

Storing and packing dried boards

During storage and transport always actively protect cocowood boards from unacceptable variation in moisture content.

- Maintain the cocowood in optimal conditions while it is stored.
- Ensure that the moisture content is appropriate when it is received or dispatched.
- Protect the boards during storage and transport by wrapping individual packs in plastic.

Dried and milled cocowood in store represents a significant cost of production and potential income, so it is important to maintain the quality for selling to the target market.

Dried boards risk changes in moisture content

The moisture content after final drying is liable to change with ambient conditions. If changes in moisture content are likely to reduce potential income or the cocowood becomes unsuitable for the intended market, the conditions need to be controlled and the cocowood protected.

Generally:

- the harsher the local climate (tropical conditions), the more exacting the market (European, North America and Australia)
- the greater the loss in potential value, the higher the level of control and protection is warranted.

Protecting the boards

Wrapping individual stacks in plastic is the most cost effective and easiest method of controlling moisture adsorption or desorption during storage and transport. Remove the strippers from the dried stack, and wrap as an individual block or pack.

Plastic-wrapping each pack individually provides short-term protection from external conditions. The length of time protection lasts depends on the permeability of the material and the integrity of the wrapping.

Dried packs should be wrapped on all six sides using a high grade (gardening) plastic. If lower grade plastic is used then 2–4 layers may be needed. Always seal the ends of the plastic with tape, leaving minimal gaps for water movement. Moisture can enter through any unwrapped surface. Also, some plastics break down relatively quickly, holding any incoming moisture close to the cocowood. Replace any torn or punctured wrapping.

Dry material stored unwrapped in the open degrades very quickly.

Enclosed, environmental control chambers are an effective alternative, where available.