

Storage and transportation information

Materials to which descriptions apply:

Special products, furniture panels, flooring, building panels and raw boards

The information below uses terms including “panels”, “boards” and “stacks”, but these also refer to items such as our flooring and special products.

General information on storage

- Stacks must be created on level surfaces that are able to support the load.
- Stacks of panels must not be exposed directly to the effects of the weather (such as rain), heat sources (such as heaters) or variable levels of air conditioning (extreme changes in humidity, for example).
- Any supporting beams that are used must all have the same thickness, and their length must be the same as the panel width.
- The distance that needs to be maintained between the supporting beams depends on how thick the panels are.
 - Panels ≥ 15 mm thick: the distance must not exceed 800 mm. We always recommend using at least four beams with half-size formats (length 2800 mm).
 - Panels < 15 mm thick: the distance must be less than 800 mm. You can use the formula $distance = 50 \times panel\ thickness\ in\ mm$ as a point of reference.
- The number of supporting beams that need to be used depends on how long the panels are.
 - You can use the formula $distance = 50 \times panel\ thickness\ in\ mm$ as a point of reference.
 - At least four supporting beams need to be used when working with dimensions of 2800 mm and 3250 mm. Five to six beams need to be used with a dimension of 4100 mm, and seven with a dimension of 5600 mm.
- If multiple panel stacks are being stored one on top of the other, the supporting beams must be arranged underneath so that they form a vertical line.
- There should not be any panels protruding in a stack of panels with the same format.
- To protect the panel surfaces, the decorative top sides of two panels must be positioned so that they are facing one another. Alternatively, or in addition to this, cover panels must be used.
- If you are securing a stack of panels with steel or plastic bands at a later stage, you must ensure that the edges are given adequate protection. Use special cardboard or base boards to do this. The same applies when tying boxes of flooring to pallets.
- Only store panels vertically if you are working with a small number of them. Storing them horizontally is always the preferred option. Boxes of flooring generally need to be stored horizontally.
 - When storing panels vertically, make sure that they are firmly secured. Use special racks, storage containers or shelving to do this.
 - The storage areas used in the case of vertical storage options must not exceed 500 mm.
 - Storage areas that are not enclosed must have an inclination angle of at least 10° and should only store items with the same format to prevent panels from sagging.
 - The panels must have adequate support and reinforcement.
 - Avoid damaging edges. Make sure that there is enough space in the storage area and protect edges as necessary.
- Ideally, store and transport boxes of flooring on Euro pallets. We recommend ensuring that the surface between the pallet and the goods is level and even (by using a base plate, for example).

General transport and loading information

- Prevent any negative effects caused by moisture during transport. We do not advise using tarpaulins or other protective sheets. Make sure that the cover is impermeable and check it for any damage. Waterlogging must be avoided without exception.
- Loads must be secured and transported in accordance with general standards and guidelines (EN 12195/12640/12642/283). See also <https://www.astag.ch/upload/docs/docs/div/RICHTIGLADENRICHTIGSICHERN.pdf> (note: in German)
 - Goods must be secured using appropriate fixing aids to prevent them from shifting or falling.
 - Place anti-slip mats underneath supporting beams and/or pallets to prevent goods from shifting.
- Carry large-format goods upright when transporting them manually, and ideally use carrying aids and gloves. This will prevent the goods from sagging too much or your hands becoming injured.
- Goods should not be transported by pushing them along the ground. If this cannot be avoided, textile coverings should be placed underneath the goods.
- The panels should be raised to prevent decorative sides from being pushed against or dragged across one another.
- Up to two sheets of HPL can be rolled up. Sheets should also be packed in boxes if they are going to be transported over extended distances. If there are multiple sheets to be transported, we recommend using a full-surface horizontal transport method that is covered with protective boards (> 8 mm).

Other general information

- Special products, furniture panels, flooring, building panels and raw boards must be stored and processed in an enclosed storage/workshop area in which the climate conditions are kept consistent ($T \geq 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ at approximately 40% to 70% relative humidity).
- The storage and processing conditions should be consistent with the climate in which the goods will later be used.
- Single panels, and the top and bottom panels in a stack, respond more quickly to changes in the environment than panels within stacks.
- Before storage or processing, the panels must be adjusted as appropriate to the conditions they will experience when they are being used later on.

Please note: This document is based on the latest developments in technology and has been compiled with due care. To the best of our knowledge, the information it contains is accurate. However, we cannot assume any liability for mistakes or printing errors. Technical changes made be required as our products develop and amendments are made to standards and legislation.