Techlam Laminated Timber Products

WOODSPAN PLT PANELS CARE & MAINTENANCE

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Introduction

Timber is an organic product. It will expand as it absorbs water and will shrink as it dries out. These changes can cause checking, water-staining and even dimensional changes.

This means Woodspan PLT panels do need to be cared for during the construction phase and then maintained once installed and the building complete.

Effect of weather on Woodspan PLT panels

When exposed to rain and ponding water PLT Panels will absorb moisture. Generally, over the course of the construction phase the moisture will dry out with no adverse effect on durability, structural integrity or overall panel dimensions. Weather, environmental and moisture exposure to panels may result in panel discolouration and water staining.

Cupping of panels across the grain can occur, particularly where the depth to breadth ratio is in excess of 10:1 or if panel is exposed to differential climatic conditions (heat or moisture) on opposite sides. Temporary moisture resistance is provided by way of a factory applied coating which will provide a level of protection from moisture ingress for up to 2 months.

Effect of construction work on Woodspan PLT panels

Construction work and foot traffic across the floor will leave marks and dirt on the PLT panel if unprotected. In addition, any prolonged contact with metal and grinding dust may cause dark surface staining to the panel

Maintaining the visual look

In general, Woodspan recommends the application of an overlaid flooring product post installation of the Woodspan PLT system. If considering Woodspan PLT Panels for use as a finished floor the effect of weather and construction on the panels as noted above needs to be acknowledged. Ideally panels will be protected during construction with a moisture resistant wrap.

An alternative type of lifting system may also be needed – this can be discussed with Woodspan prior to site installation. Please be aware that despite all measures being taken to protect panels – some remediation of panels and sanding will be required. Once sanded, Woodspan recommends the finishing of the panels with a coating system, this will offer an increased level of protection and hardness to the floor.

Annual maintenance

Where possible, as part of the building general maintenance inspection look for,

- visible signs of water ingress and deterioration of the Woodspan PLT panels
- damage or indication of corrosion of fixings and connections
- loss of integrity of membranes, such as cracking, as this provides protection of the Woodspan PLT panels
- damage to floor or ceiling linings that may suggest failure of the Woodspan PLT panels.

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