

## HOW TO GUIDE



Kingfisher Building Products Ltd  
Cooper Lane  
Ulverston  
LA12 9RA

T: +44(0)1229 869 100  
F: +44(0)1229 869 101

[www.kingfisheruk.com](http://www.kingfisheruk.com)

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# DRY ROT TREATMENT

**Important!** Kingfisher "How To" guides offer a step-by-step overview showing you how the products can be used together to tackle various projects but they should always be read in conjunction with the individual "Product Data Sheet" to familiarise you with specific application details for each product. Always refer to the "Material Safety Data Sheet" before use. The data sheets can be obtained at [www.kingfisheruk.com](http://www.kingfisheruk.com) or by calling 01229 869 100.



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# DRY ROT TREATMENT

P. 01229 869 100  
E. [technical@kingfisheruk.com](mailto:technical@kingfisheruk.com)



When unwanted moisture finds its way into a building, wooden joists, floors and roof timbers are often affected. As moisture builds up in timber, it creates an ideal breeding ground for a variety of wood rotting fungi which depend on a damp, moisture laden environment to grow. Such fungi are often “at home” in dark, poorly ventilated cavities and under-floor spaces, where they simply need a single moisture source to start expanding and spreading decay to adjacent timbers. When such fungal attack is discovered specialist advice should be sought from Kingfisher. We run training courses for contractors wishing to specialise in this field.

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## 1

### IDENTIFY THE FUNGUS

Firstly you need to identify the type of rot that is present. True dry rot or *Serpula Lacrymans* is a common invasive fungus which travels through masonry and plaster to find the timber host that it needs to survive. It is easy to identify as it exhibits a distinctive white cotton form. Fully dry rotted timber crumbles readily between your forefingers. Wet Rot is a collective name for a variety of fungi which naturally break down wet timber e.g. where paint finish on a window frame has perished. If the timber feels spongy when pressed it is likely to be wet rot.

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## 2

### LOCATE THE SOURCE

Fungal attack will often (but not always) be traceable back to a structural defect providing a moisture source. In the case of dry rot this could be rising or penetrating damp creating an ideal environment beneath a floor or in a cavity. Or it could simply be a leaky roof. Whatever the case you need to resolve any structural defects, otherwise the fungus may return post treatment.



## 3

### DETERMINE EXTENT OF INFECTION

This often involves destructive exposure and full removal of plaster and timber finishes back to the bare building structure. At this stage careful visual examination to determine the extent and severity of the outbreak is essential for developing a full and effective eradication strategy. If the surface is showing only minor signs of mycelium strands then spraying the exposed mortar may be sufficient. However, if it is apparent that mycelium strands are embedded in and issuing from the mortar beds, this indicates a possible deeper infestation, requiring more specialised treatment. In addition, you should look out for accompanying red spore dust which may indicate a more deeply rooted infestation. As this may involve drilling and irrigation of the affected area you should seek the advice of a specialist. In any event treatment for “dry rot” at any level of severity requires vigilance with regards to cross contamination and as a basic precaution you must always treat to at least 1000 mm beyond the obvious limit of infestation.

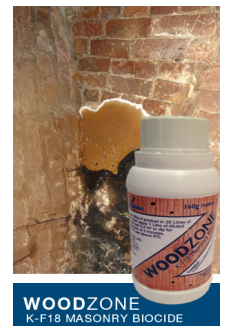


## 4

### MASONRY TREATMENT

**SUGGESTED PRODUCT: WOODZONE MASONRY BIOCID**

Masonry and plasters contaminated with “dry rot” should be liberally sprayed with Kingfisher “Woodzone Masonry Biocide KF-18”. This will kill the fungus in-situ and prevent dormant strands from re-growing in search of a new timber host. As described above in section 3, minor outbreaks can be treated by following this guide but if you suspect that the infestation may be more extensive then you should seek specialist advice as “dry rot” is a formidable enemy and can spread with surprising speed and destructive consequences. NOTE: Do not confuse the timber treatment Woodzone with the masonry treatment woodzone, they are categorically NOT interchangeable. If the treatment is sub-floor any earth solum areas should also be sprayed liberally as soil can be a persistent host for dry rot spores.



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# 5

## TREATMENT OF TIMBERS

**SUGGESTED PRODUCT : KINGFISHER KF8 & KINGFISHER  
TIMBER PASTE**

### Loft / structural timbers

Remove any obstructions to expose the timbers and spray liberally with Kingfisher:

Fungicide /Insecticide (solvent based) or Aqueous Fungicide /Insecticide(KF8) (water based)

### Floor timbers etc

Remove floor coverings and spray liberally with Kingfisher: Fungicide / Insecticide or Aqueous Fungicide /Insecticide(KF8)

### Deep Section timbers & Joists

Deepkill Timber Paste should be applied liberally to affected areas, especially joist ends in recessed wall sockets.

### Note

Depending on the density of the timber it may take up to 4 weeks for full absorption.

### General Precautions.

In any timber treatment scenario, there a number of precautions to be taken:

- a) Remove all unnecessary obstructions from the area to be treated. This includes all domestic items typically stored in lofts and crucially any loft insulation.
- b) Any open water tanks must be covered and carefully sealed with tape to prevent contamination of the water supply.
- c) Electrical points or light fittings must be temporarily covered and isolated at the main fuse board.
- d) Ensure sky lights or windows (if available) are opened to improve ventilation during and post application.
- e) Ensure all building occupants and pets are excluded during application and for one hour post-application.
- f) Always read the MSDS and PDS carefully and as a minimum wear mask, coveralls goggles and gloves during treatment.

The foregoing list is indicative only and it remains the applicator's responsibility to exercise caution and good judgement in using the product.



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