

# INSTALLATION, CARE & MAINTENANCE

## Storage of Timber Panels

### When Storing

Pine timber panels should always be stored in a dry internal area, out of the weather, and fully supported by gluts to allow air circulation. Panels should be kept away from any direct heat source e.g., heaters or direct sunlight. If a timber panel has bowed, turn the panel upside down and lay it flat to allow it to straighten out.

### Acclimatisation

48 hours before installation, remove all packaging from the panel. Lay it flat in the room it will be installed in, allowing it to acclimatise. Protect the panel from extreme changes in temperature and humidity. This acclimatisation period is ideal for applying a coating of polyurethane, oil, or lacquer to end grains and cuts, where future access will be a problem.

### Room Preparation

Please ensure that any plastering or plumbing is complete and allowed to dry before installing the timber panels.

## Before Installation

It is the responsibility of the user/installer to follow the application instructions for the timber surface finish of their choice. The panel will require additional finishing/sealing, depending on the application. Timber is a natural product that will move and change shape with changes in humidity and temperature.

Ensure all surfaces of the panel, including any cut edges, are COMPLETELY sealed to prevent moisture uptake, prior to installation.

### Fixing to Cabinets

Angle brackets are required to secure the timber panel to the cabinet carcass. The elongated bracket hole needs to be screwed to the underside of the timber panel. Always use washers with the screws to allow for humidity expansion changes.

Fit panels tightly to surrounding surfaces to avoid natural warping and bending when exposed to changing humidity and temperature. Secure the panel with angle brackets and screws every 20cm on all sides. Use the angle brackets to the wall side if there is no cabinet to fix the timber panel to.

Pre-drill holes in the timber panel where screws are required. Screws should penetrate the panel by a maximum of 2/3 of the thickness of the panel, when fixing into the surface.

If you wish to have an overhang of more than 100mm on the long or short edges, make sure to fit strong metal angle brackets underneath as tension support to avoid potential bending due to humidity changes.

### Corner Joints

When joining two timber panels together, use standard carpentry practices to avoid temperature warping at a later stage. Finish/seal the joining edge and the underneath of the timber panels before joining and fitting them.

## Installing a Timber Panel

### Before Installation

Your pine timber panel has not been pre-finished. For best results before installation, you must apply a generous amount of polyurethane, oil, or lacquer to all the panel surfaces, paying particular attention to the underside, cut edges and back edges, as these may not be accessible after installation. We recommend that all cut edges and end grains get a further three coats of polyurethane, oil, or lacquer, to ensure that the coating has penetrated deep into the timber.

Closely follow the polyurethane, oil, or lacquer manufacturer's instructions for application and recommended drying times between coats. Drying time depends on the relative humidity in the home at the time. Please give special attention to the coating of the end grains and cut ends to seal them properly.

Once all coats of oil are complete, allow 72 hours of drying before everyday use.

### **Installation Close to Appliances**

When a dishwasher or washing machine is installed under a timber panel, it is recommended to glue an insulation reflective foil and moisture barrier to the underside of the timber panel to protect it from intense heat. A minimum 25mm gap should be allowed for ventilation above the appliance. A 15mm gap is required from the end of the panel to any appliance.

**Note: Pine Panels are not suitable for wet areas so avoid using in wet areas such as kitchen and bathrooms. Pine Panels may be used as timber island benches where sinks and water fittings are not present, as long as the panel is coated with a high-quality polyurethane or lacquer.**

## **Care & Maintenance Instructions**

### **Ongoing Maintenance of the Timber Panel**

In the first few weeks of use, some care must be taken to prevent timber panels from becoming stained before they have built up sufficient protection. Avoid letting water build up on the work surface, wiping up any spills using a cloth. Follow the polyurethane, oil, or lacquer manufacturer's instructions for recommended maintenance to ensure your panel continues to be protected and re-coat as necessary.

### **Repair and Long-Term Maintenance**

After years of hard use, your timber panel may sustain stains, scrapes and abrasions. To refurbish your timber panel, lightly sand it down with a sanding machine or with fine sandpaper. For smaller areas of damage, sand locally and oil again.

### **Caution**

Do not use strong chemical cleaning agents like Alkyl to clean your timber panel. Do not spill powerful chemicals or products with ammonia, or perfumes, as they will discolour your timber panel.

Overhang support: If you wish to have an overhang of more than 100 mm on the long or short edges, make sure to fit strong metal angle brackets underneath as tension support to avoid potential bending due to humidity changes.

### **Tips**

- Hot items should not be placed directly onto the timber panel surface.
- Always use a chopping board for food preparation, not the work surface.
- Avoid letting water build up on the work surface, wiping up any spills using a cloth.
- Clean the panel with a warm damp cloth with a small amount of washing detergent.

### **Precaution**

Before using polyurethane, oil, or lacquer, read and comply with all provided manufacturer's instructions. Materials used to apply coating to your timber panel may become FLAMMABLE. Please store or dispose of them safely.