

ADVICE FROM THE MANUFACTURER



Mercia Garden Products, the manufacturer of our garden buildings, offer the following advice when looking to make a purchase.

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.

Preparing the base for your garden building:

All of our buildings must be built on a **solid, flat and level base** to ensure the longevity of the building and prevent the wood from distorting. We recommend either concrete, concrete slabs or a plastic base (filled with pea gravel).

The base should be slightly smaller than the external measurement of the building, meaning that 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

After installation:

Once your garden building has been installed it will need to be treated as soon as possible and then 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

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.

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.

- **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:** 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.

If you have any further questions, please email us at info@atlantictrampolines.co.uk
or call us on 01646 622211.