

Information on Splits & Cracks in Timber



There is no need to worry about splits and cracks

Timber is a natural substance, and as a living organism, it is influenced heavily by its surroundings. When a tree is first cut down (green wood), it can contain over 50% of its weight in water.

Before timber is used, it is kiln-dried in state-of-the-art Drying Kilns, where most of the free water is removed. Timbers are kilned down to 40% moisture for Spruce and 30% for Pine.

Regardless of how well dried timber is, it will always grow and shrink according to seasonal changes in the relative humidity of the air. During the Summer months, splits and cracks will be visible in timber supplied and installed. This is due to the expansion and contraction with the changes in temperature and humidity.

Timber changes with seasons

The changes will be more prevalent in the machine rounded timbers we supply, especially Unilog Pro and PlayGuard, due to the nature of the timber structure and machining. Splits and cracks will vary in size, and there is no need to be concerned as the changes will not affect the durability and strength of timbers. In the summer the cracks get larger and then when the cold, wet winter months return these will close up.

Characteristics of timber

Branches, grains and piths are also part of the characteristics of the timber that will affect the way the timber looks. It is completely natural to have a variation in the look of the timber, and that is also what gives it the natural aesthetic look when installed.

Here to help

When you receive a delivery from M&M Timber, especially PlayGuard and Unilog Pro, consider unpacking the timbers to allow them to dry for 48-72 hours before assembly.

If you have any questions, please contact M&M Timber on 0333 003 5133 or email sales@mmtimber.co.uk



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