

4

Structural softwood timber - a reliable and versatile construction material



Structural softwood ticks all the boxes when it comes to strength, ease-of-use, and cost-effectiveness, plus it is renewable, responsibly sourced and has a low carbon footprint - what more could you ask for?

Structural softwood is a readily available, easy to use and versatile timber with all the environmental benefits that go along with using wood as a construction material.

Predominantly produced from renewable pine plantations, structural softwood is an economical and reliable material that is used in both residential and commercial building framing, for studs, plates, joists, bearers, lintels, rafters, ceiling joists, roof beams and trusses amongst others. Structural softwood can also be used in the production of engineered and composite wood products, such as Glulam and I-Beams; as well as exterior applications when appropriately treated.

Geoff Stringer from Hyne Timber notes that, "Structural softwood is the most cost-effective, environmentally beneficial building material for house framing. Its ease of cutting and connection, as well as compatibility with other common housing materials, makes it ideal for this use."

Available predominately in three grades, MGP10, MGP12 and MGP15, structural softwood is thoroughly quality controlled to ensure that each piece of timber meets the specific design properties and characteristics for its designated grade. Structural softwood is supplied at a moisture content not exceeding 15 percent and comes in a wide range of sizes: typical breadths being 35 and 45mm and depths including: 70, 90, 120, 140, 190, 240*, and 290*mm (*available on order) with lengths up to approx 6.0m in 0.3m increments. Structural softwood can be easily altered on-site, making it one of the most adaptable construction materials in existence.

Lightweight, durable and cost-effective

Structural softwood timber is the preferred material for residential and commercial frame construction around Australia for a variety of reasons.

The most obvious are that it is widely available, easy to cut and fix and has a high strength to weight ratio, meaning it is light and strong; making it easy to transport and to handle and assemble on-site.

Using structural softwood, a building's components are simple and safe to erect, and far cheaper to deconstruct or reuse at the end of the building's useful life.

Structural softwood can be chemically treated to make it resistant to decay, insect and fungal attack, increasing its longevity and broadening its application.

All of this adds up to a building material with great credentials and the potential to be used more widely in industrial, commercial and multi-dwelling residential construction.

Adding to wood's low embodied energy

All wood has the natural advantage of renewability, in that it is made up of the most plentiful elements on earth - carbon, oxygen and hydrogen, and timber products, such as structural softwood timber, from sustainable environmentally responsible plantations are endlessly renewable.

One of the best things about timber in general, and structural softwood in this case, is that it has a low embodied energy, meaning it uses less energy in production than other building materials. Add to wood's low embodied energy the fact that it is a carbon store, capturing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it for the life of the timber product.

These positive environmental properties - low embodied energy and carbon storage - along with all the many other construction advantages of structural softwood, make it an obvious choice for architects, designers and builders who are committed to a sustainable built environment.

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