

# Woodcraft Manningham – Safe Work Procedure

## 34 HEALTH HAZARDS OF TIMBER

**DO NOT use this machine unless you have been instructed in its safe use and operation and have been given permission**

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Respiratory protection is recommended at all times when sanding

### BANNED TIMBERS

The following timbers are banned from the workshop due to their potential health risk.

- ✘ Spalted timbers (fungus infected)
- ✘ Timbers treated with preservative chemicals

### HEALTH HAZARDS OF SELECTED TIMBERS

These timbers are known to cause reactions in some people.

#### Native Species

Common Name	Botanical Name	Some Recorded Reactions
Alpine Ash	<i>Eucalyptus delgatensis</i>	Irritation to mucus membranes
Blackbean	<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Irritation of the mucus membranes, nose, mouth, throat, genitals, armpits.
Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Dermatitis and skin reactions.
Blue Gum	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Dermatitis.
Brigalow	<i>Acacia Harpophylla</i>	"Brigalow Itch" irritation to nose, eyes, throat, groin (wood dust & bark)
Coolibah	<i>Eucalyptus microtheca</i>	Skin irritation (wood dust & bark)
Cooliman Tree	<i>Gyrocarpus americanus</i>	Can see blindness.
Grass Tree	<i>Xanthorrhoea sp.</i>	Dermatitis an skin reactions.
Grey Box	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Eczema, irritation to mucous membranes.
Gutta Percha	<i>Excoecaria pavifolia</i>	Temporary blindness from milky sap.
Jarrah	<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>	Irritation to nose, throat, eyes.
Lemon Scented Gum	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	Dermatitis
Messmate	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Dermatitis, asthma, sneezing.
Miva Mahogany	<i>Dysoxylum fraserianum</i>	Nose bleeds, headaches, inflammation of nose and eyes
Mountain Ash	<i>Eucalyptas regnans</i>	Irritation of nose, throat, eyes and dermatitis.
Mulga	<i>Acacia aneura</i>	Headache, vomiting, irritation.
Poison Walnut	<i>Endiandra pleurosperma</i>	Bark irritation, vomiting and giddiness.
Queensland Maple	<i>Findersia brayleyana</i>	Dermatitis.
Red Bloodwoods	<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>	Irritation to eyes and skin.
Red Cedar	<i>Toona ciliata</i>	Earache, giddiness, stomach cramp, asthma.
Red Silk Oak	<i>Stenocarpus salignus</i>	Irritation to mucus membranes.
Red Siris / Mackay Cedar	<i>Albizia toona</i>	Irritation to nose, throat, eyes and sneezing.
Silky Beech	<i>Citronella moorie</i>	Irritation to nose and eyes.
Silver Silkwood	<i>Flindersia accuinata</i>	Irritation to nose and throat.
Southern Silky Oak	<i>Grivillea robusta</i>	Skin eruptions, blistering, eyelid irritation, dermatitis
Spotted Gum	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Dermatitis.
Turpentine	<i>Syncarpia glomilifera</i>	Inflammation of the mucous membranes.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Some Recorded Reactions
White Cedar	Melia Azedarach	Nosebleed, dermatitis, and headache.
White Cypress Pine	Callitris glaucophylla	Dermatitis , asthma, nasal cancer,
????	C. intermedia C. polycarpa	irritation of mucus membranes.

### Non Native Species

Common Name	Botanical Name	Some Recorded Reactions
African Blackwood	Dalbergia melanxlylon	Acute dermatitis, sneezing, conjunctivas.
Camphor Laurel	Cinnamomum camphora	Can cause dermatitis and shortness of breath.
Cocobolo / Kingwood / Rosewood	Dalbergia sp.	Acute dermatitis, sneezing and conjunctivitis
Douglas Fir (Oregon)	Pseudotsuga memziseii	Dermatitis, giddiness, vomiting, mahogany, cough
Ebonies	Diospyros sp.	Acute dermatitis, sneezing and conjunctivitis
European Beech	Fragus sylvatica	Nasal and skin cancer.
European Oak	Quercus sp.	Dermatitis, sneezing and nasal cancer.
Kwila (Merbau)	Instia bijufa, I. Palembangica	Irritation to nose and throat.
Meranti	Shorea sp.	Dermatitis irritation of mucus membranes.
NG Rosewood / Padauk	Piterocarpus sp.	Dermatitis and asthma.
Nyatoh	Plaquium sp. Payene sp.	Irritation to mucous membranes.
Padauk	Pterocarpus sp.	Dermatitis, irritation of mucous membranes
Redwood (USA)	Sequoia sempevirens	Dermatitis and asthma.
Rimu (NZ)	Dacrydium cupressinum	Irritation to nose and eyes.
Slash Pine	Pinus elliottii	Dermatitis.
Spalted timber	any species	Can infect lungs causing asthma, shortness of breath and even death
Teak	Tectonia grandis	Dermatitis, conjunctivitis, over sensitivity to light, Swollen scrotum and nausea.
Walnut(s)	Juglans sp.	Nasal cancer, dermatitis, and irritation of mucous membranes.
Western Red Cedar	Thja plicata	Dermatitis, asthma, nasal cancer, nausea, nose bleeding and giddiness.
Yews	Taxuz sp.	Headache, lung congestion, nausea, fainting, visual disturbances, irritation of alimentary. Can cause dermatitis and shortness of breath.

### Manufactured board

Common Name	Other Name	Some Recorded Reactions
MDF	Customwood	Eye, skin, nose, throat and lung irritation, especially in people with upper respiratory tract or chest complaints such as asthma.

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND INJURIES

**i** Airborne dust. All wood produces fine dust when worked. In turn the dust can damage your lungs and cause a number of other adverse health reactions. All inhaled wood dust is hazardous to your long-term health. Preventative actions include:

- ✓ Use workshop dust collection system
- ✓ Wear appropriate respiratory protection e.g. dust mask, canister face mask or full face mask.
- ✓ Even if you are not generating dust yourself, when those around you are, consider whether you should be wearing respiratory protection as well.

**i** MDF boards. Always wear respiratory protection when machining these boards.

**i** Sensitizer. Some woods can act as a *sensitizer*. The more we are exposed to a wood's sawdust or other fine particles, the more sensitive we get to its exposure, and the more severe and adverse the reactions become. If you ever have an allergic reaction to any wood, use extreme caution in handling or using that species (and related species) in future instances. Some have reactions so severe that they simply have had to stop and discontinue using certain wood species altogether.

## REFERENCES

- *Tables by Dr Eugene Dimitriadis*
- *Toxic Woods Information Sheet, (Woodworking sheet #30), Health and Safety Executive, UK*

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