



WOOD FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS



accoya 

INTERNATIONAL TIMBER – OUR STORY

Balancing growing environmental consciousness with increasing demand for timber products demands a real commitment to minimising impact on the natural world.

International Timber is the UK's leading importer and distributor of sustainable timber and panel products. We are the timber specialists, providing responsibly sourced products and services for construction and joinery projects in every corner of the economy.

Wood is both a versatile and a renewable raw material, and 'building green' using wood helps to keep carbon out of the atmosphere, mitigating climate change. In line with this, sustainability and responsible sourcing are the foundation stones upon which our business is built; all our softwoods and hardwoods are chain of custody certified and legally verified where applicable.

We operate from four sites in the UK, offering a fast and responsive service. All our sites are ISO9001, ISO14001, ISO45001, FSC® and PEFC® certified.

As an integral part of the global Saint Gobain Group, International Timber has the resource to invest continuously in facilities, stock and advanced production equipment, keeping products and services at the leading edge in terms of technology, efficiency and environmental awareness.





OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

At International Timber, we are aware that illegal timber poses a very real threat to our industry.

We work very closely with our supply chain to ensure that products produced and supplied to the Group not only meet legislative requirements but also take into account important factors including the sustainability of raw materials,

lowering the embodied carbon of the products and ensuring that social conditions for workers meet internationally recognised standards.

We consider the implications of all our actions in the quest for economic, environmental and social sustainability, working in partnership with our suppliers and leading our industry to showcase a sustainable approach in everything we do.

In comparison with other construction materials, the manufacture of wood products consumes little energy. At International Timber, we are committed to maintaining these environmental advantages into the future, ensuring that every one of our products is sourced from well managed and credibly certified forests to eliminate the potential damages posed by deforestation.



TAKING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO HEART

Wood offers us a better way to build. As they grow, trees store carbon dioxide. Even after harvesting, wood products continue to store most of this carbon. Of all the main building materials, timber is the most environmentally friendly and can dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of built structures.

Our wood products are helping to reduce energy consumption right across the life cycle when compared with other structural building products that utilise large amounts of fossil fuels in production.

Timber is non-toxic. It's safe to handle, and does not break down into environmentally damaging materials. It's completely biodegradable at the end of its useful lifespan, when it can be recycled or even used as a biofuel.

At International Timber, we're committed to investing in new opportunities to develop this versatile and renewable raw material to meet the changing needs of industry.

We play a responsible role in the global timber industry, working to meet growing demand for quality timber products whilst minimising potential adverse impacts on the environment.



ACCOYA® – OUR PLANET'S LEADING LONG LIFE WOOD

Sustainably sourced with FSC® certification, Accoya® modified wood provides the perfect combination of stability, durability and versatility across a wide range of applications.

Our Accoya® products are born as fast growing pine trees (*pinus radiata*) in managed forests.

At maturity – around thirty years – these trees are harvested and modified in a process known as acetylation. This process creates a wood which is exceptionally durable and dimensionally stable.

Acetylation is a chemical reaction first studied on timber over a hundred years ago. It uses a substance closely related to the main constituent of vinegar to modify key wood molecules such that they will no longer bond to water molecules. This severely inhibits the uptake of water in cell walls, resulting in huge improvements in the performance

of sustainably-grown softwood such that it matches or betters the rot resistance and stability of the best hardwoods in applications such as external joinery, cladding and decking

So how does that differ from the more traditional pressure treatments? Pressure treatments rely on biocides to kill rot fungi whereas acetylation prevents rot by keeping water out of the cell walls thus effectively making the wood indigestible to rot fungi. Acetylation also acts all the way through a piece of wood whereas pressure treatments only protect the outer few millimetres. Acetylation is therefore a more effective, longer lasting and environmentally-friendly way to improve the performance of wood than pressure treatment.

The process does not affect the natural appearance of the wood. The modified timber is non-toxic so can be recycled in the same way as any natural timber.



ACCOYA® PERFORMANCE CREDENTIALS

Accoya® is a tried and tested product, with a track record from a diverse portfolio of products across the globe. Accoya® is used by wood scientists as the benchmark against which other treatments and modified timbers are measured.



Accoya® is warranted worldwide for 50 years for above ground projects.



Accoya® is warranted worldwide for 25 years for in ground and/or freshwater environments.



Accoya® is significantly less likely to swell, shrink or distort than unmodified timbers.



Accoya® is proven to withstand the test of time in all climates, both above and below ground.



The timber research and development association TRADA has assessed Accoya® wood as having a 70 year minimum service life when used for window construction.



Accoya® is indigestible by a wide range of pests and insects, presenting an effective barrier to attack.



CREATING HIGH PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS: LAMINATING ACCOYA®

Working to bring the benefits of this high performance timber to a wider range of applications, International Timber now offers a range of laminated Accoya® in larger dimensions than are available from the manufacturers.

Laminating Accoya® offers all the benefits of durability, dimensional stability and coatings performance plus added benefits of strength and rigidity, in a material that is lighter and more versatile than concrete or steel. This high performance solution is now widely used by architects and designers to create structures and façades with innate strength and durability, providing possibilities limited only by the imagination.

Accoya® section sizes laminated to a standard range of dimensions plus the ability to make bespoke sizes is also proving popular with door and window manufacturers for exterior applications such as pergolas, offering advanced levels of structural rigidity and durability.



ACCOYA® TIMBER IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Accoya® is a medium to lightweight timber. Rated as durability class 1, it has a minimum service life expectation of 60 years above ground and 30 years in contact with the ground or freshwater, backed by a warranty for 50 and 25 years respectively.

Accoya® is the perfect choice for challenging exterior applications. Swelling and shrinkage is reduced by at least 75%, and the timber can be formed and shaped using conventional methods including steam bending.



Bridges

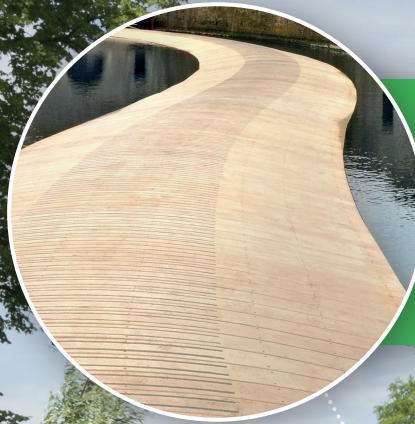
Accoya® performance properties make the timber suitable for applications in immersed and semi immersed environments.



Restoration projects

Accoya® weathers naturally and offers all the charm of real wood for environmentally sensitive construction and landscaping projects.





Waterside Decking

Low maintenance Accoya® is resistant to distortion with superior levels of stability in freshwater environments.



Benches

Outdoor seating with the best sustainability credentials. Accoya® can also be treated using stains and oils to create the perfect finish.



Canal Linings and Pilings

Accoya® is capable of resisting exposure to challenging combinations of water, soil and air, providing a sustainable, long term solution.





Handrailing

Sturdy and resilient, Accoya® maintains a relatively smooth surface compared to other timbers when exposed to weathering.



Cladding

Resistant to rotting and distortion, Accoya® offers superior stability and durability combined with all the beauty of natural wood.



ACCOYA® TIMBER AT WORK

Accoya® Wood Lining - the Netherlands

Certain environments are particularly punishing: few are harsher than the banks of canals, where Accoya® wood is being used to hold back the earth. In this application the wood's exposure to water, microbe rich soil and – most obviously at the waterline – air, is particularly challenging.

In the Netherlands, canal linings were traditionally made using tropical hardwoods but, with concerns over sustainable sourcing, an alternative is needed. Accoya® was trialled for this purpose with excellent results. Even after 20 years in the water, the prototype Accoya® trialled emerged with no discernible degradation at all.



ACCOYA® TIMBER AT WORK

Accoya® Floating Wood Bridge - Halsteren, the Netherlands

Accoya® wood has been used to create a unique “floating” bridge in the Dutch city of Bergen op Zoom. Completed in 2015, the bridge spans Pielekenswater and its design was inspired by the work of Dutch military engineer Menno van Coehoorn, who built the 18th century Ravelijn op den Zoom fortress in the same location.

Ro Koster and Ad Kil, of Bergen op Zoom-based RO&AD Architects, who also mastered the famous and award winning Moses Bridge in Halsteren, designed the 80m floating pedestrian bridge to allow access to the 18th century fort’s entrance. Its snake-like path mimics the journey and motion of the boats which originally travelled there.



ACCOYA® TIMBER AT WORK

Accoya® Decking for Floating Jetty - Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Distributed by Van Swaay, Accoya® has been selected as the ideal decking material for the Oosterdokseiland in Amsterdam.

Designed by creative engineers IPV, Delft in the Netherlands, 300 metres of Accoya® was used in total for the project. Each of the Accoya® deck planks for the Jetty measured 145x35mm.

The benches, (130x150mm) are also made of Accoya® wood. After researching Oak and other wood species for the Jetty, De Boer and De Groot civil works chose Accoya® due to its dimensional stability, long service life and sustainability credentials.

The Accoya® planks were screwed onto purlins which were then connected with anchors to the concrete floats.



ACCOYA® TIMBER AT WORK

International Timber teamed up with Accsys and sustainability consultants 540 World to supply a fender made from Accoya® wood to the Environment Agency for inclusion in a trial on the banks of the River Thames in London.



**Accoya® Fender
one year on...**

The fenders, an essential part of flood management assets in the Thames Estuary, provide bio-diversity niches in tidal waters, promoting healthy and diverse habitats.

As part of the agency's TEAM2100 programme, the Accoya® fender will be assessed for its suitability to replace the currently-used hardwood fenders in the challenging tidal conditions and contribute to Thames Estuary's Net Zero ambitions – values which ring true with International Timber.

Accoya® has been chosen because of its Gold Cradle to Cradle certification and its unique suitability for this project.

One year on the fender was inspected to assess the durability of the wood, the integrity of the lamination bonds and the degree of colonisation by seaweeds and other marine life. The results were very positive in all respects. There was no sign of any deterioration in the wood or of delamination and the level of colonisation was at least as good as on the reclaimed hardwood fenders to which it is being compared.

It is of course early days in the trial but the results after only one year have given the Environment Agency the confidence to consider Accoya® for more applications.





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