

Glulam Storage Instructions

Glulam is a natural wood product whose moisture content and dimensions may change under the influence of the surrounding environment. Therefore, glulam must be stored in a manner that protects it from moisture, condensation, UV radiation and deformation. The manufacturer notes that after delivery, the customer must ensure storage and installation conditions suitable for the glulam material.

1. General Principles

Glulam must be stored in a dry, well-ventilated place protected from the weather. Storage indoors or under a roof is preferred. If temporary outdoor storage is unavoidable, the material must be protected from rain, splash water and direct sunlight, while allowing air circulation at the same time. Glulam must not remain for a prolonged period in an enclosed damp environment.

2. Handling of Packaging

The manufacturer's packaging protects the product from dirt and splash water during transport, but it provides only limited protection against water absorption and UV radiation. According to the manufacturer's instructions, the packaging film is not suitable for the long-term storage of glulam, and the film must be removed immediately after delivery in order to prevent condensation.

3. Base Surface and Support

Glulam must be placed on a level and stable base. The beam or component must not be in direct contact with the ground, concrete, snow or standing water. The material must be raised off the ground on suitable supports or spacer blocks. Support must be uniform along the full length of the element in order to prevent sagging, twisting or lateral bending.

For longer elements, a sufficient number of supports must be used and they must be aligned. If components are stored in layers, the spacer blocks must be positioned vertically at the same points.

4. Protection Against Moisture

The equilibrium moisture content of glulam after production is approximately 16% ($\pm 2\%$). This corresponds to conditions of approximately 20 °C and 65% relative humidity. If the storage environment is significantly more humid or drier than this, dimensional changes, swelling, shrinkage and cracks may occur.

Therefore, the following must be ensured:

- avoid direct exposure to rain and snow,
- avoid covering the material in a completely airtight manner,
- ensure natural ventilation,
- avoid situations where one side of the element dries or becomes moist significantly faster than the other.

5. Protection Against Condensation

The most common storage error is keeping the material in sealed plastic packaging or under overly tight covering, which results in condensation. Condensed water can cause uneven moisture distribution, surface damage, discoloration and shape changes. The manufacturer emphasizes that the packaging film must be removed immediately after delivery specifically to prevent condensation.

6. Protection Against Cracking and Shape Changes

Wood is a natural material that absorbs and releases moisture. Drying cracks may occur under the influence of surrounding conditions. According to the manufacturer, cracks may occur particularly when the structure or component is exposed to construction moisture or strongly changing climatic conditions. Construction moisture must be removed gradually through adequate ventilation and careful heating of the building.

This means that during storage it is necessary to:

- avoid sudden changes in moisture and temperature,
- avoid prolonged exposure of components to direct sunlight,
- avoid one-sided drying,
- ensure that the material does not remain wet.

7. Temporary Outdoor Storage

If glulam must be stored temporarily outdoors, then:

- the material must be raised above ground level,
- the top must be covered with a water-repellent cover,
- the sides must remain open or ventilated,
- condensation must not accumulate under the cover,
- the storage period must be as short as possible.

Long-term outdoor storage is not recommended.

8. Before Installation

Before installation, the following must be checked:

- whether the components are dry,
- whether there is any excessive deflection, twisting or mechanical damage,
- whether the surfaces show any changes caused by wetting,
- whether the moisture and temperature conditions of the components correspond to the conditions at the installation site.

Glulam must be installed as soon as possible after arrival on site in order to reduce risks arising from storage.

9. Important Note

The manufacturer's quality criteria apply at the time of delivery. After handover, the customer or site owner is responsible for ensuring that the glulam is stored and installed correctly. As wood is a natural material, atmospheric conditions may affect its appearance and dimensions.

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