

## **Oriented Strand Board (OSB) Storage and Handling**

All wood products are hygroscopic in nature and therefore gain and lose moisture in accordance with climatic conditions. OSB panels are more dimensionally stable than solid wood, although they do still change in moisture content and dimension with relative humidity fluctuations. OSB panels should be protected from excessive wetting during storage and construction. Manufacturers protect the panel edges with paint or a special sealer, and recommend a 2 mm (1/8 in) gap be left between panels during installation to accommodate linear expansion. Panel products are susceptible to corner and edge damage from handling and must be handled carefully to avoid wastage. In summary, consideration should be given to the following aspects when storing and handling OSB:

- store bundles indoors or under cover with enough support to keep panels flat;
- on the job site, schedule delivery as close as possible to time of use and close in the structure as quickly as possible;
- protect panel edges and corners, especially for tongue and groove panels.