

2.11 Application of panels in architectural mouldings and window boards

2.11.1 General

When considering the use of MDF mouldings and window boards there are two options available:

- Select a standard profile, thickness and width (usually primed for painting) from a supplier or builders' merchant.
- Make your own moulding or window board from raw unfinished MDF panels.

2.11.2 Selection of panels for the production of mouldings and window boards

The selection of wood-based panels for mouldings and window boards depends on a number of factors, of which the most important are:

- Good machining properties of the panel which are a reflection of the evenness and fineness of its texture.
- Resistance to ambient moisture conditions which, in the case of new build, means resistance to high levels of humidity or actual condensation as the building dries out.
- Moderate to high levels of resistance to abrasion which can be met using panels with moderate to high levels of density.

The selection of panels for mouldings and window boards which satisfy the above requirements is set out in *Table 2.16*.

2.11.2.1 Conditioning

It is important in order to prevent buckling of mouldings and window boards, or the development of gaps between sections, that mouldings and window boards are installed at a moisture content close to that which they will achieve in service. Advice on the conditioning can be found in *PanelGuide Section 4.2.4*.

2.11.2.2 Fixing

It is strongly recommended that mouldings and even window boards are fixed with adhesive: nailing should

not be adopted. Some prefinished mouldings have an integral clip fixing system.

2.11.2.3 Finishes for mouldings and window boards

Mouldings and window boards are available with various factory applied finishes.

When unfinished mouldings and window boards are used they can be decorated with conventional paints and stains, taking care that the appropriate alkali resistant primer is used on CBPB.

As with all painted surfaces, preparation, priming and protection from water ingress are important for the successful application and long-term performance of finishes applied to wood-based panels.

Table 2.16: Panel grades* for architectural mouldings and window boards

Selection	CONDITION	PLYWOOD BS EN 636	PARTICLEBOARD BS EN 312	OSB BS EN 300	MDF BS EN 622-5	FIBREBOARD BS EN 622-3,4	CBPB BS EN 634
Mouldings	New build	636-2	-	-	MDF.H	-	CBPB
	Dry refurbishment	636-1	-	-	MDF	-	CBPB
Window boards	New and refurbishment	636-2	-	-	MDF.H	-	CBPB

* The table provides the minimum grade of panel that satisfies the particular set of requirements: panels of higher quality may be substituted, and their selection may result in a reduction in required thickness.

Although all the panels meeting the grade specifications will satisfy a particular set of requirements, the level of performance of different brands of these panels may vary considerably; some may even be endowed with high levels of properties not directly covered by the table.

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