

Bombora Custom Furniture

Advice on Pre-laminated Benchtop/Panels

Everything you need to know.....

All timber is carefully acclimatised to MC (Moisture Content) 10 to 13% in our Drying Shed before lamination. A careful chain of custody ensures that this timber is kept seasoned and ready for installation and use. It is suitable for all fine furniture practices such as mitre joints and further lamination in situ.

LAM Panels are formed by laminating the edges of milled timber boards of same size - width and thickness - into wide panels. Perimeter boards are always single length and inner runs may contain boards with precision butt-joins. Panels are wide-belt sanded after completion but may require further fine sanding before coating with a clear finish.

Until LAM panels are coated with a clear finish they are extremely vulnerable to ingress and egress of moisture in an asymmetrical manner - and the expected distortion and movement due to this take up and loss of moisture.

The amount of moisture we are talking about is minor and derived from atmospheric changes. Nevertheless, it can lead to loss of 'flatness' on one or both faces - a slight cupping that is barely visible or is only revealed when a straight edge is put on the panel. This asymmetrical movement is caused when one face is uncovered and exposed to draughts, cold, heat or sunlight and the other side is in a protected or face-down aspect.

It is recommended that the panel you purchase is protected from differential or asymmetrical movement as soon as it is selected from the sandwich stacks at Timberzoo by following the advice below:

- Allow sales staff at Timberzoo to wrap and tape your LAM panel in plastic wrap prior to collection or loading your trailer/ute. Do not collect the panel or transport it outdoors on a rainy day.
- If you have van transport, bring a blanket, thermal wrap or fabric protection blanket to wrap the panel in. In the long term, blankets are better than plastic wrap because they can breathe, and no condensation or sweating is possible.
- Store indoors only – not in a carport. When you store the panel in closed garage or inside the house, ensure it is fully wrapped in the heavy blanket and not in sunlight coming through glass. This reduces air movement on panel surface and allows for no differential in the atmosphere affecting one or the other face. It protects against all enemies of a raw LAM panel - chilly draughts, warm breezes, direct sunlight and rapid temperature changes in storage.
- Keep the time in storage to a minimum. The faster a LAM panel is installed and coated, the lower the risk of surface distortion. The degree of deflection from flat is usually minor but still a big nuisance to correct and work with at the time of installation. Once a LAM panel is held in place by fixings and clear sealed on both faces and all edges, it is no longer at such extreme risk of movement.



