

Roofing battens



Tell me more

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Marley are experts in timber battens, offering high quality roofing battens fully compliant with BS 5534 and a full range of ancillary products for both roofing and non-roofing applications.

Marley has a wealth of expertise and outstanding knowledge of the roofing and timber markets. At our specialist timber manufacturing site in Gainsborough, timber battens for roofing are manufactured using a state-of-the-art, dedicated roofing batten scanning line, Goldeneye, which scans each timber batten intricately by the millimetre to ensure compliance with BS 5534.



Goldeneye, roofing batten scanning line.

Marley is the UK's only manufacturer of graded roofing battens and the largest producer of Factory Graded Roofing Battens with Europe's only dedicated roofing batten scanning line. This is a computer controlled, dedicated laser and camera grading line, to produce battens graded to the performance requirements of BS 5534 more quickly and accurately. Most other suppliers within the UK Batten market presently rely on visual grading.

**SLOW GROWN,
SUSTAINABLY SOURCED TIMBER**

What happens at Gainsborough is only part of the story. Selecting the right timber to use for roofing battens is very important. Using our extensive network of Scandinavian mills, we source only slow-grown timber to ensure strength and durability. All of our battens are cut from kiln dried sideboards as they are less likely to distort. All Marley timbers are legally and sustainably sourced in accordance with the EU timber regulations, supplied with either FSC® or PEFC Certification. As members of the Timber Trade Federation, Marley supports the Responsible Purchasing Scheme.



CONTENTS

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 3 BRITISH STANDARD: BS 5534
- 5 JB RED
- 7 JB SPECIALITY AND JB GREEN
- 9 PACKAGING SPECIFICATIONS
- 10 IMPORTANT INFORMATION



The 2014 update to BS 5534 changed the requirements for roofing battens. Only battens that have been pre- or factory graded to BS 5534 can be called or used as 'Roofing Battens'.

There are no changes to the requirements for battens within the new British Standard BS 5534 code of practice for slating and tiling, including shingles. However, there is now a requirement that where roofing to meet BS 5534, the following details must be complied with:

All roofing batten must be delivered, marked with the following information:

IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Each delivery of battens should be accompanied by documentation stating at least the:

- a) name of supplier
- b) origin (imported or British-grown, and/or species code)
- c) graded in accordance with BS 5534
- d) basic size or sizes;
- e) type of preservative and method of treatment, if applicable

MIN. TIMBER BATTEN SIZES (ROOFING AND VERTICAL WORK)*

Application	Basic minimum size of batten			
	Up to 450mm		451mm to 600mm	
Span**	Width	Depth	Width	Depth
Slates (double-lap):				
Natural: sized or random	50	25	50	25
Fibre cement or concrete	38	25	50	25
Clay and concrete tiles:				
Double-lap	38	25	38	25
Single-lap	38	25	50	25

MARKING

Each batten should be indelibly marked with the following information:

- a) supplier;
- b) origin (imported or British-grown, and/or species code)
- c) 'graded BS 5534'
- d) size

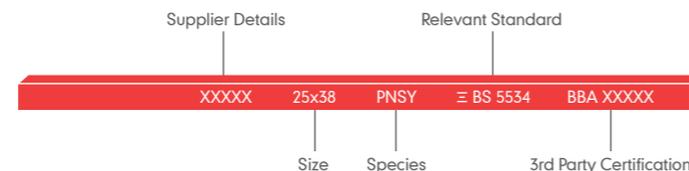
To meet these requirements set in BS 5534 on-site grading is no longer an accepted practice.

All battens must meet BS 5534 at the time of delivery. Grading is a time consuming process and should be carried out by fully trained personnel. The identification requirements must be met for both accompanying documentation and on the individual batten.

This has been the case since 2011 with NHBC warranted sites. Likewise the Competent Roofer scheme allows the builder to self-certify to building regulations (works must be carried out to BS 5534 and compliant products used).

* Tolerances on the basic sizes of timber batten should be: width +/- 3mm, thickness - 0mm /+ 3mm, based on measurement at a reference moisture content of 20%. These minimum sizes do not apply to battens used to support ridges, hips and valleys. Batten sizes for other slates, tiles and shingles such as timber shingles and shake and metal tiles, or other proprietary roofing products, should be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

** Span is defined as the distance between centres of supports, or the clear distance between the faces of supports plus half the bearing length at each end support, whichever is the lesser. The end-bearing length should not be less than 17.5mm.



BATTENS FOR NHBC WORK

JB Red is approved by NHBC to be used as Roofing Battens on new homes. The NHBC were the first to recognise that battens should be delivered graded at the time of delivery ready for immediate installation.



HSE GUIDELINES

The HSE guide, HSG33 Health and Safety in Roofwork, only recognises that factory graded battens provide a secure foothold when installing a pitched roof (as an alternative to roof ladders). Their recommendation was updated recently, to insist on factory graded battens for use on 600mm centres (previous advice only related to 450mm centres).



COMPETENT ROOFER

This is the self-certification scheme for roofing. All roofing must be completed to BS 5534 and meet building regulations. To meet these requirements only factory graded BS 5534 battens can be used.



JB Red is a high quality roofing batten and the only UK factory graded batten available to the roofing industry with BBA certification.

Manufactured from slow-grown, kiln dried sideboards, JB Red sets the standard for graded roofing battens. JB Red completely meets the NHBC requirements for fully graded roofing battens. Its red colour means that it is highly visible on site, therefore Local Authority Building Control, NHBC and other inspectors can see that high quality, pre-graded and compliant battens have been used.

All JB Red has full chain of custody (FSC® or PEFC) certification and is available in both 25 x 38mm and 25 x 50mm sizes.

Not all graded batten is the same. It is important to check the quality of other battens on the market to ensure you are roofing to current BRITISH STANDARDS. The below graded batten checklist will help you decide if your current roofing batten is up to standard. With JB Red you have the peace of mind that it fully complies with BS 5534.

LENGTHS AND FIXING REQUIREMENTS

JB Red is supplied in lengths 3.0m and longer (generally 3.6m and longer). A batten should be a minimum of 1.2m long and span at least 3 rafters.

Not more than one in four battens should be joined over one truss for gauges over 200mm, below 200mm there can be 3 consecutive joins in any twelve battens. The best way to meet this is to buy a spread of lengths so joints can be staggered.

Roofing battens should be nailed to the centre of the rafter. All joints should be over a rafter with the batten square cut, tightly butted and skewed nailed. When set in mortar the cut batten end should be treated or the batten turned so that the treated end is in the mortar (with dry fix systems the batten cut end is deemed to be within the roof and not requiring 're-treating').

Graded batten checklist

Item to Assess	Other roofing battens	JB Red
Dimensions (full measure)	Check with supplier	✓
Length	Check with supplier	✓
Knots	Check with supplier	✓
Wane	Check with supplier	✓
Slope of grain	Check with supplier	✓
Distortion	Check with supplier	✓
Species	Check with supplier	✓
Fissures	Check with supplier	✓
Rate of growth	Check with supplier	✓
Cut from sideboards	Check with supplier	✓
Decay and insect attack	Check with supplier	✓
Treatment (60 year warranty BS 8417)	Check with supplier	✓
Identification and marking	Check with supplier	✓
FSC® and PEFC Certified	Check with supplier	FSC® and PEFC Certified
Third Party Accreditation	Check with supplier	BBA Certified

JB RED

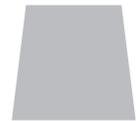
- ▲ Factory graded in the UK to all the strength requirements of BS 5534 for roofing battens.
- ▲ Marked according to BS 5534 showing supplier name, origin/species, grade (BS 5534) and size.
- ▲ The product and process is UKAS third party assessed by the BBA with a BBA Agrément Certificate.
- ▲ JB Red is a LABC registered detail and is approved for use by local authorities.
- ▲ Manufactured from slow-grown, high grade timber, selected from the approved species within BS 5534.
- ▲ BS 5534, typically European Redwood (PNSY) or European Whitewood (WPCA).
- ▲ Only kiln dried sideboards are used to ensure stability and dimensional accuracy.
- ▲ Treated to BS 8417:2011 Usage Class 2, using Koppers MicroPro® with a unique Red Colour.
- ▲ Carries a 60 year life expectancy against insect attack and wood rotting fungi (when installed correctly in accordance with the requirements of Usage Class 2).
- ▲ Packaged in easy to handle bundles of 10.
- ▲ Reduced theft as it is easy to spot if used elsewhere on site.
- ▲ Quicker to fix.



OTHER BATTENS



JB Speciality: Marley offer a full range of roofing timbers above truss or rafter level, all of which are preservative treated against insect attack and wood rotting fungi.



Zinc Roll



Lead Roll



Angle fillet



Carcassing



Counter batten



JB Green: There are many non-roofing uses for timber battens. JB Green is a premium Type A timber batten for a wide range of applications.

- ▲ Made from slow-grown, kiln dried timber
- ▲ FSC® or PEFC certified
- ▲ Preservative green treated to Usage Class 2
- ▲ Available in lengths 3.6m – 5.4m
- ▲ Not suitable for BS 5534 applications

JB Green is manufactured from slow-grown, kiln dried European Red or Whitewood timber and is sustainably sourced with a full chain of custody and is either FSC® or PEFC certified. JB Green is preservative treated to protect against insect attack and wood rotting fungi.



PACKAGING SPECIFICATIONS

JB RED

Preservative treated with MicroPro with a red pigment.

Batten Size (mm)	Pieces per bundle	Bundles per pack	Total Pieces per pack
25 x 38	10	56	560
25 x 50	10	44	440

JB GREEN

Preservative treated.

Batten Size (mm)	Pieces per bundle	Bundles per pack	Total Pieces per pack
19 x 38	10	70	700
19 x 50	10	55	550
25 x 38	10	56	560
25 x 50	10	44	440

LINEAL METERS CONVERSION

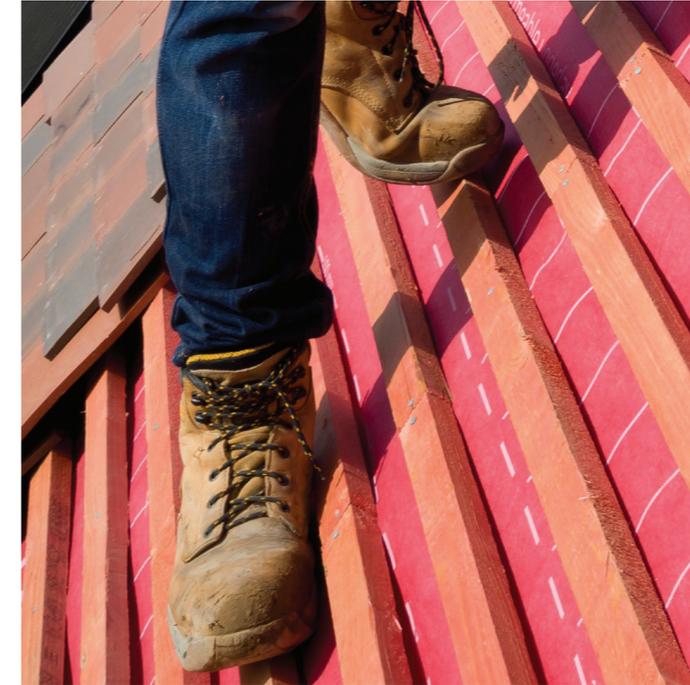
1m ³ of 19 x38mm	1385.042 Lineal metres
1m ³ of 25 x38mm	1052.632 Lineal metres
1m ³ of 25 x 50mm	800 Lineal metres

COUNTER BATTENS, LARGE SECTION ROOFING, NON-STANDARD BATTEN AND SPECIALITY BATTENS.

This includes some of the infrequently used batten sizes, often needed when matching in with existing battens or when used over wide rafter centres. Counter battens include both large and small section battens. We can manufacture accurately as small as 6 x 25. The sizes used often vary around the country. The small section battens 6 x 25 are only available in 3.0m lengths from stock (other lengths to order). Treated with preservative treatment.

Size (mm)	Pieces per bundle	Bundles per pack per pack	Total Pieces
6 x 25	100	8	800
10 x 38	24	14	336
19 x 38	10	70	700
19 x 50	10	55	550
25 x 100	50	1	50
32 x 50	12	10	120
38 x 50	6	10	60
38 x 50 Zinc Roll	60	1	60
47 x 50	6	8	48
50 x 50 C/C	12	8	96
50 x 50 Firrings	12	8	96
50 x 50 Lead Roll	60	1	60
75 x 75 King Roll	24	1	24

Important information



PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

Information on preservative treatments can be found on the treatment data sheets from the downloads page of our website www.marley.co.uk

STORAGE

Once delivered, store timber and counter timber on sufficient bearers to prevent sagging or twisting. Protect from elements whilst still allowing sufficient airflow.

DELIVERIES

All products are available from stock or via a network of distributors. Marley maintains large stocks to enable a rapid delivery service.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Full technical support is available from our Technical Advisory Service and on our website marley.co.uk, alongside a full range of literature and point of sale materials.

Additional resources



GRADING GUIDE

TO DOWNLOAD,
please visit: marley.co.uk/resources

TO FIND MORE INFORMATION ON BS 5534
and what other British standards apply to roofing, please visit: marley.co.uk/britishstandards