PENTARCH
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PREMIER SCREENING™

INSTALLATION GUIDE

Pentarch Premier Screening™ is both a solid and finger jointed hardwood timber product designed to be used in vertical screening applications only. Screening is not suitable for use in structural applications such as decking or any other load bearing situation.

Pentarch Premier Screening™ is graded to 'standard and better', which is a mix of standard (medium feature) grade and select grade, in accordance with AS 2796.2-2006. It is precision milled with round edges to a variety of widths with a smooth finish on both sides of the board. Pentarch Premier Screening™ is seasoned to the moisture requirements of AS 2796.1-1999 (10% to 18%). This Installation Guide is intended to provide general advice on the installation of domestic screening only and does not apply to commercial or specialty applications.

Individual requirements may vary from those discussed in this Installation Guide and you are advised to seek independent professional advice before commencing work. You are also advised to check with State authorities to ensure building compliance as well as make your own, and/or seek an independent professional assessment of the relevant applicable laws and standards.

Building a screen in bushfire prone areas may require adherence to AS 3959-2018. Please also refer to Pentarch Forestry's Construction in Bushfire Zones Guide.

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Product Handling and Site Assessment

Pentarch Forestry's plastic wrapping is for protection during transportation only. Upon delivery timber screening products should be stored undercover and protected from the elements. Ensure boards are checked before installation in case of any damages during transport.

Timber is hygroscopic – meaning it is capable of easily absorbing and expelling moisture in response to local conditions. As timber absorbs moisture it expands and as it expels moisture it contracts. As such, factors such as relative humidity (atmospheric moisture), moisture ingress exposure to weather, lack of protective coatings or lack of adequate ventilation can compromise the timbers integrity.

Pre-Installation Preparation

Preparation is important and adequate ventilation is required between the boards and surrounding surfaces. Pentarch Forestry recommends screening be installed a minimum of 50mm above ground and 10mm from surrounding surfaces to ensure optimum ventilation and performance. Pentarch Premier Screening™ is graded as per AS 2796.2-2006 to one face of the board only.

Sizes

This install guide is applicable to the following sizes in both solid and finger jointed screening. **42x19, 40x40 and 69x15 (FJ only).**

Fixings

Each board should be fixed at no more than 900mm centres with either stainless steel or hot dip galvanised fixings that are fit for purpose. To avoid splitting fixings should not be overtightened and the screening should be pre-drilled and countersunk.

Installation Requirements

Pentarch Premier Screening™ is designed to be used as a screening or fencing product only and is not suitable for use in structural or load bearing situations such as decking. Screening can be fixed to either steel or timber posts or rails with the appropriate fixings and as per the fixing manufacturer's instructions. Always adhere to all NCC regulations, local council and building authority requirements and determine if the screening product you are using is fit for its intended purpose. Span recommendations for Pentarch Premier Screening™ is 900mm centres maximum. The minimum ground clearance is 50mm, allow 10mm clearance from surrounding surfaces and the minimum spacing between boards is 5mm. Hardwood screening requires adequate ventilation and therefore should not be fixed directly to any solid surface such as concrete or masonry.

Timber Finishes

If your screening has been supplied pre-oiled from Pentarch Forestry please also refer to the separate pre-oiled installation guidelines on our website. After a new timber screen has been built, or an existing screen repaired, it should be thoroughly cleaned to remove metal filings from drilling, nailing or other construction that may cause black spots.

If the screen has turned grey from natural weathering or is discoloured due to metal filings or other construction materials, there are a large range of maintenance and cleaning products on the market which may help bring it back to its natural beauty. Timber coatings help protect the surface of the timber from the effects of weathering and slow down the rate at which timber will take up or loose moisture. By slowing down that rate the severity of any checking on the surface of the timber is reduced considerably. When applying protective finishes please ensure the manufacturer's instructions are followed.

The protective finish should be applied to all surfaces (including cut ends) of each screening board before installation. A protective finish includes products that penetrate the surface of the timber (such as oils and stains) and products that provide a film or coating to the surface of the timber (such as paints and clear coatings).

Pentarch Premier Screening™ is supplied kiln dried as per Australian Standards between 10% and 18%. Increasing the screening's moisture content above 20% (refer Keith Bootle's Wood in Australia, 2nd edition 2005) due to lack of adequate protection can make the timber susceptible to very fine spores of fungi that are abundant in the air. Should your screening show signs of mould on the surface please consult a coatings manufacturer for a suitable mould removal product.

Further information on timber finishes can be found in **Wood Solutions Design Guide #13: Finishing Timber Externally.**

Screen Care and Maintenance

Pentarch Forestry recommends an inspection of your hardwood screen every 6 to 12 months however this may vary depending on the location of the screen and the type and quality of finishes used. The screen should be cleaned regularly, and any loose or damaged boards or fixings should be resecured or replaced. When cleaning the screen, avoid hosing it down; use a brush or a blower instead. As timber is a natural product checks (small cracks) may appear over time on the surface of the boards. These small cracks have no structural effect and are part of the timbers character. They are caused by the periodic wetting and drying of the screening and this natural process can be slowed by the protective properties of finishes.

Without regular maintenance screening boards may discolour and the surface can become rough and prone to splinters. A poorly maintained screen is also susceptible to mould which can reduce the service life of the screening boards.

Tannin Stains

Tannins are water soluble extractives found in most hardwoods which may leach onto surrounding surfaces whenever moisture leaves the timber.

Tannin stains can be difficult to remove especially from unsealed masonry surfaces. Some species have been reported to be less problematic than others however the best way to lessen the likelihood of tannin bleed is to coat all sides of the timber with a suitable finish.

Safe Work Practices

All safety standards set by Safe Work Australia must be followed, including the following practices when working with timber: Work areas must be clean. Sawing, sanding and routing equipment should be fitted with dust extractors. Dust levels should be below standards set by Safe Work Australia for wood dust. When machining timber respiratory protection, gloves, clothing, hearing and eye protection should be worn.

After handling timber, wash skin thoroughly with mild soap and regularly wash clothing. For any treated timber, do not burn offcuts or sawdust. Preservative treated offcuts and sawdust should be disposed of by approved local authority methods.

Note: Variations within a timber species are normal, therefore photographs, samples and displays can only be indicative of colour and should not be used for final selection. It is normal for natural timber products to react to changes in atmospheric and environmental conditions such as humidity and temperature.

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