



Glue-Laminated Wood Timber Handling And Storage Instructions

Handling: Glue-Laminated Wood Timbers must be handled with care to avoid causing aesthetic or structural damage. The timbers must not be overstressed during handling or erection. Damage can be caused by dragging or dropping members, allowing members to bend excessively or bounce, using inappropriate equipment, etc. Cable slings or chokers should not be used to handle laminated wood timbers unless adequate blocking is provided between the cable and wood member to prevent surface damage. Padded or non-marring slings should be used. Web belting slings are suggested. Protection cleats or blocking are to be applied at pickup points to protect the corners of the timbers. Spreader bars of suitable length should be used when lifting long members to reduce the potential for damage. Timbers should be lifted from an on-edge position whenever possible.

Storage: Proper job site storage is critical for Glue-Laminated Wood Timbers. Improper storage can affect the appearance and structural integrity of the timbers. Laminated Wood Timbers must be stored on a level surface and supported with blocking well off the ground to provide uniform and adequate support. Stored members should be separated with stickers arranged vertically over the supports so that air can circulate around all four sides of each member. Timbers should be stored in a covered or well drained location. If a paved surface is not available, the ground should be covered with polyethylene film. If covered storage is not available, timbers must be covered with a moisture resistant covering such that the top and all sides are protected from moisture exposure. Individual wrappings must be slit the full length of the member on the lower side to permit drainage of any moisture. Clear polyethylene film should not be used to cover timbers as it will subject the timbers to sun bleaching resulting from UV exposure.

Construction: Individually wrapped Glue-Laminated Wood Timbers may have their wrapping left in place until the members are enclosed within the building. If wrapping must be removed at certain connection points during erection, it should be replaced after the connection is made to prevent sun bleaching from UV exposure or water damage and staining. In order to avoid uneven fading or discoloration, whenever a portion of a member's wrapping must be removed, all wrapping from that member should be removed. Individual wrappings must be slit the full length of the member on the lower side to permit drainage of any moisture. Note that a gradual seasoning period at a moderate temperature should be provided to acclimate members to the final environment. Heat should not be fully utilized within the building as soon as the structure is enclosed. This will help to minimize the

potential for excessive checking due to the rapid lowering of the moisture content of the wood timbers. Where appearance is a concern, a colorless sealer should be applied to ends of members after end trimming to retard moisture transmission and minimize the potential for end checking. In general, surface sealers are suggested to increase resistance to soiling, control grain raising, minimize checking, and to serve as a moisture retardant.

Responsibility: Proper unloading, handling and job site storage are not the responsibility of the manufacturer, Rigidply Rafters, Inc. It is strongly suggested that adequate knowledge and training be obtained by the customer and/or contractor prior to working with any Glue-Laminated Wood Timbers such that all relevant safety and industry regulations, standards, and specifications are followed during any handling and storage of these Timbers. It is further important to note that should a Glue-Laminated Wood Timber be dropped or otherwise damaged during unloading, handling or job site storage, the details of the incident should be recorded and the member should be inspected and evaluated by a qualified engineer as per AITC 111-2005. For additional information regarding the protection of Glue-Laminated Wood Timbers during handling, storage and installation, consult the American Institute of Timber Construction (AITC) and their publications such as AITC 111-2005 and others.