

SAWMILLING
SOUTH AFRICA
We saw the future



Great Wood to Good Use

Why buy South African timber

Sawmilling South Africa represents more than 45 sawmills that produce top quality South African pine softwood and eucalyptus hardwood products.

Our Sustainability Promise

With 1.2 million hectares of planted forests, South Africa is the largest producer of sawn timber in Africa. The sawmilling sector only uses wood from sustainably grown trees in responsibly managed plantations. These trees typically take between 10–35 years to reach maturity. Only 10% of the total plantation area is harvested and then replanted with new seedlings in the same year, making timber and other harvested wood products a renewable resource.

Wood products store carbon, making them an ideal substitute for carbon-intensive materials such as steel and concrete in construction.

As global demand for sustainable building materials rises, the South African sawmilling industry presents a promising opportunity for local and global markets seeking to align with environmental and socio-economic goals.

1.2 million
hectares of plantations in South Africa

PINES
(softwood)



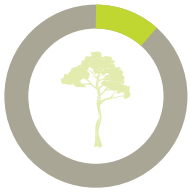
51% | 619 311 ha

EUCALYPTUS
(hardwood)



42% | 512 266 ha

OTHER SPECIES



7% | 88 319 ha

Why Choose South African Timber



Naturally Endowed

South Africa is a beautiful country and our commercial tree farming areas are naturally endowed with warm summers, moderate winters, deep soils and an annual rainfall of between 800mm and 1400mm per year.

Forestry and sawmilling industries have taken more than 100 years to perfect site species matching. Combined with biotechnology and tree breeding, our sawmillers produce world-class structural lumber products.



Image: Merensky

World-class and Certified

South Africa is considered a leader in commercial tree farming and our saw log plantations are managed to world-class standards.

Structural pine plantations are typically cultivated on a 25-year rotation and undergo specialised silvicultural management with timeous pruning and thinning yielding high quality, structural grades.

Our forestry industry and sawmills subscribe to some of the most stringent industry standards such as the South African Bureau of Standards, Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

Cover images: Top left - Sappi Southern Africa; Bottom right - Earthworld Architects

Sawn Timber Sizes

Common South African structural pine sizes



Thickness (mm)	Width (mm)	Length (metres)														
25	**38**	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	**50**	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	**76**	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	**114**	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	**152**	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	**228**	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	**38**	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.6	4.2	4.8	5.4	6.0	6.6
38	**50**	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.6	4.2	4.8	5.4	6.0	6.6
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Visual Grades	Size Specifications	Recommended Applications
Select Grade	**Thickness (mm):** 25/38 **Width (mm):** 76, 102, 127, 152, 178, 190 **Length (mm):** 1800, 2100, 2400, 2700, 3000, 3300, 3600, 3900, 4200, 4500	Door manufacturing, mouldings, laminated products, joinery, indoor, outdoor, school and office furniture, decking, flooring.
Clear Grade	**Thickness (mm):** 25/38 **Width (mm):** 50, 76, 102, 152 **Length (mm):** 450, 600, 750, 900, 1050, 1200, 1350, 1500	
Standard Grade	**Thickness (mm):** 25/38 **Width (mm):** 76, 102, 127, 152, 178, 190 **Length (mm):** 750, 900, 1050, 1200, 1500, 1800, 2100, 2400, 2700, 3000, 3900, 4200, 4500	

Characteristic grade stresses for SA pine (obtained from SANS 10163-1)

Grade	Branding	Tension parallel to grain	Tension perpendicular to grain	Compression parallel to grain	Compression perpendicular to grain	Shear parallel to grain	Rolling shear	Minimum modulus of elasticity	Mean modulus of elasticity
	fb	*ft*	*ftp*	*fc*	*fcp*	*fs*	*f..*	*Emin*	*E*
5	11,5	6,7	0,36	18,0	4,7	1,6	0.36	4 875	7 800
7	15,8	10,0	0,51	22,8	6,7	2,0	0,51	6 000	9 600
10	23,3	13,3	0,73	26,2	9,1	2,9	0,73	7 500	12 000
EH	20,8	14,1	0.30	19,3	3,9	2,2	0,51	7 041	9 826

Values in megapascals. These stresses apply to visually, mechanically or proof-graded timber that complies with SANS 1783-2 (grades 5,7 or 10), SANS 1460, grades 5, 7 10 or SANS 1707 as appropriate, or any other grading rules by the SANS for special purposes.

Engineered Wood

Technology and knowledge are being used to harness the natural strength of timber by engineering a new range of timber that can be used for mass timber buildings and high-rise construction.

Wood can be engineered to perform in different ways and South Africa offers two variants: Glued Laminated Timber (Gulam) and Cross Laminated Timber (CLT).



Additional resources

sawmillingsa.co.za

The Wood App

info@sawmillingsa.co.za