



Congratulations on your new wood structure! With a little care and maintenance you are sure to enjoy it for many years to come.

After your new wood structure has been installed there will be a period of time in which the wood will go through acclimation to your local altitude, weather, humidity and so on. During this time the timbers will develop some cracks or fissures which are completely natural and are known as “checking”.



Small “checking” cracks

The process of checking is most noticeable in larger timbers (8”x8” to 12”x12”); and certain types of timber are more prone to checking than others. This natural process is expected and engineering calculations have been made to allow for it. Checking is not a structural defect and does not affect the structural integrity of your wood structure. For some, it enhances the natural and organic charm, adding character and appeal to your outdoor living space.

### Maintenance

**Sap:** It is common for your structure to have some sap ooze as the timber acclimates to your climate, This is usually easy to clean up with a lacquer or paint thinner.

**Staining/touch-ups:** We recommend that you touch up the stain finish on your structure 6-12 months after it is installed. This time period allows for the checking process to take place, enabling you to apply stain to the gaps and fissures that have occurred. After the first touchup your structure should be re-stained every 3-5 years, depending upon sun exposure, climate and location. Stain is available through Kimberly Nurseries to ensure a true color match with your original finish.



Larger “checking” cracks

**Tip:** Use a small inexpensive spray bottle to easily apply stain to the checking cracks or gaps. Be sure to cover anything that you don't want the stain overspray to come in contact with.

Need help with your staining project? Call us for professional staining services!

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