

## A FEW CLARIFICATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

# WOODWORMED TIMBER

Some timber varieties may feature galleries (in the form of small holes) of varying sizes (3 to 16 mm in diameter), which are said to be «woodwormed».



### ORIGIN IN THE TREE

These galleries are caused by insects or xylophagous larvae of the longhorn beetle or cerambycid type which perforate the timber in the forest, when the tree is still growing or has just been felled. The adult insects bore galleries to lay eggs. The larvae develop there according to a cycle specific to each type of insect, and the adult insects return to the outside through flight holes.

The galleries created by these insects can be several decades old, or even a century or more if the felled tree is very old.

These insects only live and reproduce in tropical climates, they cannot survive and proliferate in temperate climates.

The holes visible on the Ipé boards either represent the perforations of the adult insects when they arrive to lay their eggs, or

the galleries dug by the larvae or even the flight holes of the young insects following the pupal stage.

**The galleries are often accompanied by abnormal staining that follows the grain of the timber, from and around the perforations.**

The sometimes «late» and gradual appearance of the perforations has a simple explanation: the excrement and sawdust emitted by these timber borers often form a natural plug, or «putty», that will effectively block the hole in a durable manner. **Some insects voluntarily obstruct the galleries with these «plugs» in order to protect their egg-laying from external predators.**

### Example of a perforation that is barely visible because it is still obstructed:



## PARTICULARITIES OF THE CELLS

During machining operations, galleries aren't always visible; only possible discolorations that accompany them can attract attention. Once in use and with time, the galleries open up. Poor weather accelerates the appearance of these galleries by making the plugs «pop out». Occasional pine

holes and galleries aren't considered to be critical defects in the tropical timber trade. Commercial batches of timber from Asia are often marked «PHND», which stands for «Pine Holes No Detect», to indicate that they are free from this type of defect.

## CONCLUSION

These are small-diameter, occasional galleries that have no impact on the durability of the structure and cannot propagate. The phenomenon is purely aesthetic and is tolerated when the galleries are occasional and scattered on boards. «*Woodworming*» is a

defect specific to certain varieties, such as the Ipé. The French NF B 54 040 standard «Characteristics of exterior timber decking boards» tolerates this defect when it is «occasional and in a scattered fashion».



Fair&Precious recommends the purchase of FSC® and PEFC-PAFC certified tropical timber.