

MOULDS ON LVL

INFO BULLETIN



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OCCURRENCE

Moulds and algal growths occur on both treated and untreated Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL). Their presence is related to temperature, humidity, wetting and the presence of atmospheric mould spores.

The mould growth can be sooty black, unsightly and spread rapidly in favourable circumstances, especially warm humid weather. Moulds and algae are a surface effect and do not penetrate the wood structure. Decay and fungi penetrate the wood and actively grow within the wood section.

Moulds can be black in colour. Some moulds are green in colour but algae are associated with surface water as compared to high moisture content timber.

Moulds occur on untreated LVL and on H1.2 and H3.1 treated LVL. LVL may develop surface moulds in wrapped block stack if the LVL becomes damp and the conditions under the wrap have become ideal. If the spores are around, it may develop on frames exposed to weather and in suitable warm, humid conditions where the LVL has become wet.

TERMINATION

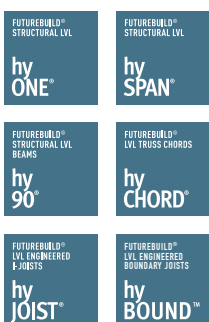
Below about 18% moisture content, mould development will cease. In the case of mould on framing, close in and dry out will eliminate its presence although there will be discolouration. The flowering parts will fall or brush off and will have no effect on dry cavities. Similarly, dry out eliminates surface algae.

ACTION

Surface mould on treated framing during normal construction does not require specific action by the builder. For residential application, cutting out of bottom plates at doors and windows early and provision for floors to drain in wet weather is strongly recommended as is early close in. Investigation may be required if building is interrupted and framing is exposed for exceptional periods. Where concern is raised, specialist investigation for the presence of significant decay fungi may be required. It is not possible to generalise on how long an exceptional period is, and local conditions would be important.

REMEDICATION

Although moulds do not affect the performance of the LVL, the application of proprietary products, such as 30 SECONDS® Outdoor Cleaner New Generation can restore the appearance of the product.



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