



Good practice for Duraply panels use

The aim of this document is to provide the user with guidance on how Duraply panels should be handled & stored in order to help preserve their properties.



Storage:

- Panels should not be subjected to extreme conditions while storage, e.g. abrupt changes in moisture or temperature, direct sunlight, rain, high temperatures...
- Avoid direct contact with any potentially harmful agents, e.g. pools of water, soil, moss, fungus, etc.
- Avoid storing panels in areas where they might be damage by passing vehicles.
- In order to achieve optimal storage conditions, panels should be kept at between 30 and 80% humidity and in their original packaging. This will help prevent problems should the panels be coated, varnished, etc. at a later state.
- Panels should be stored flat, leveling crates with suitable materials, if required.
- Avoid using mechanical handling systems, steel straps or other equipment harder than wood, as these may cause damage to the panels.
- Panels should be stacked in accordance with standard safety regulations.
- Panels should not be stacked more than four packs high.
- Brackets should be fitted in vertical alignment in order to achieve good weight distribution.
- In the event that storage conditions are not able to meet the above criteria, please contact to our Quality Control department for advice.



Usage and handling:

Any treatment, handling or re-processing of panels may modify the inner characteristics of the poplar plywood, resulting in potentially serious defects.

The following rules for correct use should therefore be followed:

- It is not advisable to use this kind of plywood for decorative purposes. Due to the treatment these boards undergo, the appearance of the wood may become blemished by marks or coloured areas, etc.
- Any screws, nails, etc. used on Duraply panels should be rust-proof in order to avoid problems following later treatments.
- Before use, the panels should be acclimatized to local environmental conditions whilst taking into account the aforementioned general conditions.
- When machining panels, always use suitable, high-quality tools, which allow the wood to be cut cleanly, without tearing, shredding, etc.
- The panels should not be hit with anything harder than wood or be subjected to any impact.
- The following information should be considered when using these panels:
 - The panels dilatation rate is $(\alpha(^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1})=10^{-6})$. A sufficient expansion joint should therefore be allowed when installing the panel.
 - Panels should only be fixed to clean, flat, stable surfaces.



Surface finish:

The Duraply treatments helps to protect the panel from damage caused by fungi and insects, giving them greater durability and resistance to biological attack.

These panels however still possess the natural hygroscopic properties of wood. It is therefore worthwhile taking the necessary steps to protect them against weather conditions e.g. rain, sunlight, etc.

We recommend as follows:

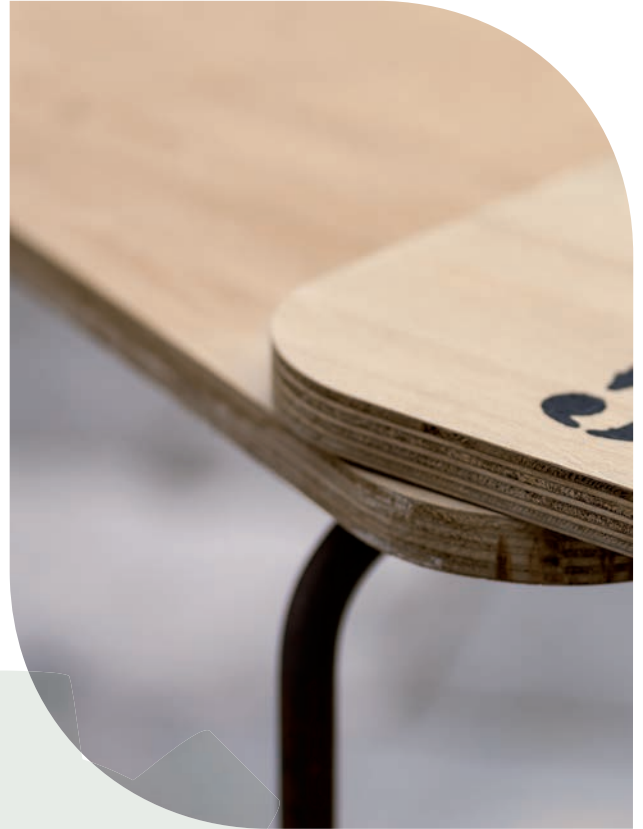
- The way in which panels are installed, can lead to their properties lasting longer. For example, a panel's life will be extended if its edges are less exposed to rainwater and sunlight.
- Once the panels are installed, the surface treatment should be applied as soon as possible. The panels should never be left untreated for more than a week after fitting.
- Always bear in mind the weather conditions at the time.
- Different surface finishes (quality, quantity...) may provide better protection for the panels. Opaque, breathable finishes are preferable to semi-transparent varnishes (which provide less protection against sunlight) or varnishes which do not allow the wood to breathe.
- Always use good quality surface finish products and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- The following general instructions for finishing are:
 - The panel's surface should be cleaned before any product is applied.
 - Apply finish only in good weather conditions (no rain, too high or too low temperature, avoid direct sunlight when painting, etc.).
 - It is recommended that treatments should be applied by either brush or roller rather than a spray gun to ensure good impregnation of the panel.

- Although the panels have performed well when screws are directly inserted into wood, with no sealing, it is still however recommended that they are sealed, as this will improve the product's features and help extend the panel's life.
- Protect and seal panel edges and any altered side of the panel, especially after cutting, in order to preserve the product's characteristics.
- Use a suitable water-repellent product for sealing such as varnish, sealant, painting, etc.



Maintenance:

- The panel's surface finish should be kept well maintained to help preserve its properties and protect it from the harmful effects of sunlight, weather conditions, etc.
- Before any maintenance of a panel is carried out, any earlier treatment should be assessed and a decision made as to whether this needs to be removed prior to the application of any new treatment. In this case, non-aggressive products should always be used and a new coat of protection of paint can then be applied. This process should be periodically carried out, as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Poor maintenance, or indeed the application of too many coats of paint, may lead to a reduction in the protection provided by the panel.
- As previously recommended, panel edges should be sealed. Checks should then be carried out at intervals and if necessary, repairs made to ensure their continued good condition.



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