

Installation, Care & Maintenance Instructions

STORAGE OF TIMBER PANELS

When Storing

Timber panels should be stored flat and fully supported at all times and kept away from any direct heat source, i.e. heaters, direct sunlight. The timber panel will bow if stored vertically or near a direct heat source. If a timber panel has bowed, turn the panel upside down and lay it flat for a day or so to straighten it out.

Acclimatisation

48 hours before installation, remove all packaging from the panel. Lay flat in the room they will be installed in, allowing them to acclimatise. Protect the panels from extreme changes in temperature and humidity. This acclimatisation period is ideal for applying a natural wax, 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 panels will require additional finishing/sealing, depending on the application. Heat and humidity will affect the timber, and as it is a natural product, it will expand and contract.

Ensure all cut sides and the inside surface of cut holes are finished/sealed before installation. If using a fine-toothed panel saw to cut the timber panel, have the timber panel face upwards. If using a jigsaw to cut the timber panel, have the panel face downwards. All cut surfaces will require re-finishing/sealing. Specific knowledge of using timber in wet areas is required if panels are being installed in a wet area.

INSTALLING A TIMBER PANEL

Expansion gaps and silicone sealant

Solid timber is a living material that expands and shrinks with temperature and humidity variances. Always leave a 5mm expansion gap to all other dead surfaces such as Stone, Steel, Walls and Pipes. Use a quality expandable silicone sealant when fitting and filling expansion gaps where required. Clearance for any electrical appliance needs to be 25 to 40mm if the electrical appliance changes in temperature and humidity, insulation of reflective foil and a moisture barrier is required.

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 under-side 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 20 cm on all sides. Use the angle brackets to the wall side if there is no cabinet to fix the timber panel too. Pre-drill holes in the timber panel where screws are required. Screws should penetrate the panel by a minimum of 15mm. 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.

Fixing to brickwork

When fixing a timber panel to a brick pier, you must ensure that the brickwork is completely dry. As a precaution, glue a damp-proof barrier foil to the side or underside of the timber panel that has already been well-oiled and dried. Fixing with adhesive will help form a moisture barrier between the timber panel and the brickwork. We also advise that alternate fixing points be made along the length of the timber panel to prevent it from warping and bending.

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 underneath the timber panel before joining and fitting the timber panels.

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.

Fitting an inset sink

Follow the same procedure as fitting a laminate timber panel. Expansion gaps must be left and sealed with silicone sealant. Take great care when installing sinks into timber panels. When cutting out for a sink, always follow the sink manufacturer's instructions for sizes, safety clearances, and sealing with silicone sealant. Ensure all cut surfaces are correctly finished/sealed.

CARE & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

BEFORE INSTALLATION

Your timber panel may already have a natural wax or oil applied, but it is NOT finished. Before installation, you must apply a generous amount of wax or oil 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 wax or oil, to ensure that the oil has penetrated deep into the timber. Closely follow the wax or oil 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 oiling 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.

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, wipe off using a cloth. Follow the wax or oil manufacturer's instructions for recommended maintenance to ensure your panel continues to be protected and re-treat as necessary.

As a helpful tip, the timber panel will need oiling when water on the surface smudges rather than forming well-defined water droplets or when the timber panel feels dry.

For general applications, re-oiling once or twice per year should be sufficient to maintain the timber. For chopping boards more often. Always use a soft sponge with a light detergent to clean the surface once dry.

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, wipe off using a cloth.
- Clean the panel with a warm damp cloth with a small amount of washing detergent.
- Re-oil your timber panel regularly.

PRECAUTION

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