

Best Practices for Laminated Wood Tent Poles

HANDLING & STORAGE

1. Laminated wood tent poles are manufactured of kiln dried lumber and extreme care should be taken to keep them dry and out of direct contact with the elements. Factory applied wrapping, when furnished, is intended for protection during transportation only. The packages are not necessarily watertight nor abrasion proof. If upon receipt, or at any time thereafter, there is moisture inside a package the packaging material should be removed immediately allowing the wood pole to dry.
2. Laminated wood tent poles ship from the factory without an applied sealer coat. **It is highly recommended that the customer apply a sealer coat to the poles that is formulated to protect against moisture ingress as soon as possible. It is also highly recommended that a seal coat or wood preservative be liberally applied to the bottom of the pole to protect against moisture ingress. Failure to do so may result in acceleration and/or exacerbation of checking (cracking), warpage and or discoloration of the wood.**
3. Storage indoors is highly recommended. When laminated wood tent poles are stored they should be blocked up well above the ground and protected on the top, sides and ends. When storing horizontally, use 2" or thicker shims between each layer including on the ends and middle. Take care to keep the poles in line, with no twist, warp or bend. It is also recommended for longer term storage that banding be applied to at least the ends and the middle of the aforementioned horizontal bundles.
4. Do not store laminated wood tent poles in direct contact with the ground or radiant heaters. If radiant heat elements are present near the poles, make sure the poles are shielded from the radiant heat with a vinyl tarp.
5. It is best to store the poles in a building that has some amount of indirect air circulation to prevent collection of moisture that might occur due to condensation or other reasons however it is not recommended that a fan be pointed at the poles directly during storage.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

1. Laminated wood tent poles should be inspected prior to each installation to ensure that no issues are present that may affect the structural integrity of the pole.
2. Your laminated wood poles will most likely undergo a natural "seasoning" process as they experience various temperature/humidity conditions and settle into an internal moisture content equilibrium. As moisture ingresses both in and out of the wood, fibers may burst resulting in areas of checking (AKA cracks). Typically naturally occurring checks in laminated wood poles are not of structural concern.
3. Recommended operational parameters for checking are as follows: For end faces, the width of the check is less than 25% the diameter of the pole. For the body of the pole, checking is parallel to the natural grain pattern of the wood, the depth of the checking is less than 15% the diameter of the pole and not continuously longer than 33% the length of the pole. **If checking is found to exceed any of these conditions the pole should be removed from service immediately.**
4. If based on the above parameters the checking in your wood poles is determined to not be of structural concern, you can fill the checking with wood putty. It is really important however to be sure to use putty that is highly elastomer as putty that hardens very rigid will not allow the cracks to expand and contract naturally which may make them larger.
5. Because checking and other potential issues are caused by conditions beyond our control, the Manufacturer and or Distributor are not responsible for repair or replacement of laminated wood tent poles that develop checking, discoloration or warpage nor are we responsible for ultimate determination of serviceability.
6. These recommend "Best Practices" are the responsibility of the customer and will greatly reduce the life of your product.