



Winter Painting Dresser guide to good practices:

Almost 80% of problems related to factory finished joinery & cladding are from items manufactured & supplied during winter months.

Most site problems are related to either one or a combination of two factors:

1. Low temperatures; which affect the drying & curing of the coating system.
2. High humidity; which causes dimensional movement in the timber, opening joints to moisture.

Practical steps in the factory:

- Keep paint in a heated store before use & never leave paint cans on a cold floor.
- Follow the film thickness specification.
- Maintain a warm temperature of 15-20c in the drying area.
- Avoid trying to accelerate drying by blistering hot air at the joinery items. This will speed up surface drying, but will trap moisture in the film & slow down the drying process.
- Delay wrapping finished products for as long as possible, wrapping & storage in an unheated despatch area will slow or stop moisture release & prevent the full drying process from completion.

Practical steps on site:

- Remove airtight packaging, prior to storage to allow free ventilation of the joinery.
- Store joinery off the ground on suitable bearers & cover with permeable sheet to protect from contamination.
- Storage areas should be well ventilated & not subject to extremes of temperatures. Avoid unsuitable storage such as metal box containers & areas open to the elements. These may be subject to condensation & very high temperatures in direct sunlight. Water can also collect in protective wrapping leading to saturation of some components.
- Ensure that any onsite assembly are fully protected, joints & unprotected end grain exposed by site modification must be properly sealed & protected with the appropriate end seal.



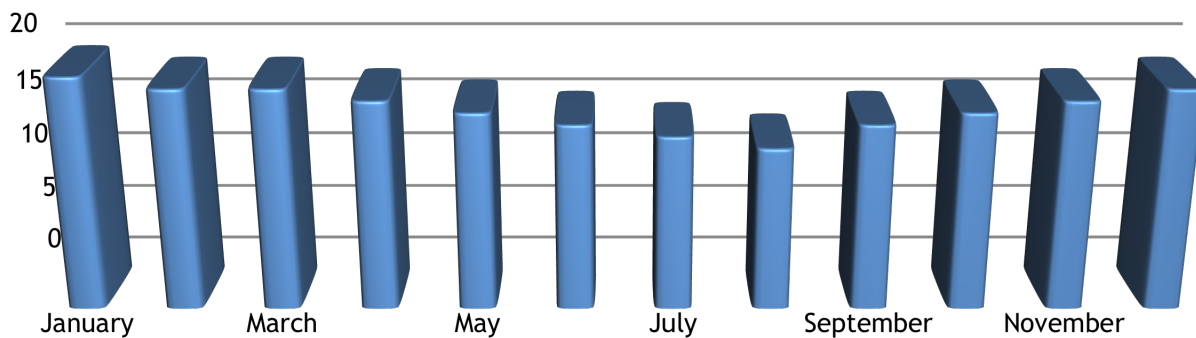
Timber Moisture Content:

The ambient moisture content of exterior joinery varies significantly through the year & this is independent of any treatment or finishes applied.

Dimensional change is a function of species & grade but broadly timber dimensions vary by about 1% for every 3% change in moisture content.

In winter it is not untypical for joinery to leave a factory at around 12 to 16% then arrive on site at around 20-22% resulting in dimensional changes of 3-4% Causing joints to open & moisture to penetrate unprotected end grain.

Average Moisture Content



Drying chamber to maintain correct drying processes during winter months