper and other products, please visit [www.tuffstik.com](http://www.tuffstik.com) or contact our sales team at (573) 525-8587.

About TUFF-STIK Technologies:

*TUFF-STIK is at the forefront of dry kiln lumber processing technology. With a focus on innovation, durability, and FIRST PRIORITY customer service, TUFF-STIK provides a wide range of products and services designed to maximize the efficiency and quality of lumber mill operations.*

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*This news release is intended for general informational purposes only. Statements within this release may constitute forward-looking statements with respect to the future performance of TUFF-STIK products.*