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MOULDINGS



# Timber Mould

## What is it and how can I fix it?

Moulds and algae are common growths on all timber, treated or otherwise. It is common to see black type mould on outdoor timber such as decking, fencing and other exterior timbers. The growth of these surface moulds is related to temperature, moisture and the presence of mould spores in the atmosphere. Mould lives on the surface and feeds on the wood sap and other nutrients from the wood. Where persistent mould has been present on wood for sometime then long term staining may occur.

It is important to remember that they do not penetrate the wood structure and are purely an aesthetic issue unrelated to wood decay. Therefore generally product failure is not a cause for concern.

As mould occurs where there is moisture and warmth it can occur on wet, kiln dried, untreated or treated timber. Mould will be often seen on CCA treated wet outdoor timber. CCA treatment is to prevent decay, fungi and insect attacks that structurally affect timber, it does not prevent surface mould.

Kiln dried boron treated timber (such as framing) may also develop surface mould even while wrapped if timber becomes damp. Once timber frames have been erected and exposed to the right environmental conditions such as a warm humid climate, then surfaces may show signs of mould. The key to stopping mould development in framing is to ensure the moisture content remains below 18% and close in the frames as soon as possible. As frames dry out mould growth will cease although some discolouration may remain.



### REMEDY

Keeping timber clean is the first step in preventing and controlling mould. A simple cleaning process involves using warm water and mild detergent (or a proprietary cleaner) applied with a stiff brush and hosed off. For persistent mould there are a number of commercially available products such as "Wet and Forget" or "30 Seconds" that can aid in cleaning and restoring the natural appearance of timber. We recommend using this type of product while adhering to any instructions.

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