

Why more Australian home builders and owners choose timber framing



Proven and Popular

Lightweight timber framing is the popular choice for Australian homes. Decades of experience have ensured that the system is safe, reliable, cost-effective and well understood by designers, professional builders and even experienced DIY'ers. Owners and occupants can be assured that they are gaining the advantages of a proven building method.



Fire predictable

A home's timber framing is usually protected by cladding, often brick on the exterior and plasterboard on the interior. Timber maintains its structural integrity for a long time as it chars at a predictable rate.



Termites and Durability

In designated termite areas, it is important to install a termite barrier system to build termites out. This is because, regardless of the material used for the frame, termites can still eat through other items such as flooring, joinery and plasterboard if they have access. They can also cause damage to electrical cabling. Today, in areas subject to termite attack, timber framing is made from wood safely treated to resist termites, so that is no longer a worry. In fact, many Australian timber framed houses are well over 100 years old which shows the longevity of wood.



Strong, stable and quiet

Since the properties of timber are so well understood, a timber-framed house won't be noisy, as it doesn't expand and contract during temperature changes and risk premature cracking in plaster linings.



Low-cost flexibility

Today, most framing systems are prefabricated or built offsite. However, any last-minute changes or variations are easily made onsite by carpenters equipped with all the tools they need. Of course, if they need extra timber, it's as close as the nearest hardware store.



Fast to assemble

Prefabrication, flexibility and builders' knowledge of how timber frames are assembled, (joints, connections, tie-downs and bracing) combine to deliver fast, efficient buildings to lock up stage.

Ease of renovation

When a family outgrows their home, more space is needed, or you buy a home requiring renovation, timber framing is simple and easy to work with. Whether it's removing existing framing, adding more timber framing or both, the ready availability of designers, materials and tradespeople familiar with the material make it an easier process.



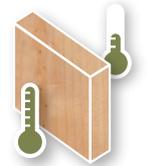
Simple installation of services

Timber frames can be easily drilled to install plumbing and electric cables, unlike some materials that require cushioning grommets to protect cable insulation during installation and limit longer term damage to plumbing due to expansion and contraction or corrosion.



Insulating

Timber framing helps insulate your home as it has a higher R-value than many other materials. This means that it doesn't act as a 'thermal bridge', conducting energy (heat) from one side of a wall to the other.



Renewably and responsibly sourced

Most Australian-sourced timber is covered by either one or both certification systems, Australia's Responsible Wood, which is endorsed by the world's largest certification system the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), or the Forest Stewardship Council. This means that the wood you use has been produced in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.



Environmental advantage: Low embodied energy

Wood has the lowest embodied energy of all common building materials. This is a measure of the energy (usually produced by greenhouse gas-emitting generators) that is used to convert the wood in trees to framing timber.



Environmental advantage: Stores carbon from the atmosphere

Choosing wood removes greenhouse gasses from the air. Approximately half the dry weight of wood is carbon, absorbed from the atmosphere by a growing tree. Using timber in buildings stores the carbon for as long as the building exists or the timber is reused or recycled.

