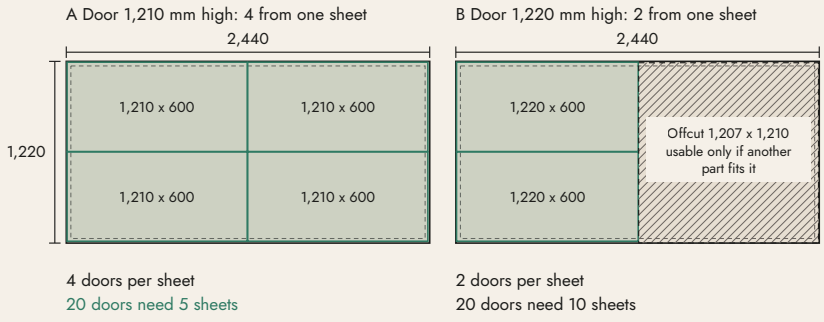
# Designing to *standard sizes*: sheet, board and timber

Typical UK board and timber stock sizes, and what a 10 mm change in a part does to a sheet.

## AT A GLANCE

| Material | Typical full sheet (mm) | Design to | Where a non-standard size bites |
|---|---|---|---|
| MDF | 2440 x 1220 | Parts that divide the usable board (see the nesting table) | A part a few mm over a divisor of the sheet; long formats are ordered in, not stocked |
| Pre-veneered MDF | 2440 x 1220 | As MDF, with the grain direction fixed by the veneer | Turning parts to nest breaks the grain; a veneered offcut is useful only if the grain suits another part |
| Birch plywood | 2440 x 1220 (3050 x 1525 special order) | As MDF | The larger sheet is an order, so check it before drawing to it |
| Melamine-faced chipboard | 2800 x 2070 (also 2440 x 1830, 3660 x 1830) | The larger sheet takes more parts; allow for the length and width tolerance | Trim, saw cuts and the direction of the decor |
| Planed timber | Sold by nominal section | Finished size, stated as finished | Finished is smaller than nominal, typically by 2 to 5 mm (one merchant) |
| Rough sawn hardwood | Sold by sawn section | Plan from the finished size, then add the planing allowance | Add 10 to 15 mm to thickness and at least 10 mm to width (one merchant) |

Sizes are typical figures from merchant pages and manufacturer data sheets read on 5 November 2026, not what any partner workshop stocks. Ask the maker which formats it holds. 2440 x 1220 mm is 8 x 4 ft and about 2.98 $m^2$.




Board 2,440 x 1,220 mm, doors 600 wide. Trim [5] and saw cut [3] mm are example values; trim margin drawn oversize.

The same twenty doors, 10 mm apart in height, on a 2,440 x 1,220 mm board: four a sheet against two. Example trim [5] mm and saw cut [3] mm. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio, arithmetic checked by computer.

## DIMENSIONS THAT NEST

Largest equal part when a usable length is cut into n parts, with trim [5] mm at each edge and a [3] mm saw cut between parts (rounded down, mm).

| Parts (n) | Along 2,440 | Across 1,220 | Along 2,800 | Across 2,070 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2,430 | 1,210 | 2,790 | 2,060 |
| 2 | 1,213 | 603 | 1,393 | 1,028 |
| 3 | 808 | 401 | 928 | 684 |
| 4 | 605 | 300 | 695 | 512 |
| 5 | 483 | 239 | 555 | 409 |

Usable lengths: 2,430 and 1,210 on a 2,440 x 1,220 board; 2,790 and 2,060 on a 2,800 x 2,070 board. Typical stock sizes only: confirm the formats the maker holds.

## SPECIFICATION WORDING

### BOARD SIZES AND NESTING

Parts are designed to fit [2,440 x 1,220] mm board, allowing [5] mm trim at each edge and [3] mm per saw cut. The maker is to confirm the board formats it holds and the cutting plan for [item] before drawings are approved. Dimensions marked [flex] may change by up to [10] mm, by agreement with the designer, to improve the yield.

### FINISHED SIZES

All sizes on drawings and schedules are finished sizes, after planing, sanding, veneering and edge banding. Timber sections are stated as finished sections. The maker is to state the sawn size it will buy for each section.

### LONG PANELS

Panels longer than [2,400] mm are shown on the shop drawings with the board format they are cut from. A change that moves a panel past a stock length needs the designer's written approval, because it changes the board used.

## TERMS USED

### Nominal size

The name a timber section or board is sold under, such as 22 x 100 mm. The finished size is smaller, because planing removes material.

### Finished size

The size of a part after planing, sanding, veneering and edge banding: the size that goes on the drawing.

### Kerf

The width of the cut made by a saw blade. It is lost material, so it is counted between every pair of parts in a cutting plan.

## STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- MDF manufacturer product data sheet (edition V 4/15): board formats and thicknesses; cites EN 622 parts 1 and 5 (read as a hosted copy, 5 Nov 2026; check the maker's current sheet).
- Melamine-faced chipboard manufacturer technical data sheet (Rev. 5, 7 Nov 2022): delivery dimensions and tolerances; cites EN 312 and EN 14322 (read 5 Nov 2026; the standards themselves not read).
- UK merchant listings, read 5 Nov 2026: MDF, pre-veneered MDF and birch plywood sizes, planed softwood and rough sawn oak guidance. Typical figures only; the merchants are named in our working notes.
- Make Bespoke Studio journal: How to specify bespoke joinery: what a joinery specification should state.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/designing-to-standard-sizes. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.