



## THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF TIMBER

### ✓ **DO celebrate the natural beauty of timber.**

Timber is a beautiful, natural product and should be appreciated for the grains, knots and colour variations that reflect the journey the tree has taken.

### ✗ **DON'T expect consistency of pattern, grain and colour.**

Each piece of timber is unique and will have variegations to its pattern and colour. This is increased when the timber comes from two different trees, even if they are of the same species. When a whole kitchen is made from timber it will be impossible to have each door and drawer-front matching the one next to it. There will be differences in pattern and colour and in some you will see the knots in the wood.

### ✓ **DO feel free to combine with other finishes.**

Timber is very adaptable and works beautifully when combined with other complimentary finishes like a neutral coloured duco, wrap or laminate. By combining these materials you get the warmth of the timber but the delicacy of the plain colour. It also increases the sense of space and stops the darker or more patterned timbers from overwhelming the space. Timber kitchen units also work well when combined with granite, engineered stone or solid surfacing. The warmth of the timber contrasts well

with the hard surface materials, just make sure the colours selected are complimentary to one another.

### ✗ **DON'T expose to moisture and excessive light**

Treat your timber well. Excessive exposure to moisture or heat can damage the timber causing it to age or warp. Ensure you clean as per the manufacturer's instructions to avoid damage.

### ✓ **DO add a little more to your budget**

Timber is a natural resource and many of the more beautiful types are becoming harder and harder to get. Many types of timber are no longer readily available on the South African market unless you are prepared to pay a high price. Solid timber will be more costly than veneer. As such veneer has become a more popular option for the kitchen and it allows one piece of timber to go a lot further.



What many people do is a combination where the frame of the door or drawer is solid timber and the inner is veneer. Either way, if you are opting for timber, allow a little extra onto your budget for the privilege of having a beautiful natural resource in your kitchen.

### **X DON'T expect new or replacement product to match**

If you have a damaged door or if a door needs to be replaced during the installation period, do not expect a close match. The new door will come from a different batch of timber and will have a greater chance of a variance in colour and grain. The new door will also be lighter than those already in place. This is because timber darkens when exposed to sunlight and the chemicals, oils, grease, etc. in a kitchen. The chances of a poor match are even greater if you have stained the timber. Each piece of timber absorbs stain in different ways and to different degrees. Once the initial batch of timber has been stained you will never get the same effect from a second batch.



### **✓ DO get work done by an expert**

Working with timber is very specialised. In order to ensure the longevity of your kitchen and the best quality timber or veneer, ensure your kitchen manufacturer is well experienced in making their own timber doors or is having them supplied from a reputable source. With many professional manufacturers you can select your pieces of timber with their help. You can also pay a little more and with a little added time they can match the pieces of timber to one another to get the closest match of colour and grain possible from the timber selected.

### **X DON'T expect a timber top to be the same as a stone top**

If you have opted to have timber counter tops remember that although they take the same

amount of time to template, manufacture and install as stone they are very different. Timber tops are difficult to install and should only be installed by an industry expert. If installed incorrectly they can warp and crack. Timber tops can be sealed or left raw. If sealed, fine scratch

marks can appear in the sealant. This is normal and the scratches can be made less visible through the application of a wax based product. If left raw the tops basically become a large butcher's block and should be allowed to show the marks of day to day cooking and cleaning.

### **✓ DO ensure you are fully aware of the facts**

Before ordering a timber or veneer kitchen ensure you are fully aware of what to expect. Most of the complaints linked to timber kitchens we receive at the KSA are because the client has not fully understood the special features of timber and what happens to it during the manufacturing process.

### **X DON'T be scared**

Don't be scared of bringing timber into your kitchen. Although it has a lot of specialised features it will bring a sense of elegance and warmth into your home like no other material. If used respectfully in a well-designed setting it will enhance the value of your home and never date.