

# Timber storage tips

The way you store your timber can have a dramatic effect on its appearance, performance and value. Here are some top tips from Södra Wood Ltd for improving the shelf-life of your wood-based products – and preserving your bottom line.

## PROTECT YOUR TIMBER

If you're storing supplies outside, it's vital to keep them off the ground, out of direct sunlight and protected from heavy rain. A racking system with a canopy will afford good levels of protection.

If your timber arrives wrapped, keep it wrapped. If there's no wrapping supplied on delivery, cover wood that's being kept outside with waterproof sheeting, but always make sure there's enough air circulating to prevent excess moisture building up. Condensation is wood's worst enemy.

Once packs of timber are opened, a good tip is to regularly remake the stacks. Not only will this protect the outer layers from the elements, it will reduce the risk of distortion and improve the overall presentation of your products.

It's important to manage temperature and humidity levels. If there's a marked difference between the moisture content of the wood and the moisture content of your storage area, the timber may shrink or warp. So it's vital to consider your temperature and humidity levels.

## BE SAVVY WITH STORAGE

For structural items, such as roof battens and floor joists, it's best to stack the timbers on adequate bearers placed on a solid, level floor. To reduce the risk of warping, the length of the bearers should be equal to the width of the pack and the timber should lie as flat as possible.

Other structural pieces like I-Joists should also be kept off the ground on heavy-duty bearers. This will stop any moisture on the ground seeping into the wood and ruining it. If you don't have a suitable building for storing these items, make sure to place them on firm, flat, well-drained ground.

It's always worth investing in a racking system to store and display your timber. Not only will this save valuable floor space, it will protect your products, air them properly, and improve access to individual sheets or timbers.

## ROTATE YOUR STOCK

From a business point of view, it's vital to keep stock moving. So keep freshly delivered timber back so that you sell older stock first. By making your older supplies more accessible, you should be able to maximise sales and minimise wastage. Another good tip is to regularly walk the aisles, checking on your timber to make sure it's presented in the best possible condition. If you have a few items left over from various packs, collect them in bundles at the front of your warehouse.

## PASS IT ON

Make sure the wood that leaves your warehouse stays in perfect condition on-site. Here are some top tips to pass on to your customers:

- Protect wood from the elements
- Ventilate timbers at all times
- Use professional handling equipment
- Plan deliveries just in time

