

# FWAC FACT SHEET 4 - *Sanding Timber*

in association with

FEAST WATSON



**New or old timber can be sanded to a smooth finish ready for coating**

## ***Before you start***

1. Ensure that timber is completely dry before sanding.
2. If inside remove or completely wrap curtains and blinds in plastic to prevent damage from the fine sanding dust
3. If inside cover heating vents, power points and ducts with duct tape and heavy plastic.
4. Punch exposed nail heads in the timber with a nail punch and hammer 3mm below the surface, as exposed nails will quickly shred sandpaper
5. Clean all sticky coatings (such as vinyl glue) from the timber surface as this will quickly clog the sandpaper
6. Wear a dust mask when sanding as a considerable amount of fine dust is created. Wearing eye goggles or safety glasses is also recommended.
7. Open windows for ventilation.

## ***What is the sandpaper grit?***

The sandpaper grit number is the grade of the sandpaper, or, how coarse or fine the grit is. The higher the grade the finer the sandpaper

| Grit     | Grade                  | Use  |
|----------|------------------------|--|
| 40-60    | Very Coarse/<br>Coarse | Use coarse sandpaper to removing old coating and smoothing out imperfections. This grit is not recommended for soft timbers such as Baltic pine. |
| 80       | Medium                 | Use medium sandpaper for smoothing out shallow depressions, scratches and coarse sanding marks.  |
| 100-180  | Fine                   | Use fine sandpaper for removing light scratches, medium sandingmarks and final surface preparation for coating.                                  |
| 220-280  | Very Fine              | Use fine sandpaper for sanding in-between coats of floor finishes  |
| 320-1200 | Extra/Ultra fine       | Use ultra fine sandpaper for sanding in-between coats of varnishes for achieving a fine finish (not required for floor finishes).                |

