

RADIAL TIMBER PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

REV: Sep09

RADCON Weatherboards – Natural Edge (NE)

1.0 PRODUCT

RADCON Natural Edge Weatherboards are produced by a patented sawing method that produces perfectly quarter sawn boards. Quarter sawn boards are very stable and can be identified by the alignment of growth rings which are generally at right angles to the broad face of the board. RADCON Weatherboards are sawn from strong hardwood timber and are supplied unseasoned, shrinking with virtually no distortion and minimum checking on the exposed face.

2.0 SPECIFICATIONS

2.1. Species:

RADCON Natural Edge Weatherboards are generally sawn from durable regrowth hardwoods such as Silvertop Ash (ie. Class 2 durability). Other species (inc. plantation grown timber) may also be available as a special request from *Radial Timber Sales*.

2.2. Sketch/Sections:

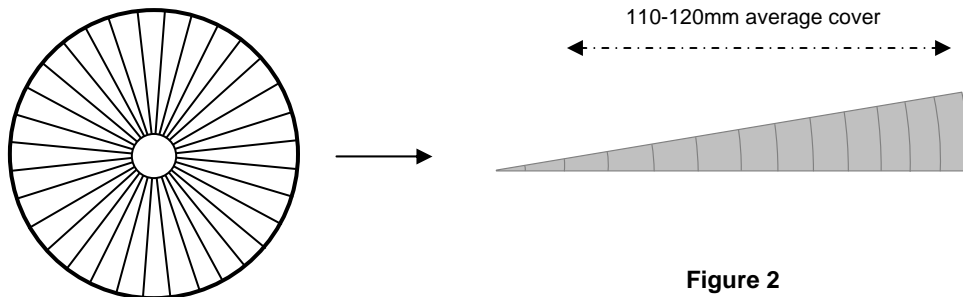


Figure 1
(typical NE Weatherboard log in cross section)

Figure 2
(NE Weatherboard in cross section)

Profiles:

NE Weatherboards vary in cross section and profile depending on the diameter and profile of the log from which the boards have been cut. On average, boards will have cover of around 110-120mm but the cover may be as little as 80mm and as much as 160mm (cover of more than 160mm is typically not recommended). The target width is 25mm thick at the outer or sapwood edge but this will vary along the board due to log taper, and increase as log diameter increases. Boards are unseasoned (ie. will shrink) and feature a sawn finish. Thinner weatherboards (for internal linings) are also available from *Radial Timber Sales* as a special order.

2.3. Lengths & Availability:

NE Weatherboard logs are generally kept in stock. Logs are supplied with random board lengths ranging from 2.7 to 5.4m. Longer logs may be available from *Radial Timber Sales* as a special request and when available.

Set Length orders can be targeted by log length (10% surcharge). Radial Timber Sales will endeavour to supply logs of requested length, however, availability will depend on current supply at the time and some extra allowance must be required to achieve board length requested.

2.4. Pack Sizes:

NE Weatherboards are generally supplied and transported to site "in the log". Small end log diameters typically range from 380 to 420mm. Boards are ordered by the square metre with an average log containing between 18 and 22m² of weatherboards (weight of one log is approx. ¾ ton).

3.0 FIXING & APPLICATIONS

3.1. Fixing Recommendations:

Transport: RADCON NE Weatherboards are supplied unseasoned and generally transported to site in log form with the ends uncut. It is not uncommon for logs to break open or boards to split during transport/delivery but *Radial Timber Sales* generally provides an additional 1 to 2m² of boards in each log at no cost. If damage occurs, it is recommended that the split boards be put aside and only used as short in-fills around windows and doors (NOTE: *Radial Timber Sales* will replace any short fall of boards, where it can be shown that they have been damaged during the delivery process). If there is insufficient room to unload logs on site, they may have to be cut down and stacked prior to delivery (a 10% surcharge will apply in such cases).

Setting up: The ends of each log need to be removed in order to release the boards. This is typically done by cutting in a min. of 300mm from each end of the log with a chainsaw. Once the log ends have been removed, boards spring free from the heart wood or core and have a slight but consistent curve, resulting from natural tensions in the log (see Figure 3). Studs should be spaced at max. 600mm centres.



Figure 3
(typical NE weatherboard in profile)

Installation: Boards are generally installed in sequence by numbering the boards and following the profile of the log (NOTE: overall cover will be reduced if installing the boards in a random pattern). Before fixing the first board, the outer or sapwood edge may have to be cut square in order to remove any natural curvature. Remaining boards can then be fixed by eye (ignoring minor variations in cover) or by scribing the average cover onto weatherboard stops. A minimum board overlap of 30mm is recommended to allow for average shrinkage of up to 7%. First time fixing may take longer than that for conventional square edge boards.



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Fixings: Boards can be hand or gun nailed but care should be taken close to ends to avoid splitting (may need to pre-drill if hand nailing). Typically, 50mm long galvanised or stainless steel fixings should be used but it may be necessary to use 65mm nails if boards are thicker than 25mm (NOTE: it is advisable to use twisted shank nails when fixing boards into treated pine). Pre drilling the ends of boards prior to fixing may be required to avoid splitting. A fixing of one nail per board per stud is recommended.

Joining: When joining NE Weatherboards on long runs, the boards should be matched for width and appearance by "book matching" or butt joining the ends of consecutive boards from a log. On long walls, it may be quicker to break up the wall into smaller panels by inserting weatherboard stops (ie. vertical timber sections). Weatherboard stops can also be used at joins on internal and external corners of the building (rough sawn 50x50mm or 75x50mm sections and are available from *Radial Timber Sales*).

Cover: The average cover of NE Weatherboards will vary within a single log or between logs, therefore, achieving the same cover for a whole wall may not be possible (remember to work with each log and have fun with this product). If the effective cover appears to be less than 80mm, it is recommended that these boards be put aside and only used if narrow coverage is a desired effect. *Radial Timber* makes some allowance for unseen damage/wastage but will replace any short fall of boards, where it can be shown that they are out of spec.

Seasoning & Storage: Some movement may occur during seasoning but boards will generally settle as moisture content in the boards equalise (NOTE: unprotected west facing walls may be subject to extreme temperature changes and therefore, timber is more likely to move). It is normal for all hardwoods to leach red/brown extractives during heavy rain periods. Extractives tend to be less prominent in lighter species but it is advisable to protect walls/paving until the extractives have finished leaching (can vary but leaching will generally continue for up to 6 months). Leaving boards in log form is the recommended way to store timber on site for extended periods of time (ie. logs can be stored for up to 12 months but it may be advisable to cover with a tarp or plastic).

3.2. Suggested Applications:

RADCON NE Weatherboards have been used as an external cladding or feature wall on: houses, apartments, visitor centres, universities, sheds, barns & fences.

For images of NE Weatherboard visit: www.radialtimbers.com.au

4.0 FINISHING

All exposed, externally fixed cladding will tend to fade to a silver grey colour if left uncoated. The degree of greying will vary depending on the amount of exposure to sun, wind and rain. The timber used in this above ground product has natural durability and when used in conjunction with good building practices, should generally not require additional treatment against decay.

Lyctine Borer (Powder Post Borer): All timbers used by Radial Timber for Natural Edge Weatherboards are from species that are deemed as 'not susceptible' to the lyctine Borer. This pest does not cause structural damage, but can live in the sapwood of some susceptible hardwoods and leave a small hole and dust trail when it emerges. Radial Timber carefully tracks and controls all timber used to help ensure that only non susceptible species are used for our weatherboards, however, we cannot guarantee this and accept no liability related to the presence of this pest. Radial Timber recommends the application of a treatment as part of the initial application regime as noted below as added protection.

Native timbers should be offered some weather protection while acclimatising to local conditions. Radial Timber recommends the application of an oil based sealer , decking finish or clear brush on wood preservative on external timber (especially if unseasoned or fixed during extreme weather conditions). There are a variety of treatments, stains and coatings available and most can be applied prior to or shortly after fixing. For more detailed information, please refer to Radial Timber "Finishing Recommendations" at: www.radialtimbers.com.au or phone: 03 9768 2100.