

Understanding Timber Building Constraints



1. Windows & doors on timber buildings are not constructed to the same specifications as doors and windows used on houses, as such in certain situations, particularly during periods of heavy wind-driven rain, you may find you have water penetration through window and door openings, this is not a construction defect and is down to weather conditions that are unavoidable. Please review our information sheet - Timber Building Painting and Weatherproofing.
2. As your new timber garden building is not constructed to the strict water tightness properties of a habitable dwelling, it is advisable not to store any items which are liable to degrade or get damaged by being in an unheated/dry atmosphere. Garden timber buildings will always have an air ambient moisture content similar or equivalent to the outside conditions.
3. Water staining on internal timbers and lining paper due to water penetration through nail & fixings holes cannot be avoided if the building is improperly waterproofed externally. Sometimes one side of a building faces the prevailing wind direction which will drive rain harder into that side of the building causing the problem of water penetration through fixings points to be exacerbated. If after your initial painting and waterproofing, you have issues with water penetration through nail & fixing points, please revisit that area and re-paint. Water penetration through fixing points is not a construction or material defect and is down to the quality of the external weatherproofing of the building you have undertaken. Please review our information sheet - Timber Building Painting and Weatherproofing
4. The timber used to produce your timber building may form cracks or splits (checks/shake) that will open and close as an effect of weather conditions, please hesitate from filling these cracks with a hard filler as when the timber swells and closes, the crack the filler is in will act as a 'wedge' and cause the crack to extend further. These cracks are not detrimental to the item's long-term durability if treated properly. Cracks or splits in wall cladding should be sealed with silicone mastic or glue and re-painted/weatherproofed. Cracks or splits are not construction or material defects and are unavoidable as timber is a natural product. Please review our information sheet - Timber Building Painting and Weatherproofing.
5. Knots in timber cladding are unavoidable; knots are formed when trees grow branches. Timber knots should be treated with a knot sealing compound to help arrest any knot sap bleed out; Patent knotting solution is ideal for treating weeping knots if painting the timber building. Knots which split/crack or become loose in cladding after initial painting should be sealed and glued and re-painted/weatherproofed. Knot bleed out, and cracks/knot drop out are not construction or material defects and are unavoidable as timber is a natural product. Please review our information sheet - Timber Building Painting and Weatherproofing
6. As timber is a natural product it will shrink, swell & twist with changes in ambient air moisture content - please refrain from shaving or planing to ease any swelling on windows and doors, you should re-adjust fittings to ease any problems as after a relatively short time your timber product will settle into the environment, and any changes will stabilise (usually within 6-12 months depending on the time of year your product was installed). Shrinking, swelling & twisting is not a timber or construction defect and is unavoidable as timber is a natural product. Please review our information sheet - Timber Building Painting and Weatherproofing
7. External cladding shrinkage. HAYMAC timber buildings are clad externally with a rebated shiplap boarding, the shiplap we use has a rebate of 12mm deep, this extra deep rebate allows the cladding to swell and shrink with changes in ambient air moisture content. Without the ability for the shiplap cladding to move within its rebate, the shiplap cladding would buckle under the pressure that would be created at the joint. Buildings are constructed with the rebate and tongue of the opposing boards pushed tight together, knowing that after a relatively short period the cladding will shrink a few millimetres giving the necessary gap required to avoid undue stress on the cladding when the building is installed outdoors where the air moisture content will be higher than our workshop. Shiplap cladding under certain circumstances may shrink more than expected and if the excessive shrinkage occurs after painting, you will see untreated lines at timber cladding joint which will require painting. Our extra-deep rebate allows for an unusual level of shrinkage without any detriment to the integrity of the building. Some shrinkage of external cladding is to be expected, in some cases, the shrinkage is more apparent from the inside of the building as you will see light penetration through the board overlaps, light will penetrate but water will not. External cladding shrinkage is not a construction or material defect and is unavoidable as timber cladding is a natural product and some timber cladding boards will shrink at different rates under different on-site conditions. Please review our information sheet - Timber Building Painting and Weatherproofing.
8. Moisture inside your garden timber building, caused by damp, wet conditions can get trapped inside timber buildings, especially if they are not used often and improperly externally waterproofed. If the outside temperature drops, any moisture inside the shed will cause condensation on the inside of the shed panels, roof, floor and possibly other items stored in the shed. This condensation will cause mould and mildew to form very quickly. Please note mould or mildew is not a defect of manufacture or materials and is down to on-site conditions. Please review our information sheet - General Maintenance of your HAYMAC Timber Building & Timber Building Painting and Weatherproofing.

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9. It is also a good idea to not store wet or damp items in the garden timber building, like garden tools or wet clothes etc. Try to dry them off before returning them to your timber building.
10. Installing a floor covering such as Carpet or Linoleum/Vinyl is not recommended in your garden timber building as carpet will absorb moisture, and without adequate ventilation, the carpet will hold the moisture and cause an excessive build-up of mould or mildew which will cause the floor boarding to rot prematurely. Linoleum/Vinyl will not allow adequate air flow beneath the Linoleum/Vinyl floor covering and the floor boarding which will not allow the floor boarding to dry during periods of high ambient air moisture and will cause excessive mould and mildew build-up which will cause the floor boarding to rot prematurely. Please review our information sheet - General Maintenance of your HAYMAC Timber Building & Timber Building Painting and Weatherproofing
11. Do not store items directly against walls as this will cause areas where airflow is restricted, and the same applies to storing items too close to the ceiling.