

# MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

All our garden buildings have been designed and manufactured with care and attention to be the perfect addition to your outdoor space. To ensure you do get the best out of your new garden building and to increase the longevity we advise that you follow the product instructions and our manufacturer's recommendations as detailed below. Thank you for choosing a Mercia Garden product!

## 1 Choosing the most suitable location for your garden building...

A minimum of 60cm should be left around the perimeter of your garden building to allow access for maintenance, annual treatment and to allow air flow around the building.

Where possible you should avoid placing your garden building underneath large trees to prevent the tree causing damage to the building.

## 2 Preparing the base for your garden building...

All our buildings must be built on a firm, level base to ensure the longevity of the building and prevent the wood from distorting. We recommend either concrete, concrete slabs or a wooden base, such as our 'Portabase'.

The base should be slightly smaller than the external measurement of the building, i.e. the cladding should overlap the base, creating a run off for water and preventing water from pooling underneath the building.

We also recommend that the floor of the garden building is a minimum of 25mm above the surrounding ground level to avoid flooding.

## 3 After installation...

Once your garden building has been installed it will need to be treated as soon as possible and annually to prevent the timber from deteriorating and to waterproof it. This is required to maintain the anti-rot guarantee.

Dip Treated buildings - Require a preservative treatment to protect against rot and decay and a waterproof treatment to prevent water ingress

Pressure Treated buildings - Require a waterproof treatment to prevent water ingress  
Log Cabins/Insulated Garden Rooms - Are supplied untreated and require a preservative and waterproofing treatment

We also recommend using a silicon sealant on the inside and outside of the windows as soon as possible after assembly and treatment to fully seal the windows.

Roofing felt/covering should be checked annually and replaced or fixed accordingly.

## 4 General maintenance and wood characteristics

As wood is a natural material it may be affected by the following:

**Shrinkage and warping** - The timber used in the construction of your garden building will have retained some of its natural moisture content. The moisture content of the timber will vary, depending upon prevailing environmental conditions, which will result in the components either naturally expanding or contracting. As the components dry out shrinkage may occur. A good waterproofing treatment from the start is the best protection to minimise the effect of moisture loss/intake.

In extended periods of very warm weather getting some moisture to the building will help the overall balance. You can do this by spraying it down lightly with a garden hose. In contrast after snow fall try to remove the snow as best as possible from the roof to prevent moisture intake and to remove the extra weight.

Top tip - using a garden brush will help you to reach the highest part of the building to remove snow and any debris left from bad weather.

**Damp and mould** - During the winter months, cold and damp conditions can result in an increased amount of moisture within your garden building, especially when used infrequently. Condensation can form on the timber and other items stored within your garden building. If left this moisture is likely to cause mould and mildew. To prevent the build-up of moisture, we recommend leaving the door or windows of your building open from time to time, to allow the fresh air to circulate. We also advise against storing wet or damp items in your garden building as this will also increase the level of moisture in the building. If mould or mildew does start to form within your building we recommend using an anti-mould cleaner to remove it and to prevent it spreading, which if left untreated could permanently damage your garden building.

**Splits, cracks and knots** - You may notice small splits and cracks in some components or holes may appear where knots shrink and fall out. This will not affect the structure of your Garden building however if you wish to fill them this can be easily done using any good quality wood filler.

**Sap** - is naturally occurring in wood and may appear in some boards of your garden building. If you wish to remove the sap, we advise waiting until it is dry and then using a sharp knife to carefully remove it. If the removal of the sap causes a hole in the timber, we recommend using a good quality wood filler to fill it.

For more handy hints and tips on how to care and maintain your garden building please refer to the MGP Customer Portal at [www.mgplogistics.co.uk](http://www.mgplogistics.co.uk)

Any further questions?

Contact our  
Customer Service  
Team on:  
01636 821215

## 1 Manufacturer's Warranty

All Mercia Garden Products are supplied with a 1 year warranty on all parts against manufacturing defects.

This warranty does not cover movement, warping or splitting of timber products over time.

This warranty will be voided if any of the following occur:

1. The building has been customised or modified/adapted in any way.
2. The person claiming is not the original purchaser of the building.
3. Any damage has been caused by or as a result of misuse.
4. The building has not been maintained and cared for in accordance to our advisories and manufacturer's recommendations.
5. The building has not been treated annually or as per the manufacturer's recommendations, please ensure receipts are kept to validate this claim.
6. The building has not been erected, fitted or installed as per the supplier instructions.
7. The building has not been erected on a suitable sized firm flat, solid level concrete/slab base or placed on pressure treated bearers.
8. The building is or has been placed with 2 feet (60cm) of any obstructions (walls, trees, plants, fences etc.) which can allow moisture to penetrate the timber.
9. The roofing felt has been incorrectly fitted or damaged allowing water ingress, or not properly maintained.
10. Any windows and joints have not been sealed, inside and out, with silicone or other watertight sealant.
11. Any timber has been cut, pierced or drilled without subsequent application of approved cut-end treatment.

## 2 Anti-rot Guarantee

Mercia Garden Products offer a 10 year anti-rot guarantee on all dip treated (a preparatory treatment) and 15 years on all pressure treated products. This guarantee covers solid timber against rot, decay, blue stain and insect attack.

To validate the guarantee the building must be treated with a recognised wood preserver/water proof top coat (as detailed within manufacturer's recommendations) within 3 months of assembly and annually thereafter.

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