



Wood rot occurs when timber decomposes due to fungi thriving in moist conditions. These fungi break down the cellulose and lignin in the wood, causing visible signs like discoloration, softening, and cracking. Key factors contributing to wood rot include high moisture content, poor ventilation, and prolonged exposure to dampness.

Contrary to popular belief, **any wood can rot, whether new or old**, as long as the moisture content exceeds 20%. Age is not the determining factor — moisture is.

Types of Wood Rot

1. Wet Rot:

Wet rot occurs when timber maintains a moisture content above 45% for at least seven days. This allows fungi to grow and degrade the wood. Unlike dry rot, wet rot fungi are confined to the timber sections with sufficient moisture levels. Airborne spores of white and brown rot are everywhere but will only harm timber if moisture levels are ideal.

2. Dry Rot:

Dry rot, though requiring less moisture (around 20%), is more problematic because it can spread through masonry and reach timber far from the original source. Once moisture persists for seven days, fungi can begin to eat away at the timber.

Signs of Wood Rot

Regular maintenance and inspections can help detect wood rot early. Look out for the following:

- Small holes or cavities in the timber
- Visible fungal growth
- Deformed or warped areas
- Bloated patches
- Breaks or cracks in the surface finish
- Soft, spongy spots
- Resin bleed, caused by moisture forcing resin to the surface
- Green growth, a strong indicator of high moisture
- A damp, musty smell
- Raised joints

Pay special attention to areas where timber contacts brickwork, stonework, or other building structures, as these are common points of moisture ingress.

A simple poke test, pressing the timber with your finger to feel for soft areas, can help identify hidden damage beneath the paint.

Preventative Measures

To protect your timber windows and doors from rot, take the following precautions:

1. Ensure Proper Installation:

Follow Bereco's installation guide to prevent moisture from entering through poorly sealed joints or gaps.

2. Maintain a High-Quality Finish:

- Apply Bereco's clean and care set following Bereco's routine maintenance guide.
- Redecorate or repair the finish regularly, following Bereco's routine maintenance guide.
- Pay particular attention to edges, checking for any breaks in the paint finish.

3. Control Moisture Levels:

- Ensure proper drainage around windows and doors.
- Use drip beads or flashings to direct water away from timber surfaces.
- Keep gutters and rooflines clear to prevent water from dripping onto timber.

4. Ventilation and Airflow:

- Promote airflow around timber to aid drying after rain.
- Trim vegetation or plants growing close to windows or doors, as they can trap moisture.

5. Inspect Regularly:

- Check for signs of rot during routine maintenance.
- Look for cracked paint, soft areas, and green growth

6. Address Issues Immediately:

- Seal any cracks, gaps, or damaged paint promptly.
- Resolve sources of dampness in the surrounding structure, such as leaky gutters or downpipes.

Corrective Actions

If rot is detected:

1. Identify the Source of Moisture:

- Check for water ingress, such as timber in contact with brickwork or blocked drainage.
- Eliminate vegetation growing too close to the timber.

2. Repair the Damage:

- Small areas can be scraped out with knives or chisels and filled using wood repair resin or exterior wood filler.
- Refinish the surface using Bereco's Surface Damage Repair Guide.

3. Replace Severely Damaged Sections:

- Severely affected areas can be cut out, and fully finished replacement sections are available from Bereco. A competent carpenter or joiner can splice these into the existing frame.

Note: Bereco cannot be held responsible for rot in products where high moisture content arises after delivery, especially if products are not installed according to the Bereco installation guide or maintained as per our routine maintenance and redecoration cycles.