

INFORMATION SHEET

DOUGLAS-FIR



Common names: Douglas fir, Oregon

Botanical name: *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

APPEARANCE AND DESCRIPTION:

- Douglas fir displays prominent growth-ring bands between the earlywood and latewood.
- The heartwood is a pale-pinkish colour and the sapwood is near white.
- Douglas fir is an excellent framing timber.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Durability:

- Douglas fir heartwood is rated as Class 3 durability and can be used for above-ground purposes, but the sapwood is non-durable.
- The timber cannot be pressure treated with copper, chromium and arsenic (CCA), but can be boron treated to Hazard Classes H3.1 and H1.2.
- Douglas fir is not suitable for exterior exposed and in-ground applications.
- Boron-treated Hazard Class H1.2 Douglas fir can be used for framing wherever H1.2 treated radiata pine is acceptable to use.
- Untreated timber can be used for interior framing and fitout, and non-skillion roof trusses and in specified masonry veneer houses as an acceptable solution.
Untreated timber may also be used as an Alternative Solution for houses with low E2/AS1 risk designs.

MACHINING:

Gluing and coating considerations:

Douglas fir requires care when machining because of its uneven growth-ring texture. The use of slower feed-speeds, sharp cutter knives and a low cutting-knife angle will help to achieve good machining results. Douglas fir is easy to stain but difficult to paint.

SUSTAINABILITY:

- Douglas fir is a New Zealand-grown plantation timber, with a well-established history of use as a framing timber. Framing timber is available from suppliers in MSG 6 through to MSG 12, and VSG 8 structural grades.
- During the past decade, the stocked volumes of Douglas fir have increased, providing assured ongoing supplies of timber throughout the South Island and central and lower North Island.

Visit the vendor's database on the NZ Wood website to find suppliers of Douglas fir in your area:
www.nzwood.co.nz