

Yellow Balau Hardwood Decking 'How to Guide' – January 2015

Information

Yellow Balau is a very durable hardwood. It is sourced mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia where it is known as “Bangkirai”. The timber is processed and pre – machined to decking profiles prior to export to the UK. The timber which is for external use and generally not kiln dried may show some shrinkage during the first few months as retained moisture is lost.

Some “Bangkirai” trees are felled and left in the forest for a short period prior to processing. During this time it is possible for the wood to suffer minor insect damage from “pin worm”. This results in small visible holes of approx 1mm in diameter. The worm is short lived and does not survive machining and transport. “Pin worm” which is found in only a small portion of the stock is recognised as an allowable defect (BS1186, BS4978 and BSCP112P12) and has no effect on the (integrity) strength of the wood.

Storage

All of our timber is stored inside. Once delivered boards should be kept flat on bearers off the ground. If the timber does get wet at any time it should be stuck every row to separate the boards and allowed to dry. During warm times of the year the direct sun on one face of the decking may cause the board to curl upwards due to the in-balance of moisture between the top and bottom face. This should be avoided by storing under sheeting or inside. The curling can be reversed by turning the board over to balance out the moisture in the other face.

Fitting

Ground should be levelled and have adequate drainage. This is crucial as water under the frame will cause an in-balance of moisture between top and bottom faces which may cause the boards to twist and lift upwards. A breathable membrane should be fitted to stop weed growth. The frame should be constructed in Tanalised softwood ideally 50 x 150mm raised off the ground to allow drainage underneath. At no point should the frame be flat on the ground as this creates pockets in which the water can sit and will cause the frame to rot. We recommend the use of Spax Wirox construction screws to securely hold the frame together. These have a ten year anti-corrosion protection on them and are available in lengths from 60mm up to 300mm increasing in 20mm increments.



Frame centres should be 400mm - 450mm and the frame should be perpendicular to the decking boards. For extra protection and better aesthetics some black bitumen should be applied to the top of the frame. Decking boards must be fitted with 5mm gaps to allow expansion and contraction. For this we recommend Spax spacers.



Decking boards should be screwed down securely on every joist (400mm - 450mm centres) using two screws placed about 10mm from both outer edges. When boards finish midway between joists an additional piece of 50 x 150mm Tanalised Softwood should be screwed on the frame to allow boards to be fitted with two screws at the end of each board (approximately 25mm from the end of the boards). Some boards may have a slight bend in them especially long lengths and the 'Hardwood Wrench' is the perfect tool to lever boards across and securely hold them in position for hands free screwing.



Boards should not overhang the frame at any point as this would cause curling to the unsupported edge. Specialist hardwood decking screws must be used. We recommend Spax Stainless Steel screws in silver or antique finish 5.0 x 60mm. These screws have an attractive small torque drive head for a professional finish.



All decking boards must be predrilled to avoid splitting. We highly recommend the use of the Spax step drill which drills a pilot hole for the screw and eases the pressure off the screw head.



In the first couple of days after fitting the decking 'Owatrol' Seasonite should be applied to control the moisture within the board. This will help maintain the boards during the first vulnerable months of the timber life. Seasonite is a clear finish product (see maintenance for full information regarding finishing)

Please note; -

1) Southgate Timber do not recommend the use of hidden fixings on Yellow Balau due to the level of expansion and contraction on this specie.

2) Owatrol finishing products cannot be applied in temperatures below 5 degrees Celsius (Note; Owatrol 'Aquadecks' & 'Seasonite' a minimum of 10 degrees Celsius is required)



Maintenance (allowing timber to grey)

No maintenance – over time the timber will grey (silver) as the sun bleaches the colour out of the wood. It can be left in this state as this has no effect on the durability of the wood.

Maintenance (maintaining colour) 'Owatrol' trade quality – The Professionals Choice



See page 5 for details



Option 1 would allow timber to fade in colour over the first year / Option 2 is to finish the timber straight after fitting / Option 3 for timber that is badly discoloured

- 1a) apply Owatrol 'Seasonite' to control the moisture within the board in the first few vulnerable months of the timber life, this is a clear finish product. Then leave for approximately 9 months.
- 1b) clean off slightly greyed timber with 'Owatrol' Net-Trol
- 1c) allow to fully dry.
- 1d) finish with Owatrol 'Textrol' a penetrating oil with clear finish which has UV protection to stop the timber fading in colour
- 1e) re-apply 'Textrol' as needed when timber starts to fade. If timber fades too much repeat step '1b'

OR

- 2a) apply Owatrol 'Prepdeck' diluted 1:1 with water to remove millglaze (the shiny surface on new decking) and open pours in the timber to allow oil to be absorbed
- 2b) neutralise 'Prepdeck' before it dries with Owatrol 'Net-trol' (note Prepdeck must not be allowed to dry on the timber)
- 2c) finish with Owatrol 'Deks Olje D.1' a saturating oil with clear finish which has minimal UV protection.
- 2d) re-apply D.1 as needed when timber starts to fade, if timber fades too much repeat step '1b'
- 2e) after 9 months switch repeat application to Owatrol 'Textrol' oil which has better UV protection properties than 'Deks Olje D1'.

OR

- 3a) apply Owatrol 'Prepdeck' neat to clean the timber (note; test on a small area of timber to ascertain the time required for best cleaning results)
- 3b) neutralise 'Prepdeck' before it dries with Owatrol 'Net-trol' (Note; 'Prepdeck' must not be allowed to dry on the timber)
- 3c) finish with Owatrol 'Textrol' a penetrating oil (slightly thicker than 'Deks Olje D.1' mentioned above) with clear finish which has UV protection to stop the timber fading in colour
- 3d) re-apply 'Textrol' as needed when timber starts to fade, if timber fades too much repeat step '1b'

Note when using the penetrating oil repeat applications will give longer lasting protection against fading as the product is better absorbed into the timber over time.

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