

LEGAL | SUSTAINABLE | COMPLIANT

INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

LIFECORE H3V LVL or meySPAN H3V LVL used in External Applications

This guide provides important installation recommendations for best results when using LIFECORE H3V or meySPAN13 H3V in moisture exposed applications with reference to:

- **Protection of End and Splay Cuts where moisture ingress can occur.**
- **Split Prevention when fixing Decking Screws into LVL veneer edges of floor/deck joists.**

meySPAN13 H3V and LIFECORE H3V are manufactured using a veneer treatment process carried out prior to LVL production, ensuring 100% H3 penetration throughout the product. Both are treated with Koppers chemicals and are guaranteed for external above ground use.

PROTECTION OF END AND SPLAY CUTS

End Grain absorbs moisture much faster than the face or edge of timber, making it the most vulnerable area for water ingress, swelling, checking, rot and decay. For exterior structures, protecting end grain is common practice and the most effective way to extend service life.

LIFECORE H3V LVL and meySPAN H3V LVL are 100% core treated so re-applying an end grain preservative is not required, HOWEVER, like any exposed timber SEALING is required and should always be a part of good building practice.

STEP 1 - MAKE A CLEAN CUT

- Cut the timber clean.
- Remove splinters and loose fibers.
- Allow wet timber to dry before applying sealants.

STEP 2 - SEAL THE END GRAIN

- For best results immediately apply a quality exterior end-grain sealer available in common aerosol brands. Always check the manufacturer's advice for future paint systems to ensure compatibility.

STEP 3 - PROTECT FROM DIRECT WATER EXPOSURE

Where practical:

- Install trim caps or flashing above exposed end grain.
- Design cuts so water sheds away from the timber.
- Avoid horizontal surfaces where water can pond.

STEP 4 - MAINTAIN THE PROTECTION

Inspect annually for:

- Cracks
- Peeling coatings
- Water staining
- Softening wood fibers
- Recoat exposed end grain whenever the finish begins to wear.



SCREWING INTO LVL DECK JOIST

Screwing into LVL veneer edges can be done with ease and minimal concern of board splitting when good building practice is followed. The important point to remember is that with any external timber the user should adopt methods that minimise moisture ingress.

STEP 1 - SCREW SELECTION

- Use corrosion-resistant exterior screws.
- Use screws long enough to penetrate the LVL by at least 25–30 mm after passing through the deck board.
- Follow the decking manufacturer's fastener recommendations.

STEP 2 - APPLY DECK JOIST TAPE

Deck tape plays a critical role in creating a water-resistant barrier on top of the joist so that water and moisture are less likely to penetrate through screw holes or timber defects.

- Along with following the deck tape manufacturers guidelines you should prepare by;
- Ensure the joists are dry.
- Remove dirt, sawdust and debris from top surfaces.
- Ensure joists are secure and properly aligned before taping.

STEP 3 - MARK FASTENER LOCATIONS

- Locate the centerline of the LVL Joist member.
- Maintain adequate distance from LVL edges.
- **Typical practice:** Keep screws at least 20 mm from LVL edges when practical. Avoid clustering fasteners unnecessarily.

STEP 4 - PRE-DRILL (RECOMMENDED) BECAUSE LVL IS DENSE:

- Use a pilot bit approximately equal to the screw's root diameter.
- Drill perpendicular to the surface.
- Drill through the deck board and into the LVL at least 25mm – 30mm.

Pre-drilling helps:

- Reduce screw breakage.
- Improve driving accuracy.
- Minimise splitting on edges and along the screw pattern particularly at close intervals.
- Pre-drilling is especially important near the ends of the joist to minimise the chances of splitting.

