

# Timber treatment and long term maintenance - Saunas

Unless stated otherwise our saunas are delivered untreated. It is essential to protect your sauna against the effects of wood boring insects (and other insects), against the effects of the sun (ultraviolet light), rainwater along with other weather all of which are facilitators of wood rot, as soon as possible.

Wood is a natural material and as such expands / contracts and adapts to the weather and climate it is subject to. This can in turn lead to large and small cracks appearing in the wood, colour tone differences and changes, as well as a movement and a change in structure. It's important to know that these are not faults, but a natural result of wood expanding and contracting and a peculiarity of wood as a natural material. Untreated wood (except for foundation joists) become greyish after having been left untouched for a while and can be turn blue and become mouldy. To protect the wooden components of your sauna, you must immediately treat them with a good quality wood preservative on all surfaces. We highly recommend that you also process the doors and windows with a wood impregnation agent, and do that both inside and outside, otherwise the doors and windows can become twisted.

### Wood is a natural material

The treatment process advice or for sales & assembly advice - Call us: 01636 653 016 or message us on our live chat (8:30am - 5pm Mon-Fri)

## The treatment process

After the assembly is completed, we recommend for the conclusive finishing a weather protection paint that will protect wood from moisture and UV radiation. A coloured preservative is Highly recommended on all external parts. In general, coloured treatments slow the movement of "free moisture" more effectively than clear treatments and therefore reduce (but don't eliminate) expansion and contraction of the wood therefore delivering a more stable structure with less incidences of wood splitting and cracking etc.

\*Please note\* When painting, use high quality tools and paints, follow the paint application manual and manufacturer's safety and usage instructions. Never paint a surface in strong sunlight or rainy weather.

Always use paints suitable for machined / thermowood treated softwood and follow the paint manufacturer's instructions.

It is important to ALWAYS READ THE TIN. Following the guides stated on the manufacturer's application process.

# Oils and clear treatments are very specifically NOT recommended for external parts of the structure.

For internal treatment please use a preservative that is suitable for machined timber and if the thermo-woo option has been taken then the treatment should also be compatible with that. Owing to the temperatures and moisture content of the sauna environment a suitable treatment should be used and re-applied frequently in line with treatment manufacturers advice.

Please note, as wood expands and contracts over time it may well be that small areas of wood expose themselves after the first treatment application. If this is the case then the treatment should be reapplied accordingly.

#### **Thermo-Wood**

Thermowood offers several benefits for saunas:

- Its improved stability reduces the risk of warping, cracking, or shrinking, ensuring a long-lasting and visually appealing finish.
- The thermal modification process leads to a darker coloration, giving the wood a rich and natural appearance.
- Thermowood treatment is an aid to correct timber treating of your sauna BUT DOES NOT REPLACE other treatments. Externally Thermowood treated buildings should also be treated as per above. It is also possible to treat internally if required.
- Thermowood treatment reduces the incidence of allergens such as moulds etc.