

### **Care and attention**

It can be beneficial to understand the properties of timber when purchasing a Forest Garden shed. Wood is a durable material commonly used in construction and any change in the weather can determine how your product will behave. Understanding the care and attention your shed requires can allow you to get the most out of your purchase.

### **Things to look out for with your product**

#### 1. Movement, Twisting and Warping

Timber products will experience some movement and gaps may develop over time, this is normal. This shed is made up of wooden panels which can change their shape due to the levels of moisture in the wood. A decrease in the levels of humidity can cause porous fibres to shrink, which over a lengthy period of dry weather can be increased. When the wood has returned to its original temperature, it will revert to its initial state. In the winter months, the timber panels may swell, and the opposite occurs.

#### 2. Expansion, contraction, splits, and cracks

It is normal to see cracks and splits in a piece of wood, as all timber will expand and contract depending on its surroundings. The splits and cracks do not make the timber faulty or affect the fundamental integrity of the product. During the spring and summer months, splits are more common in the wood as the change in temperature will begin to dry it out. The exterior of the wood will dry first causing cracks and splits in the grain of the wood.

#### 3. Mould and Blue Stain

Two common problems associated with mould are the increased levels of permeability in the timber and discolouration. Blue stain causes problems to timber as it dives deeper into the surface layers staining the wood a dark blue colour. If your timber stained a black colour, it would be classed as mould. The fungus feeds on the nutrients and debris contained in the surface cells of the timber. To avoid mould, regular ventilation is required.

**TOP TIP-** To ensure optimum life for your shed, annual maintenance is important. Your building should be treated once a year using a high-quality preservative that includes a mildewcide. At Howarth Timber, we offer the Ronseal Total Wood Preserver.

<https://www.howarth-timber.co.uk/tools-finishes/wood-care/view-product/ronseal-5-litre-dark-brown-total-wood-preserver>

### **Advice on felt handling and usage**

When handling and installing the roofing felt special care is needed to avoid any damage including cracking. Roofing felt will become flexible at temperatures exceeding 5 degrees. In colder temperatures below 5° C, the felt should not be used, rolled, or folded as it can damage the material. If you are planning to use it in colder temperatures, felt should be stored indoors with temperatures above 10°C for 24 hours. The felt must be stored on a dry surface and must be lifted when being moved, not dragged along the ground.