

Crate Handling & Site Storage Instructions

Offloading Crate Instructions.

- *Crates must be lifted **broadside** from trucks or containers with a forklift, must be handled with care to avoid any damage to the crate contents.*
- *The maximum weight of a full crate is approx. 2.650 tons depending on dimensions of the given panel. Make sure the forklift used to move the crates is rated for the necessary weight.*

1. Crate Offload

Unloading the crates must be done with a forklift, exercising care to avoid damaging the crate contents.

2. Support the Crate

Ensure that the forks are balanced, centered and fully support each crate while unloading.

3. Setting the Crate

Crates must be angled with and blocked using a 2cm. to raise the front edge 2 - 2.5 cm prior to opening. The supporting block should be placed on the front side and middle to prevent any uneven stress to the crate. (Blocks will be provided in the crates)

Handling & Storage Instructions



1. Crate Safety.

Crates are loaded with the panels facing the front. The front of the crate is clearly visible. **NEVER OPEN THE BACK OF A CRATE.**

2. Panel Handling

Panels must be lifted and moved in a vertical manner to avoid cracking. The edges of the panels can be sharp so protective **CLEAN** gloves should be worn when moving to prevent injury.

3. Panel Storage & Staging.

Panels must be stored vertically and using spacers in between each panel so that it can ventilate. The panels should be stored in the same conditions to weather evenly and maintain the expected quality.

4. Flat Stacking Panels.

Flat stacking is **NOT ADVISED.**

5. Ventilation.

Crates must **NOT** be stacked vertically, space must be provided in all sides of the crates for proper air circulation.

6. Crate Storage on Site.

Crates must be stored protected from moisture (rain) at the site and in long term storage. Crates should be stored under cover that has its sides open ventilation is essential. The shipping plastic is not enough for outdoor storage.

Panels may be subject to natural efflorescence staining, in almost all cases natural efflorescence will go away over time. However, a distinctly different type of efflorescence can be caused from exposure to water in storage. The efflorescence caused by weathering and efflorescence caused by storage conditions are significantly different visually and chemically. Any time a panel is wet and cannot dry evenly across the surface even for a short period, storage damage is likely to occur. Examples of this situation are :

- *Water or condensation in closed crates*
- *Stacking crates vertically or horizontally which prevent proper air circulation.*
- *Stacking panels horizontally so water pools on the surface.*
- *Leaving crates open to moisture on site.*
- *Wet foam or plastic kept in contact with the panel surfaces.*