

Preparing a slab of live edge wood or planks of wood correctly will enhance the natural beauty of the grain patterns and increase its durability. Remember, sanding, sealing and oiling your wood correctly is key to its longevity.

Our timber can be supplied in its natural rough sawn state, for further finishing by you, or alternatively, we can plane it to a smooth finish, suitable for fine sanding and sealing.

Wood Preparation

Here is our guide on how to best prepare your wood:

- For your own safety, we recommend that you wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses, a dust mask, and ear protection when preparing your wood.
- When preparing live edge wood, you may wish to remove the bark. To do this, use a drawknife or chisel to carefully remove the bark from the live edge. This step helps to expose the natural wood beneath. You may also wish to leave the bark attached for a more rustic appearance.
- Clean the surface of the wood by removing any dirt, debris, and loose fibres. You can use a wire brush, compressed air or a damp cloth for this.



- When sanding your wood slab or plank, start with coarse grit sandpaper (60-80 grit) to smooth out any rough spots, tool marks or uneven surfaces. Gradually progress to finer grits (120, 180, 220) until you achieve the desired smoothness.
- If the wood has knots or voids, you may wish to fill them with an epoxy resin or a wood filler that matches the colour of the wood.
- Choose a wood sealant or finish that suits your preferences and the intended use of the timber. Don't forget to stir the sealant thoroughly before use. Common finishes include:



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- Osmo Polyx-Oil: A hardwax oil finish designed to protect and enhance the natural beauty of wood surfaces. It can be used for both interior and exterior applications.
- Oil Finishes: Tung oil, Linseed oil or Danish oil can be applied to nourish the wood and bring out its natural colour.
- Polyurethane: Provides a durable and protective layer. Choose between satin, semi-gloss or gloss finishes.
- Epoxy Resin: For a thick, glossy finish that enhances the natural features of the wood.



- Use a brush, rag or spray gun to apply the chosen finish evenly across the wood surface. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and drying times.
- For a smoother finish, lightly sand the wood with 240-grit sandpaper between each coat of finish. This helps remove imperfections and ensures better adhesion of subsequent layers. Remove any excess dust from this process with a vacuum cleaner, followed by a timber cleaning fluid.
- Apply additional coats as needed, following the same process of stirring, applying, and allowing for the drying time. Allow the finish to cure and dry completely according to the product's specifications; please note this may take several days. Ensure that you allow the final coat to cure completely before subjecting the sealed wood to heavy use or exposure.
- Inspect the finished wood for any touch-ups or areas that may need additional attention. Make necessary adjustments before considering the project complete.

Get In Touch

Whether you are planning on building a staircase or shelving, creating a stunning wooden bar top or a bespoke piece of furniture, our range of wood is bound to spark your creativity.

Elephant Timber Supplies provide a high level of quality customer service. Using our extensive timber knowledge, we can help you with selection and provide advice on how to best prepare your wood. Order your live edge slabs or wood planks from us today and start creating your wooden masterpiece.



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