

Getting to know Wood



Relative Moisture Levels

Natural timber will expand (Swell) and contract (Shrink) as it adapts to the relative humidity in the air. When wood contracts quickly due to rapid changes in humidity, for example, during a heatwave, the timber is more prone to splits and checks (end grain cracks). The reverse is also true as the moisture in the air rises the timber will expand (swell) and the splits and checks will begin to close. This is a natural process and does not affect the structural integrity of the product.



August



October

Sunlight exposure, Covers & Cleaning

- Natural Timber exposed to sunlight will turn to a silver grey colour over a period of time.
- We do not recommend using tarpaulins or non-breathable covers on un-treated timber as this will encourage mould growth.
- We recommend cleaning the timbers with warm soapy water or a specialised wood cleaner and a sponge.

Knots, Dents & Defects

- Knots - knots are part of the beauty that makes up natural timber, however as timber dries and shrink they can occasionally lift leaving a sharp edge. To resolve this, simply sand the affected area with 80 grit sand paper to a smooth finish.
- Dents can be treated with sand paper and exterior wood filler depending upon the depth and preference. Defects, such as lifting grain can be glued and sanded smooth with 80 grit sand paper

For best practices to keep your timber looking great, please see next page.

Timber Treatment

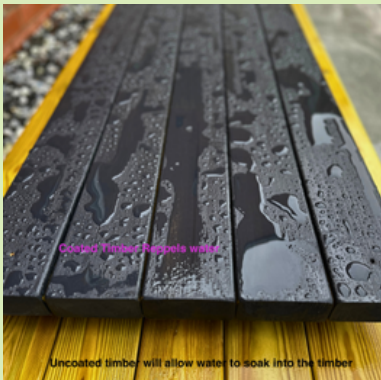


Pressure Treatment

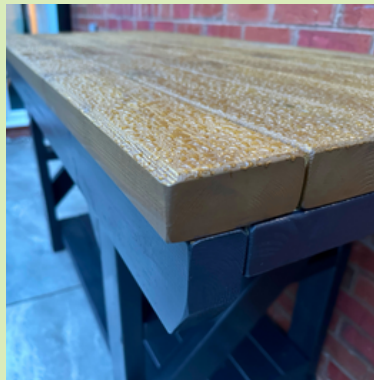
All of our products are made using pressure treated timber (Tanalith E). This will help to protect the timber from rot. This will not prevent the swelling and shrinking process nor will it provide UV protection.

Water Repellent treatment

Adding a water repellent treatment to the timber will help control and stabilise the relative moisture levels contained. It does so by preventing the ingress of water into the timber and controls how rapidly the existing moisture is expelled. This will significantly help to reduce splits and checks spoken about on the previous page along with reducing the risks of warps and twists in the product. We strongly recommend the investment into a good quality water repellent.



Coating Repelling Water



Natural Oil Repelling Water



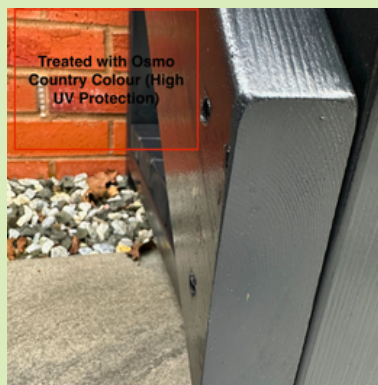
Untreated Absorbing Water

UV Protection

Adding a UV protection you protect the timber from UV rays which will damage the wood fibres. Left untreated this process renders them less resilient and more prone to cracking, splitting and sloughing along with warping and cupping.



May - Untreated



May - Osmo Country Colour



May - Osmo Oil Woodstain

Summary

Applying a good quality wood treatment will help keep your new product its best. For the details of this write up we have separated treatments into two, water repellence and UV protection, however most treatment will offer both solutions in one treatment.