

REMOVING DENTS IN TIMBER

Dents are depressed layers of wood caused by hard impacts. Most can be raised back to original level by using steam.

Place several layers of damp fabric or damp, brown wrapping paper over the dent. Touch the fabric or paper with a warm iron. The steam will cause the wood fibres to swell back into place. It may be necessary to repeat this process until the dented area is level with the surface around it. Allow the area to dry.

Since the steam opens the wood pores, sand the area thoroughly to "repack" the grain. If you don't, the area will absorb more stain and have an uneven colour.

NOTE: Don't use this treatment on veneers. The steam can soften the glue under the veneer and cause it to come loose. Also, be careful when applying steam near joints because the glue there can soften, also.

When an impact has been great enough to cut through the wood fibres, steam and heat will not repair the damage. Fill the dent with a good wood filler to make it level.