KLC'S TIMBER WEATHERBOARD SITE STORAGE SMARTS

Whether it's hot and dry or cold and wet, seasonal climatic changes affect the moisture content of timber.

Before, during and after it's in place, your timber continues to absorb or lose moisture until it reaches the same level as the surrounding environment. While storing timber weatherboards on the building site, issues can arise such as, swelling, cracking, splits at the end of the boards and face contamination just to name a few.

Obviously, this is not ideal, and in the worst-case scenario can lead to costly delays on construction projects until that moisture content returns to the manufacturer's acceptable level. It is imperative to look after timber to keep the board appearance in pristine condition. So, builders must know how to store their timber correctly to keep it safe and dry throughout the summer and winter.

To help builders achieve maximum and continual performance from their kiln-dried Generation 2 H3.2 NZ timber cladding product, KLC has put together some key facts around site storage, installation and painting.

Generation 2 products are treated with a revolutionary waterbased micronised copper timber treatment technology called Micro-Pro which provides protection from termites, borers and fungal decay. The MicroPro® treated timber is then kiln-dried to a pre-determined moisture content and profiled to various weatherboard, fascia, finishing boards and D4S profi les. But it will still absorb moisture in a damp environment and release it in a dry environment.

Firstly, KLC advises that all products must be dry prior to installation and ideally stored in a dry closed in building, on a flat surface raised off dry ground on 150mm bearers spaced a metre apart. However, if the timber is delivered and awaiting relocating indoors, it's crucial there is a moisture barrier or ground sheet under the stack and a secondary waterproof cover on top, covering the edges to the base of the packet. Good air circulation lets the product breathe maintaining the optimum condition.

The product must be kept out of direct sunlight and protected from both rain and ground moisture uptake.

Chrissie Atkinson, New Zealand marketing manager of KLC explains: "It's not just the building timber itself that's affected by the weather. All framing, nogs and cavity battens that come into contact with the cladding or fascia timber must be dry prior to installation. The underside of the weatherboard is vulnerable to water ingress if the moisture content exceeds 15%. Weatherboards must be checked prior to installation and painting using a moisture meter (probe or plate (face) moisture reader) and should not be installed until the board has returned to the original dimensions following a period of drying time."

As wood is hydroscopic and the oil based primer coating does not prevent moisture uptake, it is important to keep the product dry until it is installed. Product exposed to high moisture uptake will swell temporarily but return to the original dimensions following a drying period. It is important to check the product dimensions are the same as the profile standard before installing.

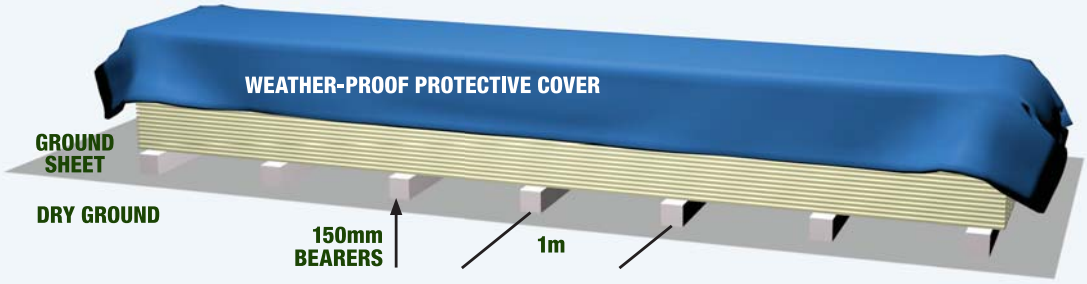
Should the Generation 2 H3.2 products absorb moisture prior to installation and swell, it's not the end of the world, says NZ Sales Manager Trevor Attwood. "The swelling disappears when the timber returns to its original moisture content. However, if the boards do become wet, check the profile dimensions. If they are larger than the specification, leave them to regain their correct profile before installing."

The key to maximising weatherboard performance is to ensure the boards are installed and painted while meeting the manufacturer's approved moisture content. This way you will achieve the best performance of your timber weatherboard product for generations to come.

Kevin Lewis

Managing Director

KEEP IT DRY & PROTECTED FROM THE ELEMENTS



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