

## Guidelines for the best results

### BASE COATED WINDOWS

1. All primed base coat and stained window frames must be decorated within three months of delivery. Failure to do so will invalidate guarantees.
2. All joinery should be stored flat, off the ground, in a dry, well ventilated place and protected from weather.
3. If horns are removed, ensure that the ends are treated liberally with a suitable preservative and end grain sealant.
4. Care should be taken to protect frames during construction. In particular, horizontal surfaces should be protected from scuffing, and contact with mortar or plaster.
5. Sashes should remain in the closed position during construction and not allowed to swing freely. Glazing should take place in the closed position.
6. Frames cannot be supplied 'in the white' except by special arrangement. However, if the frames are supplied 'in the white', they should be primed or stained immediately upon receipt.

### GLAZED FRAMES

All glazed frames should be stored vertically, but other wise treat as base coated frames.

### FULLY FINISHED WINDOWS

Fully decorated windows require additional care when handling and should be stored vertically. Leave the protective wrapping in place at the end of the build process until just before final inspection. When removing packaging take extra care not to damage paint film or glass. Any damage must be recorded on the delivery note at the time of delivery.

### ON-SITE DECORATION USING EITHER TRANSLUCENT (STAIN) OR OPAQUE (PAINT) FINISHING TOP COAT

Until the finishing top coats have been applied, primed or base coat stained frames are at risk from exposure to rain, water and ultra violet light. Prolonged exposure can lead to problems of moisture uptake into the timber. This may result in: the timber swelling and moving; resin staining; problems with paint adhesion; problems with the adhesion of the mastic seal around the double glazed unit.

**To avoid this, base coated frames must be decorated within three months of delivery.**

Internal heating systems and external sunlight can cause natural seepage from resin pockets hidden within the timber, particularly around knots, causing a sticky yellow residue to appear on the surface of the timber. This does not constitute a fault in either material or workmanship of this product. If a microporous decorative finish has been used, the resin will pass through the decorative coat, leaving it intact. The resin can then be removed using methylated spirit. Slight staining may remain. All Howarth windows now include a special resin inhibitor which greatly reduces the effects of the above.

The finishing top coats should be applied as soon as possible in strict accordance to manufacturer's instructions and BS6150: 1991 (Code of Practice for Painting of Buildings). Work in dry weather and on joinery that is **not wet**. Check that all surfaces are clean and free from dust. Water based top coats should be protected from the frost until dry. Use a good quality product that is specifically formulated for external joinery. Follow manufacturer's instructions regarding the minimum number of coats required to achieve the best protection. Ideally use medium solid, microporous or ventilating finishing top coats. Solvent based finishing top coats should comply with BS7779: 1994. Water based ones should be an acrylic

formulation. Using these systems will make the time interval required between redecoration substantially longer and also significantly reduce the preparation time required prior to future redecoration. Howarth recommends the use of end grain sealant to all exposed end grain, and particularly to any cuts made on site. Use the same brand of finishing product both inside and outside, to even out moisture movement and help prevent distortion.

When applying the decorative finish, care should be taken to avoid painting over the weather seal. If paint or stain is accidentally applied to the weather seal it should be thoroughly cleaned prior to it drying.

Particular care must be taken to ensure thorough decoration of door sets due to their susceptibility to shrinkage, swelling or distortion through changes in timber moisture content. Most modern finishing systems are designed to protect timber from the direct effects of the weather, and the small amount of timber movement which may result can be tolerated by the finishing coating.

However, in hot conditions, sufficient moisture vapour may be removed to produce movement which will affect the surface coating. This can, on rare occasions, result in splits in the surface coating, particularly at joints, even with fully finished systems. Such movement is beyond the control of the manufacturer.



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