

# Milling Fact Sheet

## **Mill set up requirements;**

We require about 4x6m clearance around the log to set the mill up. Setting up takes approx 45 mins depending upon variables and it is critical to cutting good quality slabs.

We need at least 1100mm gap to get our trolleys through and flat ground is best.

## **Stacking;**

Stacking the slabs as soon as we cut them is ideal so prepare an area for this that is preferably out of the weather and away from termites and dampness.

The bottom slab should be at least 200mm off the ground to enable good airflow and enough room to visually inspect for termites periodically. You could use 3 rows of bricks, or similar, stacked perpendicular to the length of the slab and incorporate a termite barrier such as sheet metal into the base. Ensure that each row of bricks is level by using a string line or laser level.

Each glut should be vertically in line with the base row. The truer each slab is stacked, the more likely it will require minimum dressing when dry.

Slabs are usually heavy so the closer to the log the easier.

## **Gluts;**

I use dry 2x1 Jarrah batons to stack between each slab and for a 3m length you will need 3 batons per slab. This gap permits airflow to reduce the likelihood of fungal problems that humid environments promote. Not all batons are the same thickness or true.

## **Bi-products;**

Sawdust is produced during milling and will not be carted away for free. It can be a useful bi-product when used as a barrier to prevent snails from entering your vegetable patch.

Please make provision for the sawdust. We can collect most of it on tarps and move if required.

## **Stack care;**

Periodically visually inspect for termites and other pests.

Check for stability and adjust as required.

Cover with a tarp if outdoors prevent the slabs from getting wet. However, do not fully enclose as this will promote humidity.

## **Seasoning;**

As a rule of thumb, hardwood slabs require 1 year of air drying for every inch thick they are.

Softwoods require much less. Moisture contents can be measured with a moisture meter available from most wood working stores.

Generally 8-10% moisture levels are considered to be seasoned. Fluctuations in environmental humidity will result in slab movements.

## **Slab thicknesses;**

I recommend no thinner than 50mm. There will be a reduction in thickness when the slab is dressed so allow for this in the planning stage.