

#WeKnowWood

# Combined rapid-aging process for wood-based materials

Whether for buildings or vehicles: Many load-bearing components can now be made from wood – in particular from bonded wood-based materials and hybrid materials. Their aging behavior has, however, been insufficiently researched up until now.

## Wood-based materials in outdoor applications

For the determination of the durability of wood-based materials in outdoor applications, established test methods exist: Outdoor-weathering tests and rapid-aging methods.

For small and medium-sized companies in particular, both procedures are often difficult to implement, are time-consuming, or are, on account of their requirements, not suitable for the application in question.

Both can lead to significant cost increases for manufacturers and customers.

## Realistic rapid-aging process

At the Fraunhofer WKI, researchers are developing a realistic rapid-aging process that takes into account climatic, mechanical and other influences on wood and bonding. These include temperature, humidity, static loads (weight), dynamic loads (e.g. due to wind, vibrations, etc.) and wood species as well as other factors.

The method is intended to shorten real aging from several years to a few weeks.

Supported by:



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Affairs  
and Climate Action

on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag

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05/2023

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