DRIDS

Demolition Refurbishment Information Data Sheets

W1 DIMENSIONAL TIMBER

Dimensional timbers are found in various sizes, wood types and shapes. They are originally cut to size in various thicknesses and lengths, depending on the specification required. They are of varying quality, from large dimensional floor joists and purlins, to thin strips of treated slate battens. Some are planed all round to suit a smooth, architectural finish.

Dimensional Timbers Wood 17 02 01

WASTE STREAMS

DISPOSAL

The landfilling of dimensional timbers may be the only option where the material is contaminated, badly damaged or in small pieces.

RECOVERY

Dimensional timbers can be segregated from other materials and sent to an incinerator for energy recovery. Timbers that are not contaminated with oils, fuels, paints or preservatives may be chipped or composted.

RECYCLE

Dimensional timbers can be recycled where it is not contaminated and where there is a market opportunity for the materials to be used as feedstock in new products, not necessarily for construction.

RECLAIM

Dimensional timbers in good condition, clean, uncontaminated and easily removed from other substrates should be set aside for reuse in construction, manufacturing and packaging.

USAGE & PROBABLE LOCATIONS

Dimensional timbers have many uses in buildings. They are used for floor joists, floorboards, rafters, purlins, trusses, stud walls, cladding, structural frames, fascia boards and all manner of carpentry and joinery. Timber may be located in all areas of a house, but in concrete or steel frame buildings will mostly be found in floors, roofs and stud walls.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

PPE requirements indicated are for guidance purposes only. DRIDS has identified the PPE that is mandatory on all demolition projects and ones that may be required subject to site specific Risk Assessment & Method Statement (RAMS).






REMOVAL, SEGREGATION & STORAGE

Depending on how dimensional timbers have been fitted for use, will determine how they are removed, segregated and stored. Reasonably sized timbers in good condition and not coated with glues or bitumen will have a reuse value, especially if there is a large number of similar size. They should be segregated and stored flat on timber skids, with thin latts placed across them every four timbers deep. They should be stored inside or covered with plastic or tarpaulin sheets to keep them dry. They should also be stored away from plant movements to prevent splash damage or breakage.

TOOLS

Hammer, saw, nailbar, crowbar, jemmy bar, screwdriver, wood chisel, spanners, bolster chisel, electric circular saw, reciprocating saw.

FIXTURES, FITTINGS & CONNECTIONS

Sprung floors, roof systems, timber walls and cladding has been traditionally fixed in place with nuts and bolts, nails, screws, dowels, mortar or a glue. Some timbers will incorporate a variety of joints that have been cut into the timbers to provide strength and integrity. Fascia boards, soffits, skirting boards, architraves, window frames and door frames will often be coated with paints or preservatives. Floor joists, rafters and purlins will often be built into stone or brick walls without any fixings other than mortar.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Subject to task-specific Risk Assessment & Method Statement (RAMS). Use correct protective equipment for removing fixings, especially bolts, nails and screws. Wear gloves when handling timbers with damaged edges, coated in bitumen or adhesives to prevent irritation, cuts and splinters. Wear eye protection when removing nails with a crowbar, hammer or nailbar and at all times when using chisels. Use gloves and eye protection when using electric tools including reciprocating saws.

FURTHER READING

Timber Recycling
Designing out Waste
Demolition Code of Practice
SWMP Guide
Reclaimed Products Guide

TRAINING

Working at Height
Manual Handling
Safe Use of Hand Tools

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