

INFORMATION GUIDE

REPAIRING ROTTED TIMBER WINDOW SILLS

CAUSE

The problem normally starts with the paint breakdown through one simple factor.....co-efficient differentials of expansion and contraction. In plain terms, where the paint system bridges a 90 degree angle with a sharp internal corner, the 2 timbers move at different rates according to their densities/thicknesses and as a result “stretch” the paints beyond their ability to maintain relative adhesion to the timber. This occurs as the paint weathers and loses its flexibility. Once the paints have cracked in the internal corners, it’s an avenue for water to seep into the wood. From here on it’s a progressive step to decay. Once the saturation level of the wood reaches in excess of 25%, the air-borne mould spore carried into the timber start to propagate and then devour the lignin and cellulose of the wood, thus creating a moist environment, and exponential decay. Less than 25% saturation, the mould spore will remain dormant and inactive.

REPAIR

An assessment of the decay has to be made in the first instance. If the decay has gone too far, the only sensible remedy is to remove and replace. However if there is still some structural integrity, saturating the soft dozy timber with NORGLASS NORSEAL can provide a permanent solution. To do this remove (by sanding) any residual paint, then drill holes randomly along the sill, at about a 30 degree angle. Then mix up a volume (250ml mix) of Norseal and using a small funnel pour the mixture into the holes. As the Norseal drains away, come back and refill them. Repeat a few times and then coat the entire sill. Leave to cure for about 48 hours. A plastic cover should be placed over the sill to prevent dew (or rain) gaining access. Next, fill the holes with NORGLASS NORFILL, a white epoxy filler. As well as filling the holes, use the Norfill to radius out the internal 90 degree angles using a paddle pop stick or back of a teaspoon. What this does is to contain the **lateral differentials** of both timber interfaces, thus preventing further internal paint cracking. This is **essential** to the longevity of the paint structure...and the ongoing problem is solved. Now paint the surface with NORGLASS PRICOAT and finish with NORGLASS WEATHERFAST PREMIUM ENAMEL.