

Sealing the Facing Product on all Surfaces

As referenced in adjoining web pages, the single biggest threat to product stability is changes in moisture content - this applies to all timber facing products irrespective of their being installed in weather exposed OR weather protected locations.

The application of oils or other surface protecting materials is a recommended means of minimising changes in moisture content, but the performance improvement afforded by these finishes is only optimised when the initial coating of the protecting substance is applied to ALL surfaces AND faces of the facing product.

To achieve this, it is imperative that the facing is 'sealed all round' prior to installation. Factory pre-coating is the more cost efficient way of applying an initial coating, but site application can provide a similar result if the application is thorough.

Sarking

A Vapour Permeable (breathable) and fire resistant sarking (building paper) must be installed behind all TIMBECK Weather Exposed Cladding, irrespective of profile, size or timber specie.

Sarking is one of the most important components in ensuring optimum performance from any timber cladding.



a vapour permeable membrane is essential behind all weather exposed cladding

The Importance Of Air Space

To enable weather exposed timber cladding to respond to natural changes in atmospheric conditions (humidity, rain wetting, condensation etc), it is essential that air is able to move freely on both faces of the board.

When the cladding is fixed over a vapour permeable membrane and directly to framing members (whether they be studs, noggings or battens), the air space at the back of the board is achieved via the spaces between the framing (irrespective of the presence of insulation batts).

In situations where the cladding is not fixed directly to individual framing members but is fixed over another flat surface (ie a masonry wall or a plywood sheathed frame), the provision of 'free air space' at the back of the board can be achieved by first fixing battens to the flat surface then fixing the membrane and cladding to the battens.

Battens should be seasoned and at centres to suit the specification for the specific cladding product. The minimum thickness of the battens should be 25mm (nominal) but may need to be thicker depending on the length and positioning of the cladding fixing nails (or screws).

Storage on Site

All material should be stored on site in a dry, well protected location. If stored on natural ground, temporary bearers should be packed as necessary to ensure a level platform well clear of the ground.

If stored on a concrete slab or other prepared area, packing should also be incorporated to ensure free movement of air under and around the packs.

Acclimatisation

All TIMBECK Cladding and Panelling products are produced from seasoned timbers where the moisture content is generally below 15%.

As each project is fundamentally different with respect to geographical location, season of the year when constructed, propensity for excessively wet or dry conditions, it is strongly recommended that boards be allowed to acclimatise to any new environment before being fixed into position.

This is best achieved by removing any packaging, separating all pieces and temporarily restacking under a well covered area so as to allow plenty of free air flow between all pieces.

Acclimatisation is important for interior applications where the moisture content of the material to be installed varies from the average Equilibrium Moisture Content for the in-service environment by more than 2%.