

Exterior Finishing

All fully exposed plywood's must be surface finished to prevent mechanical surface breakdown, known as surface checking or crazing, caused by the absorption and desorption of moisture through the surface veneer.

In addition it must be stressed that all plywood used in externally exposed conditions must be Type A bonded and preservative treated to ensure long term durability and performance.

Semi-exposed (outdoor living)

For ceiling linings of balconies or alfresco dining areas, clear finishing or staining is the desired choice. A good quality polyurethane finish has shown good results, bringing out the Hoop pine colour and grain. The plywood sheets should be properly sealed before exposure to the elements. The face, back and edges should have two coats before installation, with the face to have an additional finishing coat after installation.

Although we do recommend water based finishes, stains from Livos Australia have been tested and approved by Austral Plywood's as being suitable for use with Hoop Pine plywood. Other oil based stains are not recommended on plywood where the finished job will be subject to close scrutiny. Other oil based stains tend to penetrate the face veneer of the plywood and strongly highlight the natural figure in the timber, darkening it considerably. In many applications this may not be desirable. Other oil based stains also tend to swell the grain of the surface veneer, again potentially disfiguring the plywood.

Fully exposed (external cladding)

Smooth faced plywood is not recommended for external cladding, where the walls are fully exposed. Mechanical surface breakdown (known as surface checking or crazing) will appear, caused by the absorption and desorption of moisture through the surface veneer. A textured plywood face disguises these cracks giving a more desirable effect.

Exterior Paint Systems

The EWPA has shown through full exterior exposure trials that 100 percent acrylic latex paint systems perform best on plywood. The satisfactory acrylic latex paint system for plywood comprises: 1 coat 100 percent acrylic stain blocking primer; 2 coats acrylic latex exterior top coat.

Rigid paint systems including oil based and alkyd enamel paint systems are not recommended for use on plywood in weather exposed applications. Rigid paint systems form a hard brittle coat which is susceptible to checking from any movement of the plywood due to moisture or temperature.

For further information on exterior finishing, visit the EWPA website.