

# Technical Brief

## Features & Characteristics of Korowood™

As with natural wood products, Korowood™ Handrails and Chair Rails have a varied natural appearance. Variations in color, grain, and texture accentuate the natural beauty of the wood. Clearcoat finishing (M1 or R1) will accent these characteristics, while adding stain (M2/3 or R2/3) will further enhance the grain while slightly muting the color variations. The varying appearances of these wood products is to be expected. No two pieces will ever be identical. *With this in mind, we strongly recommend that the qualified installer craft end returns and corners at installation from the same length of rail to which that particular end or corner will be attached so as to provide a more pleasing, homogenous appearance.*

While surface and end cracks are not acceptable and will not be present in nominal lengths when shipped, this problem may occur at any time during its life. Korowood is a “hygroscopic” material which will absorb or emit moisture depending on the surrounding environmental conditions. Any wood product is most stable in approximately 45% relative humidity. Prolonged exposure to humidity levels below 10% or above 75% may lead to failure in the fiber structure, which is exhibited in the form of surface and end cracks. Our varnish finishing helps seal and protect Korowood from this phenomenon, but attention to maintaining proper humidity levels at all stages is the only certain means of protection. *For unfinished Korowood, humidity control is especially critical.*

Korowood’s exposure to direct sunlight should also be limited, particularly if the wood is unfinished. Sunlight can cause yellowing or bleaching as well as amplifying excessive moisture loss.

Korowood finishes may be of a clear two-coat varnish system either alone or over a red oak or cherry stain as specified. The oil-based stains and catalyzed varnish are NKCA (National Kitchen Cabinet Association) tested and approved. The varnish conversion coating is highly recommended for its resistance to moisture and chemical damage as well as its ability to limit yellowing. Our varnish system is also considered a fire retardant finish, which means it resists flame spread and smoke development. Finally, Korowood finishes and application process comply with the EPA’s clean air regulations.

The suggestions and data in this document are based on information we believe to be reliable. They are offered in good faith, but without guarantee, as conditions and methods of use of our products are beyond our control. We recommend that the prospective user determine the suitability of our materials and suggestions before adopting them on a commercial scale.



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