

A photograph of a dark-stained wooden picnic table with attached benches, set on a wooden deck in front of a building with vertical wood siding.

Dressed Timber Boards At Timberzoo

Both recycled and KD timber products on the shelves at Timberzoo are suitable for fine-furniture practices such as laminating and jointing - for instance, mitres and dovetails. These timbers are reliably 10-12% MC and stable in typical indoor environments in terms of shrinkage or excessive movement.

However, our range of re-dressed F27 and Wharfdeck sizes, which have also been kiln-dried, are not suitable for these practices because they are dried to 15-16% MC which is consistent - and at equilibrium - with the range of humidity experienced in outdoor areas such as decks and courtyards.

Re-dressed F27 and Wharfdeck products retain an arisssed edge that will provide an elegant expressed-joint for outdoor benchtops and tabletops. The aris also acts as a deterrent, preventing ready edge-lamination of F27 boards.

It is broadly recognised in the industry that edge-laminated benchtops are not suitable for outdoor areas - exposed to weather or even in dry undercover - due to wide variations in atmospheric humidity throughout the year. Suitable designs for benchtops outdoors should recognise timber behaviour in a range of humidity and weathering environments. This applies to all species in the range of durability classes.

Durable Species

Both F27 and furniture boards in durable species can be used outdoors providing necessary design criteria are observed. DC1 (Durability Class 1) and DC2 hardwoods can be used outdoors exposed to sun and rain. Whereas DC3 and DC4 timbers can be used in any covered areas outdoors.

Properties of Australian hardwoods can be referenced on the Resources page of our website: www.timberzoo.com.au/resources

Species, Properties, Uses

(In-Ground) Durability classes of common species is provided here.

Natural Durability Classes

Natural durability is defined as “the inherent resistance of a specific timber to decay and to insect attack”. Natural Durability Classes provide the basis for rating the timber’s performance and longevity in contact with the ground when exposed to average environmental conditions. The classification system is based on the average life expectancy (in years) for any timber species, as shown below.

TABLE 1
NATURAL DURABILITY—PROBABLE LIFE EXPECTANCY*

| Class | Probable in-ground life expectancy (years) | Probable above-ground life expectancy (years) |
|-------|--|---|
| 1 | Greater than 25 | Greater than 40 |
| 2 | 15 to 25 | 15 to 40 |
| 3 | 5 to 15 | 7 to 15 |
| 4 | 0 to 5 | 0 to 7 |

* The ratings in this Table are based on expert opinions and the performance of the following test specimens:

- (a) In-ground: 50 × 50 mm test specimens at four sites around Australia.
- (b) Above-ground: 35 × 35 mm test specimens at eleven sites around Australia.

NOTES:

- 1 As further reliable evidence becomes available, these ratings may require amending.
- 2 The heartwood of an individual piece of timber may vary from the species’ nominated classification.
- 3 Above-ground conditions equate to outside above-ground subject to periodic moderate wetting when ventilation and drainage are adequate.

Standards Australia 2003. Revised 2005. AS 5604 - Timber-Natural durability ratings.

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continued

The following species table represents the most species sold at Timberzoo:

| DURABILITY CLASS | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - Highly Durable | 2 - Durable | 3 - Moderately Durable | 4 - Low Durability |
| Ironbark | Spotted Gum | Messmate | Mountain Ash |
| Tallowwood | Blackbutt | Qld Silver Ash | Douglas Fir |
| White Mahogany | Silver Top Ash | Blackwood | Northern Silky Oak |
| Forest Red Gum Blackbean | Jarrah | Tasmanian Oak | White Oak |
| Grey Box Turpentine | | Brushbox | |

Suitability

Many DAR timber projects have a higher standard of finish than rudimentary sawn timber projects such as garden beds or retaining walls. Therefore, consider all the aspects of suitability in your choice of timber:

- a) **Dimension:**
In an exposed aspect, use well-balanced dimensions on all handrails, benches and tables. Keep to 4:1 ratio of width vs thickness. 140 x 40mm might survive years without surface deviation. 290 x 32mm in the same species might cup 4-5mm at its centre in only a few months.
- b) **Grade:**
Some natural features are a water-trap on an upper face in an exposed aspect.

Consultation

Discuss your project with Timberzoo staff. Inform us of your intended use so we can recommend best timbers for the project and address all fit-for-purpose issues on timber selection.

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continued



Arissed edged Recycled Messmate boards with 3mm gap on covered courtyard table



Shallow expressed butt joint at corner

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