



# Timber Storage (Moisture & Mould)

Whether your yard is retaining water, or your timber is simply drenched from the unprecedented rains, it is important that fabricators and timber merchants take steps to protect their timber from increased moisture and possible mould.

WoodSolutions has an extensive guide titled Reduce Moisture Issues by Storing Timber Correctly which can be accessed via [WoodSolutions here](#).

## Key Tips and Information

- Structural softwood timber in Australia is kiln-dried to between 12% and 15% moisture content (MC) before it leaves the mill which will equilibrate to between 10% and 19% MC depending on where it is used.
- Wood that is wet (>25% MC on the surface) has the potential to be attacked by surface moulds and decay fungi.
- If stored under tarpaulins or wraps, free air circulation will help dry out any condensation. Minimise any time under tarps, especially if stored in QLD and humid conditions.
- Mould fungi grow on sugars stored in the wood and do not cause any loss in structural properties. Small amounts of mould can be removed by washing the wood with a mild detergent and water and allowing the surface to dry.
- Once the wood has dried below 20% MC mould growth can no longer be supported. Test the wood with a moisture meter to make sure it has a MC less than 20% before any claddings or linings are installed.

## An excerpt from (Appendix E) in AS4440 - Storage

Everyone should have a copy of AS4440 and be familiar with the requirements. However, given the fact that many may not have access to their offices or computers, we felt it was important to include this excerpt regarding storage for the elements.

*Trusses should be stored on relatively smooth ground. Care should be taken so as not to allow excessive bending of trusses to occur.*

*When trusses are stored on site, they should be blocked above the ground to protect them from ground water as follows:*

- *If the trusses are stored horizontally, the blocking should be at 2.0m to 2.5m centres, or as required, to prevent bending of the trusses.*
- *If the trusses are stored vertically, they should be supported at the designed support locations or bottom chord panel points, and in a manner that will prevent tipping or topping. This is an important precaution to take to prevent personal injury.*

*Stored trusses should be protected from the elements in a manner that provides adequate ventilation of trusses. If tarpaulins or other similar materials are used, the ends should be left open for ventilation.*

## Moisture Meters

Moisture meters are used to measure the percentage of water in a given substance which can determine if the material is ready for use, unexpectedly wet or dry, or otherwise in need of further inspection.

There are a number of moisture meters available ranging in prices as per links below:

[Cheaper hand-held model](#)

[Heavy duty more expensive model the mills use](#)