



T-PAC LUMBER PTY LTD

KEMPAS

Botanical Name: Koompassia spp,



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Kempas has a medium to coarse open texture. The grain is interlocked and sometimes wavy. The wood can also have streaks of brittle tissue that can be a source of mechanical weakness.

Kempas is considered to be a difficult timber to work on account of both its density and its interlocked grain. Also, sections of the wood may contain stone-like streaks of brittle areas, which can have a blunting effect on cutting edges, and make machining difficult. Kempas is slightly acidic and can be corrosive to metals. The wood accepts stains and finishes well.

Kempas is used for external cladding, flooring, heavy construction, railroad crossties, plywood, and pallets (throughout its natural range).

TECHNICAL PROPERTIES

Density. 880 kg/m³

Strength Groups. S2 unseasoned; SD2 seasoned.

Stress Grades. F8, F11, F14, F17, F22, (unseasoned), F17, F22, F27, F34 (seasoned)

Joint groups. J3 unseasoned, JD2 seasoned.

Shrinkage to 12% MC. 3.0% (tangential); 2.0% (radial).

Unit Shrinkage. Not available.

Durability Above-ground. Class 3 – Life expectancy 7 to 15 years.

Durability In-ground. Class 3 – Life expectancy 5 to 15 years.

Lyctine Susceptibility. Untreated sapwood susceptible to lyctid borer attack.

Termite Resistance. Not Resistant.

Preservation. Sapwood accepts preservative impregnation.

Seasoning. Included phloem (bark) causes the timber to split during drying, but clean material seasons well if care taken.

Hardness. Hard (rated 2 on a 6 class scale) in relation to indentation and ease of working with hand tools.

Machining. Interlocking grain can cause difficulty as does the fibrous nature of kempas. Difficult to work with hand tools.

Fixing. Pre-boring advised when nailing close to edges. The timber is slightly acidic and may corrode iron fastenings.

Gluing. Can be satisfactorily bonded using standard procedures.

Finishing. Kempas can be sanded to a good finish but requires filling prior to finish, Stains and accepts paint well

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