

# Timber Topics

Making the most of merchant sales throughout the year

Spring 2020 Special Edition

## Protect your investment

Storing wood products in short-term situations



Photos BSW Timber



### Safeguarding performance

Your stock has value, both to you and your builder customers. It makes business sense to keep it in good order, especially if you encounter any periods where business is slower than usual, or at times like the present, where there is uncertainty going forward because of the Covid 19 virus.

Protecting your stock and storing it properly safeguards its performance and its appearance. Read our tips for keeping everything in tip-top condition so you can make the most of sales when they bounce back.

### Storing outside: keep it covered

Store carcassing on bearers on a firm, level surface where rainwater can run away if you can't store it under cover.

Structural timber like carcassing needs some protection from the rain, wind and sun. Pack wrappers should be left on if storing timber outside, but the wood still needs to breathe. One solution is to staple tile battens to the long edges of the wrapper. This weighs down the cover, stopping it blowing away yet allowing you and your customers access to select and inspect the stock.



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Photo: James Donaldson Timber

Photo: S R Timber



Photo Pasquill



## Storing inside: moisture matters

All wood and wood-based products for internal use should be kept under cover in your timber shed, to minimise timber's natural movement and problems like bowing, cupping and twisting. It therefore makes sense to keep your shed as dry as is feasible during periods of extended storage. Wrapped MDF profiles should be stored on a minimum of 4 bearers in a dry and well-ventilated space to avoid moisture absorption. Sheet materials must be stored inside away from moisture, on even-height, level bearers to avoid distortion. Higher value joinery and flooring may need additional protection.

## Products for specific purposes

Trussed rafters and products like I-joists need special handling. I-joists must be stored on level ground and undercover. Trussed rafters, if stored vertically, need bearers positioned at the locations where support would have been provided in the roof design, stacking against a safe, firm support. For horizontal storage, position level bearers under each truss node to prevent any deformation or distortion. Roofing/tiling battens (slatings) need to be well supported to prevent distortion and maintain air circulation. Anti-slip decking should be stored face to face (grit to grit). Find out more at: [tff.co.uk/merchants](http://tff.co.uk/merchants)



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