

Yellow Balau Hardwood Decking ‘How to Guide’ – July 2017

Information

Yellow Balau is a very durable hardwood. It is sourced mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia where it is known as “Bangkirai”. The timber is processed and pre – machined to decking profiles prior to export to the UK. The timber has perfect properties for external use and is generally well air dried, boards may show some shrinkage during the first few months as retained moisture is lost.

Some “Bangkirai” trees are felled and left in the forest for a short period prior to processing. During this time it is possible for the wood to suffer minor insect damage known as “pin worm”. Pin worm is small visible holes of approx 1mm in diameter. The worm is short lived and does not survive procurement process. “Pin worm” which is found in only a few boards is recognised as an allowable defect it has no effect on the (integrity) strength of the wood.

Storage

Once delivered boards should be kept flat on bearers off the ground. If the timber does get wet at any time it should be stuck every row to separate the boards and allowed to dry. During warm times of the year the direct sun on one face of the decking may cause the board to curl upwards due to the in-balance of moisture between the top and bottom face. This should be avoided by storing under sheeting or inside. The curling can be reversed by turning the board over to balance out the moisture in the other face.

Fitting

Ground should be levelled and have adequate drainage. This is crucial as water under the frame will cause an in-balance of moisture between top and bottom faces which may cause the boards to twist and lift upwards. A breathable membrane should be fitted to stop weed growth. The frame should be constructed in Tanalised softwood ideally 50 x 150mm raised off the ground to allow drainage underneath. At no point should the frame be flat on the ground as this creates pockets in which the water can sit and will cause the frame to rot. We recommend the use of Spax Wirox construction screws to securely hold the frame together. These have a ten year anti-corrosion protection on them and are available in lengths from 60mm up to 300mm increasing in 20mm increments.



Frame centres should be 400mm - 450mm and the frame should be perpendicular to the decking boards. For extra protection and better aesthetics some black bitumen should be applied to the top of the frame. Decking boards must be fitted with 4 - 5mm gaps to allow expansion and contraction. For this we recommend Spax spacers.



Decking boards should be screwed down securely on every joist (400mm - 450mm centres) using two screws placed about 10 - 15mm from both outer edges. When boards finish midway between joists an additional piece of 50 x 150mm Tanalised Softwood should be screwed on the frame to allow boards to be fitted with two screws at the end of each board (approximately 25mm from the end of the boards). Some boards may have a slight bend in them generally longer lengths and the 'Hardwood Wrench' is the perfect tool to lever boards across and securely hold them in position for hands free screwing.



Boards should not overhang the frame at any point as this would cause curling to the unsupported edge. Specialist hardwood decking screws must be used. We recommend Spax Stainless Steel screws in silver or antique finish 5.0 x 60mm. These screws have an attractive small torque drive head (T25) for a professional finish.



All decking boards must be predrilled to avoid splitting. We highly recommend the use of the Spax step drill which drills a pilot hole and counter sink. This eases the pressure off the screw head for the perfect result.



Please note - We do not recommend the use of hidden fixings on Yellow Balau due to the level of expansion and contraction on this specie.

Maintenance (allowing timber to grey)

No maintenance – over time the timber will grey (silver) as the sun bleaches the colour out of the wood. It can be left in this state as this has no effect on the durability of the wood.

Maintenance (maintaining colour) 'Owatrol' trade quality – The Professionals Choice



Note Owatrol finishing products cannot be applied in temperatures below 5 degrees Celsius

See page 5 for details



New Yellow Balau (two options)

1st option

- 1) leave for approximately one year to allow natural weathering to breakdown millglaze*
- 2) wet timber scrub off ground in dirt, while still wet apply Net-Trol Wood cleaner & Colour restorer
- 3) leave for 10 – 20 minutes (do not allow to dry apply more Net-trol or damp with water mist)
- 4) Wash off with plenty of water
- 5) leave to fully dry usually 24 hours
- 6) apply Textrol penetrating oil
- 7) repeat approximately every 18 months or as timber fades this will depend on exposure to sunlight**

2nd option

- 1) to achieve oiled finish on newly installed decking, wet timber and apply Prepdeck (dilute as below)
- 2) dilute as follows for Ipe 1prepdeck:1water, for Iroko and Balau 1predeck:4 water
- 3) leave Prepdeck to work 10 – 30 minutes
- 4) rinse off Prepdeck with plenty of water
- 5) neutralise Prepdeck with diluted Net-trol (1:1water) to stop Prepdeck reactivating when it becomes wet
- 6) leave to fully dry usually 24 hours
- 7) apply Owatrol Deks Olje D1 saturating oil (note this oil has minimal UV protection so will fade)
- 8) repeat applications of D1 as fades switching to Textrol Oil after 1 year**

Discoloured/Faded Yellow Balau

- 1) wet timber scrub off ground in dirt
- 2) with timber wet apply Net-Trol Wood cleaner & Colour restorer
- 3) leave for 10 – 20 minutes (do not allow to dry apply more Net-trol or damp with water mist)
- 4) Wash off with plenty of water
- 5) Re-apply if necessary (repeat step 2-4)
- 6) leave to fully dry usually 24 hours
- 7) apply Textrol penetrating oil
- 8) repeat approximately every 18 months or as timber fades this will depend on exposure to sunlight**

Badly Weathered/Previously treated Yellow Balau

- 1) wet timber scrub off ground in dirt
- 1) wet timber and apply Prepdeck undiluted
- 3) leave Prepdeck to work 10 – 30 minutes
- 4) rinse of Prepdeck with plenty of water
- 5) neutralise Prepdeck with diluted Net-trol (1:1water) to stop Prepdeck reactivating when it becomes wet
- 6) leave to fully dry usually 24 hours
- 7) apply Textrol penetrating oil
- 8) repeat approximately every 18 months or as timber fades this will depend on exposure to sunlight**

Further notes

*millglaze – compacted surface found on new machined timber. Millglaze is caused by the heat of the cutters compacting the fibres of the timber. Millglaze must be removed to allowing finishes to penetrate

**repeat applications will require some preparation first with a light sand or Net-Trol wood cleaner Test area – before attempting to use Owatrol products on a complete area try a small test patch first

Workable areas – we recommend on larger areas to break them down into manageable sections especially on hot days when products such as Net-trol may start to dry out before they have fully worked

Temperature - under 5 degrees Celsius do not apply Owatrol products wait for more suitable time of year or dry timber and apply in warm area before fitting outside.

For further information contact us as follows;-

Phone 01277 890783

Email sales@southgatetimber.co.uk