

# Plywood



## PRODUCT CARE & MAINTENANCE

### PICKING THE RIGHT PLYWOOD GRADE

When it comes to selecting a plywood grade, think of it as selecting a fine wine – not all are created equal, and the best choice depends on the occasion (or project). The grade of plywood is a key indicator of the visual and quality aspects of both its front and back veneers. Choosing the right grade is essential for the durability of your project, with grades spanning from A (superior quality) to D (noticeable flaws).

### KNOW THE FIRE RATING

All Plyco's plywood panels except those specifically manufactured are rated as Fire Rating Group 3 and meet Australian Standard 3837. Because when it comes to woodworking, the only thing you want burning is your passion.

### APPLY SEALANTS AND FINISHES FOR PROTECTION

Applying high-quality sealants and finishes to your plywood is a crucial step in preserving your plywood's longevity and appeal. These protective layers act as a shield against moisture, stains, wear, and the harmful effects of UV exposure, ensuring your plywood remains durable and retains its beauty over time. It's like applying sunscreen; it might feel a chore, but your future self will thank you.

It's important to pay attention to the edges of plywood, which are more porous and susceptible to absorbing moisture from the air. By sealing these vulnerable areas, you effectively safeguard your project from potential damage. For comprehensive guidance on the best practices in sealing and finishing your plywood, including the edges, see Plyco's article on [preparing Marine Plywood for exterior applications](#).

### STORAGE AND HANDLING

Store your plywood on a flat, dry surface with a cover sheet on top. Do not store plywood sheets on their edge as it may cause bowing. Avoid direct sunlight, wind, rain and humidity, all of which can affect the appearance of your plywood. Depending on the grade, species and thickness of your plywood, some bowing may occur due to weather variations.

### PREVENT SCRATCHES AND DENTS

To maintain the pristine condition of your plywood, it's essential to take preventive measures against scratches and dents. Employing protective strategies such as using furniture pads under heavy objects and handling with care can significantly reduce the risk of surface damage. These steps not only preserve the aesthetic appeal of your plywood but also ensure its structural integrity remains uncompromised over time.



## PROTECT FROM MOISTURE

To safeguard your plywood from potential water damage, it's critical to take proactive measures against moisture exposure. This is true for all types of plywood, including Marine Plywood, where despite its enhanced resistance to water, prolonged contact with moisture can still affect its structural integrity. Adopting moisture-resistant practices is key to ensuring both the longevity and optimal performance of your plywood

Careful storage, handling, and regular maintenance to prevent water from compromising the plywood's condition can maintain the strength and appearance of your plywood and avoid the detrimental effects of moisture over time.

## REGULARLY INSPECT FOR DAMAGE

Vigilance is the price of beauty. No matter the plywood grade, species or finish, regular inspections can prevent minor issues from becoming major headaches. Check for signs of wear, damage, and moisture, especially in hidden areas. For structural plywood, inspecting the board's integrity consists of checking for unusual flexibility or sounds that might indicate internal damage.

## AVOID CLEANING CHEMICALS

Regularly dust the surface with a soft, dry cloth to prevent dust accumulation. For tougher dirt, a mildly damp cloth is effective, but ensure to immediately dry the area afterward to avoid moisture damage. It's crucial to avoid harsh chemical cleaners that can strip away the plywood's natural beauty, instead choose mild, wood-specific cleaners that are designed to gently cleanse without harming the surface.

## CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

### Raw Plywood

For [raw plywood products](#), such as Plyco's [Hoop Pine](#), [European Birch](#) and [Radiata](#), the easiest method for cleaning marks and minor stains is to gently sand the surface with 180 grit sandpaper. Sand with the grain of the timber to avoid cross-grain scratches.

### Laminated Plywood

[Laminated Plywood](#) (or film faced plywood) are all products covered with coloured Phenolic film. The film face surface is best cleaned with a soft, damp cloth or microfibre tea towel. Gentle solvents and cleaning products can also be used for stubborn stains on the film face surface. Read our [maintenance guide advice specifically for our Decoply range](#).

### Water-Based Clear Finishes

To maintain the appearance of plywood panels with a clear finish, gently wipe them using a soft, damp cloth, steering clear of harsh chemicals and regular household cleaners that are formulated to dissolve grease and oil, as these can degrade the finish over time.



For surface scratches, a repair strategy that includes lightly sanding the affected area with fine-grit sandpaper in the direction of the wood grain and then re-coating can effectively restore the panel's appearance. It's important to remove all dust after sanding before applying a new coat of finish.

## OSMO/LIVOS OILS

Plywood surfaces treated with oil finishes, such as those from Osmo, offer water and dirt resistance but require ongoing maintenance tailored to how frequently they're used. For regular cleaning, it's advisable to use Osmo Spray Cleaner, a gentle, biodegradable solution derived from natural plant oils that avoids streaking and buildup while being skin-friendly and keeping the surface safe for food contact. Use as often as required.

It's crucial to steer clear of standard household cleaners or harsh chemicals, as these can break down the oil finish over time. When plywood appears faded or dull due to continuous use or improper care, rejuvenation may be needed, which could vary from weekly to monthly in commercial settings. Osmo's Liquid Wax Cleaner Spray is typically sufficient for this, applied sparingly across the surface before buffing to refresh the finish.

For persistent stains, a fine white abrasive pad or fine-grade steel wool should be used, followed by a thin layer of wax spray and buffing. In cases of scratches or significant wear, professional sanding and reapplication of oil are recommended to restore the plywood's look and protection.

## PAINTED SURFACES

- 1. Liming White:** For cleaning plywood with a Liming White finish, use a soft, damp cloth for routine cleaning, steering clear of harsh chemicals to preserve the finish. If surface scratches occur, they can be addressed by lightly sanding the affected area and applying a fresh coat of finish.
- 2. Low Sheen:** For Low Sheen finishes, the durable acrylic coating is designed to easily clean common marks, scuffs, and stains with a moist cloth, making maintenance straightforward and effective.
- 3. Painted White:** Plywood with a Painted White finish should also be cleaned gently using a soft, damp cloth, avoiding abrasive cleaners that can damage the surface. Similar to Liming White finishes, any scratches can be remedied by lightly sanding the area and reapplying the coating to restore its original appearance.

## NEXT STEPS

Ready to kickstart your next plywood project? [Contact our team today](#) and let's get this show on the road!