Radial Timber Handover And Maintenance Guide

radialtimber

USING WOOD WISELY

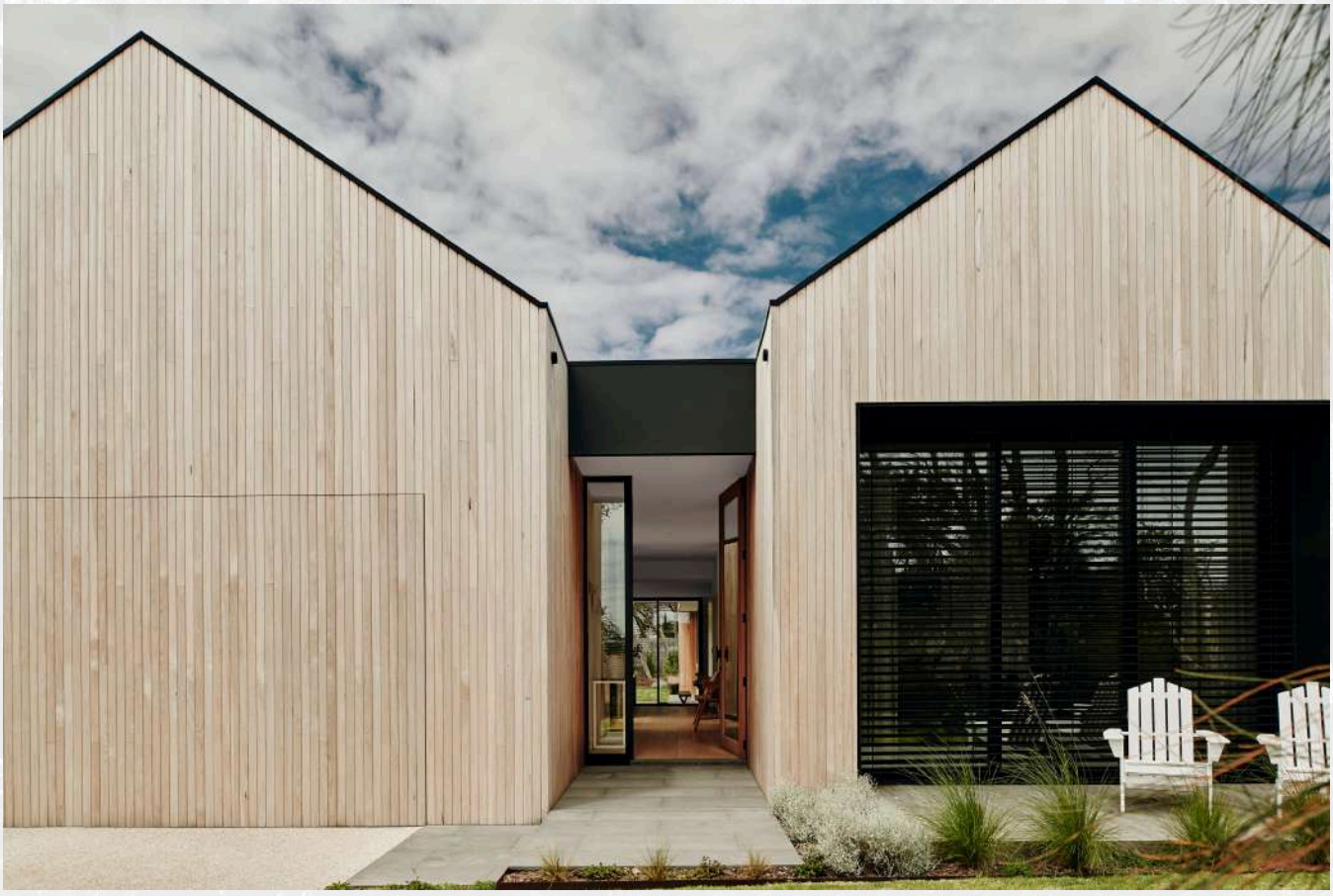
Thank you for choosing Radial Timber products for your project.

This guide has been prepared to help you understand, care for and maintain your timber so it continues to perform structurally and look beautiful for many years.

Timber is a premium natural material, and with correct maintenance, it will age gracefully and provide long term durability.

The beauty of natural hardwood lies in how it evolves over time. Embrace its raw character and natural variation. These are what make timber truly special.

This maintenance guide is intended as a general reference only. As timber is a natural product, variations in colour, grain, movement, and performance are to be expected. Outcomes may vary depending on exposure, installation, and ongoing care. It is recommended that all applications be assessed for suitability and maintained in accordance with best industry practices.



Beach house Constructions

What to Expect from Natural Timber

Timber is one of the most beautiful and timeless materials you can bring into your home or project. Its warmth, character, and uniqueness make it a standout choice, however, unlike manufactured materials, timber is hygroscopic meaning it absorbs and releases moisture in response to its surrounding environment.
Because of this, timber will continue to adjust and respond to changes in temperature, humidity, and airflow throughout its life. Understanding this behaviour will help you get the best performance and appearance from your timber. Rather than viewing these changes as flaws, appreciate them as part of timber's natural charm and beauty.

Natural Variation in Appearance
No two pieces of timber are ever the same. Variations in colour, grain patterns, and texture are completely normal and are what give timber its distinctive, organic appeal. These differences ensure that every installation is unique, adding depth and personality to your space.

Surface Checking
Surface checking is one of the most common concerns for customers when they first receive timber.
These small, shallow cracks typically appear along the grain and are caused by the outer fibres of the timber drying faster than the inner core. This creates minor tension in the surface, resulting in fine surface splits.

Key points to understand:
- Surface checking is cosmetic, not structural
- It is a normal part of the drying process, particularly in hardwoods
- Checks are usually shallow and do not affect strength or durability
- In many cases, checks will stabilise or become less noticeable over time

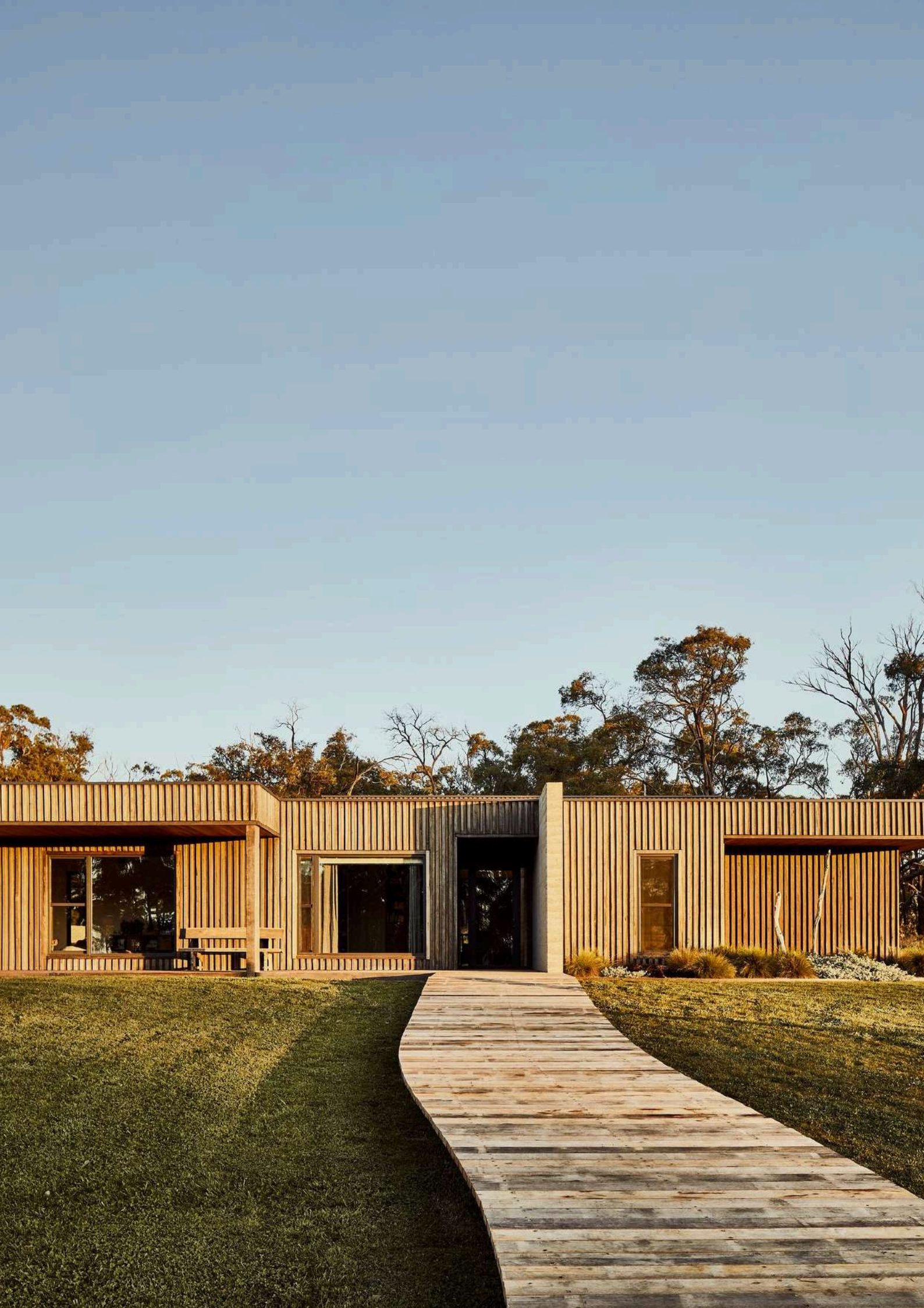
For Australian hardwoods, which are dense and slow-growing, this behaviour is especially common.

Seasonal Movement
As environmental humidity changes throughout the year, timber will expand and contract accordingly. This movement is predictable and should be allowed for during design and installation.
Proper spacing, fixing methods, and installation techniques will ensure the timber performs as intended without issue. For example; in hot, summer months, the timber will shrink and moisture will be at its lowest, whereas during wet, winter months the timber will expand and moisture will be high, allowing for these tolerances is most important.

Gradual Colour Change
Timber will gradually change colour over time when exposed to sunlight and the elements.
- UV exposure can cause the surface to lighten or deepen in tone depending on the species
- If left uncoated and exposed, timber will naturally weather to a soft grey/silver patina over time
- This greying process is a normal result of UV and moisture

Protective coatings can slow this process and help retain the original colour, but without maintenance, all exterior timber will eventually take on this natural weathered appearance.

Embracing Timber's Natural Character
These characteristics are all typical of natural timber, particularly Australian hardwoods, and should not be seen as defects or structural concerns. Instead, they are part of what makes timber such a sought after material, one that adapts to its environment and evolves to tell a story over time.
By understanding and embracing these natural changes, you can fully appreciate the authenticity and long-lasting appeal of timber in your project for years to come.



Ongoing Care Overview

To keep your timber in excellent condition and maximise its lifespan, a simple routine of inspection, cleaning and protection is recommended.

Inspect regularly
Check your timber regularly and after significant weather events. Look for signs of surface wear, movement, loose fixings, or areas where moisture may be collecting. Early detection of minor issues helps prevent larger problems over time.

Keep it clean
Remove leaves, dirt, and organic debris that may accumulate on or around the timber, as these materials can trap moisture and contribute to surface deterioration. Where necessary, lightly wash the timber using a suitable timber cleaner to remove built-up contaminants. Cleaning should be carried out only as required, avoiding excessive or unnecessary washing to help preserve the timber surface and protective coatings.
Note - Avoid excessive pressure washing and wire brushes.

Maintain protective coatings
Timber coatings naturally wear over time due to exposure to sunlight, rain and temperature changes. Inspect the finish periodically and recoat when the surface begins to appear dry, faded, or when water no longer beads on the surface. Maintaining a protective coating helps guard against UV damage and moisture ingress.
A helpful note – If water no longer beads on the timber surface, it is usually time to recoat. We recommend to use a penetrating timber oil and follow manufacturers instructions. Do not overcoat, one coat of an oil based sealer should be enough per year. Film coatings can trap moisture and cause issues, these should only be used in undercover or low exposed areas only.

Manage moisture and sun exposure
Ensure water drains away from your timber and that no standing water remains in contact with the surface. Keep garden beds and soil clear of timber and maintain adequate airflow around installations. In areas with strong sun exposure, protective coatings and regular maintenance will help preserve the timber's colour and surface integrity. Consistent, proactive care will help your timber maintain both its structural performance and natural beauty for many years.

Moisture Protection
Moisture is the primary factor that contributes to the long-term deterioration of timber. When timber remains damp for extended periods, it can lead to accelerated weathering, fungal growth, and eventually structural decay. Managing moisture around your timber elements is therefore essential to maintaining both their appearance and durability.

To minimise moisture exposure, please ensure the following:

Water drains away from timber structures - Ground surfaces and surrounding landscaping should allow water to flow away from the timber rather than pooling around it.

Gutters and downpipes are functioning correctly- Regularly check that gutters and downpipes are clear of debris and directing water away from the structure. Overflowing gutters can allow water to repeatedly wet timber surfaces.

No standing water collects against timber- Avoid situations where water can sit against the timber, particularly at the base of boards or horizontal surfaces.

Garden beds remain clear of timber surfaces- Soil and mulch retain moisture and should not be in direct contact with timber. Maintain a small clearance between garden beds and timber.

Adequate airflow surrounds the timber- Good ventilation allows timber to dry naturally after rain or cleaning. Areas with poor airflow can trap moisture and increase the risk of deterioration.

Consistent moisture management is the single most important step in preserving the longevity and structural performance of timber. Keeping timber clean, dry, and well ventilated will significantly extend its service life.

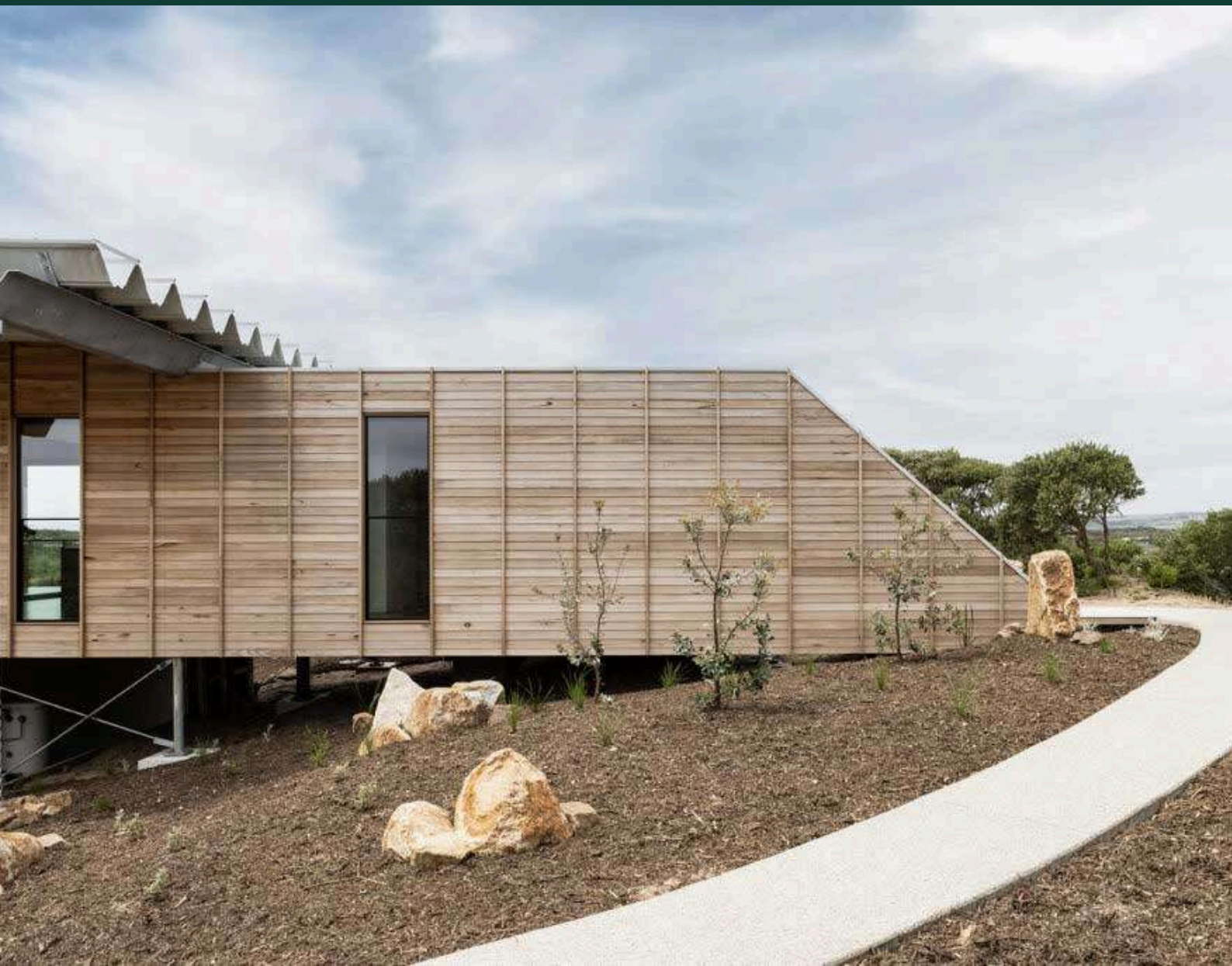
Ongoing Care Overview

Window, Door & Sealant Maintenance
Openings and building junctions such as windows and doors are common areas where water may enter if flashings or sealants are not functioning correctly.
Regular inspection helps ensure water is directed away from timber elements as intended.
Over time, debris may accumulate around flashings and drainage paths, and sealants may deteriorate due to weather exposure and building movement.

To help protect surrounding timber:

Inspect window and door flashings- Ensure flashings are visible, clean, and free from debris that may obstruct drainage.
Keep drainage areas clear- Remove leaves, dirt, and other materials from window sills, flashings, and drainage channels.
Confirm flashings are functioning correctly- Water should drain freely away from the structure rather than collecting against timber.
Check caulking and sealants- Inspect sealants around windows, doors, and adjoining materials for cracking, shrinkage, separation, or deterioration.
Repair or replace sealants when required- Damaged sealants should be maintained or replaced to preserve a watertight seal.

Maintaining flashings and sealants helps prevent moisture ingress and protects nearby timber from premature weathering.



Timber Care Schedule and Checklist

Basic Timber Care Schedule

A simple care guide to help get the most out of your timber.

Timeframe	What to Do	Purpose
At Installation	Confirm coating applied and fixings secure	Establish baseline condition
Every 3–6 Months	Inspect timber and remove debris	Prevent moisture build-up
After Major Weather	Inspect for movement or damage	Early detection of issues
Annually	Assess timber condition and coating performance; clean if required	Maintain protective finish for full protection benefits
12–24 Months	Recoat timber if required	Maintain UV and moisture protection
Ongoing	Maintain moisture protection, drainage and airflow	Help prevent moisture-related deterioration

Quick Seasonal Inspection Guide

Carrying out simple seasonal checks helps identify early signs of weathering and ensures the timber remains protected throughout the year.

Season	What to Check
After Summer	Check areas exposed to strong sunlight for signs of UV weathering or surface drying.
	Inspect the protective coating for fading, patchiness, or areas where protection may be wearing away.
	Remove accumulated debris such as leaves, dust, and dirt from timber surfaces.
After Winter	Assess whether any areas may require light maintenance or recoating.
	Check for signs of moisture retention, particularly in shaded or low-airflow areas.
	Inspect timber surfaces for staining, mould, or early signs of rot.
	Ensure drainage paths remain clear and water is not pooling near timber.
	Confirm gutters and downpipes are functioning and directing water away from timber structures.

Timber Care Schedule and Checklist

Homeowner Inspection Checklist

Any issues identified should be addressed promptly, with cleaning, sanding, or recoating carried out as required to maintain the timber's appearance, protective finish, and structural performance.

3–6 Month Inspection

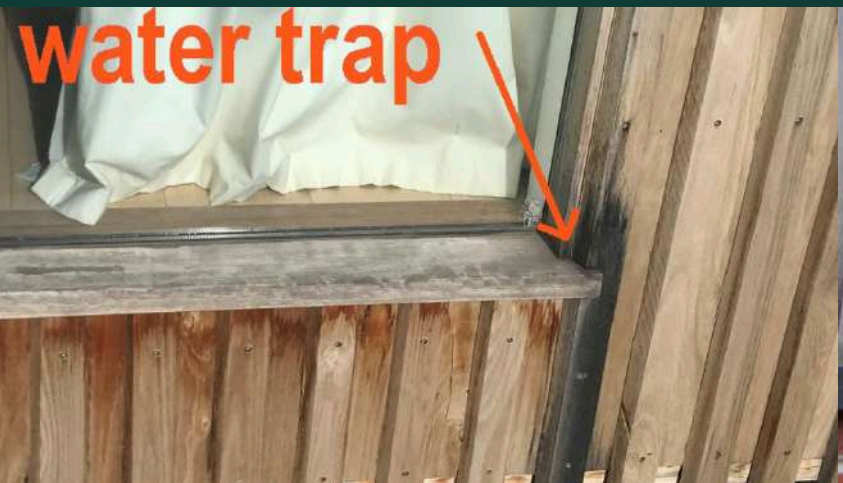
Carry out a visual inspection every 3–6 months and after major weather events.

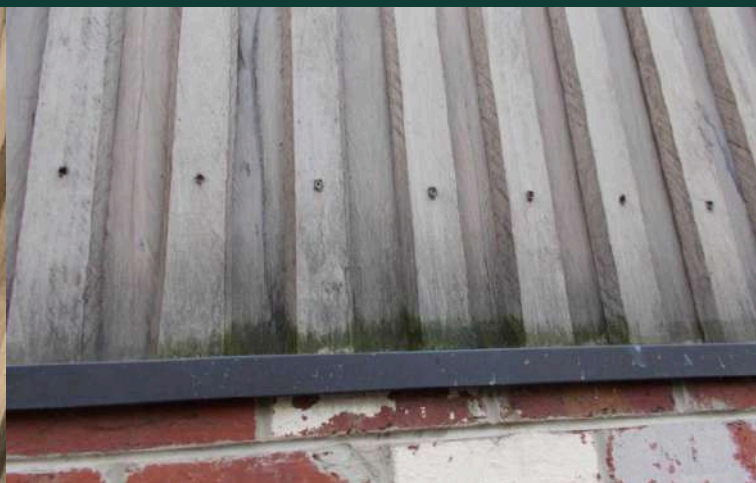
Inspection Item	Completed
Inspect timber surfaces for cracks, splitting, or movement. Minor checking is normal, but monitor for large or deep splits.	☐
Inspect window and door flashings to ensure they are clear of debris and functioning correctly.	☐
Check caulking and sealants around windows, doors, and adjoining surfaces for cracking, separation, or deterioration.	☐
Check shaded or low-airflow areas for signs of dampness, staining, or mould.	☐
Ensure screws, nails, and other fixings remain secure and properly seated.	☐
Remove leaves, dirt, and organic debris that may trap moisture against timber.	☐
Ensure soil, mulch, or garden beds are not in contact with timber surfaces.	☐

Annual Maintenance

Undertake a more thorough inspection periodically, and carry out cleaning only where required, based on the level of dirt build-up, weathering, and environmental exposure. Avoid unnecessary or excessive cleaning to prevent undue wear to the timber surface.

Maintenance Item	Completed
Wash timber using a suitable timber cleaner to remove dirt and contaminants.	☐
Remove stains or surface discolouration as required.	☐
Inspect the protective coating for fading, patchiness, or wear.	☐
Lightly sand weathered areas where the surface has become rough or dry.	☐
Recoat worn or exposed timber areas as required to maintain protection.	☐



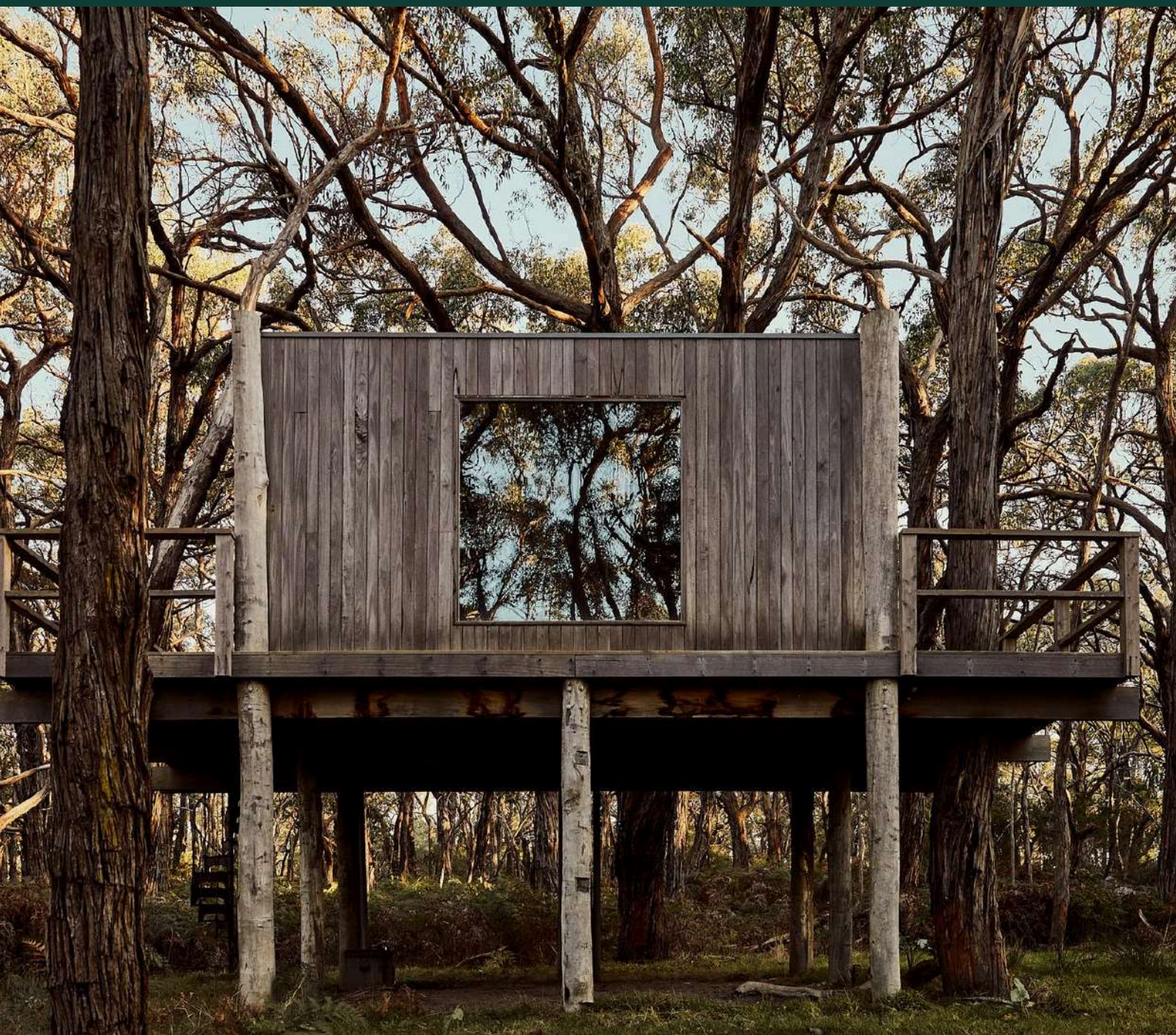


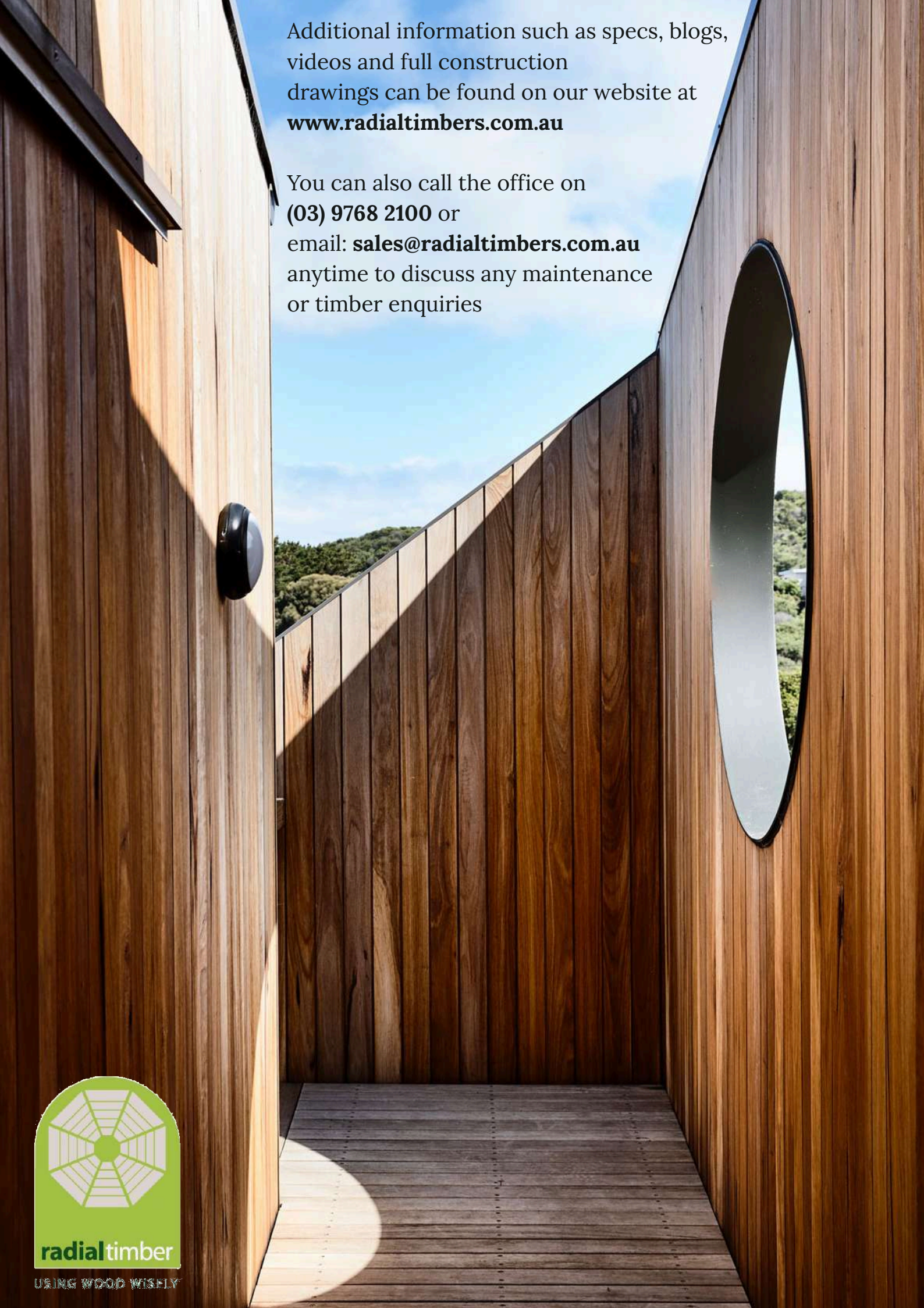
Timber Care Schedule and Checklist

Moisture & Drainage Check
Moisture management is critical to maintaining timber longevity.

Inspection Item	Completed
Ensure water drains away from timber structures and does not pool nearby.	☐
Check gutters and downpipes are functioning correctly and free of blockages.	☐
Confirm no standing water remains in contact with timber surfaces.	☐
Ensure adequate airflow around timber elements to allow natural drying.	☐
Maintain clearance between timber and garden beds, soil, or mulch.	☐

Keeping a record of inspections helps ensure your timber continues to perform as intended.





Additional information such as specs, blogs, videos and full construction drawings can be found on our website at **www.radialtimbers.com.au**

You can also call the office on **(03) 9768 2100** or email: **sales@radialtimbers.com.au** anytime to discuss any maintenance or timber enquiries

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