

# Moisture Content of New Timber Weatherboards



## Painting and finishing

Weatherboards should be painted and finished in accordance with **AS/NZS 2311:2017 Guide to the painting of buildings**. Manufacturers' painting instructions should also be carefully followed. Weatherboards should only be painted when dry and the board is near equilibrium moisture content (MC<16%). Use a correctly calibrated moisture meter to measure board moisture content if unsure. Board size dimensions should also be checked. If the board is larger than its factory machined dimensions, it has probably taken on moisture. It must be allowed to dry out or shrinkage lap marks between the boards may occur, affecting overall aesthetics.

## Preparation

Remove all loose material from the board surface and ensure any unfilled nail holes are filled. Spot prime exposed bare and damaged areas with premium oil-based timber primer. Lightly sand the surface where necessary to an even flat finish. If primer has been exposed to the weather for longer than 6 weeks, consult your weatherboard manufacturer for additional painting advice.

## Other painting pointers

There are several other critical areas for painting:

- Cut ends – all cut ends should have been sealed with an oil alkyd primer sealer during installation.
- Priming – dual coat systems save painting time and labour as well as offering better initial moisture protection. If weatherboards are not dual coated, apply one full coat of primer as specified by the board manufacturer.
- Final coats – two top coats of premium low gloss acrylic should be applied at a minimum of 25 dry microns per coat. Total film build, including primers, should exceed 100 dry microns.
- Colour – dark colours absorb heat from the sun and increase the risk of board defects. For best performance, select colours in a range of 45% light reflective value (LRV) or greater.

**MPNZA strongly recommends that moisture readings be taken before painting any new timber**



Figure 1 - Moisture related



Figure 2 Moisture meter

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