

Wood Drying Course



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10-17 November 2025

ONLINE | SELF STUDY

R850 Course fee



Martina Meincken

I obtained my MSc in Physics from Konstanz, Germany, in 1998 and then completed a six-month internship at the National Accelerator Centre in South Africa. Shifting to Polymer Science, I earned a PhD in 2002. After roles as a postdoc and researcher, I joined the Department of Forest & Wood Science in 2006, becoming an Associate Professor in 2016. My research focuses on Wood Physics & Drying, Wood Plastic Composites, and wood-based materials.

This course gives a brief overview of correct wood drying techniques to avoid defects, such as warping, splitting or worse. It describes correct stacking techniques, kiln setup, measurement equipment, as well as setting correct drying schedules according to the wood species.

This course covers the basic principles of wood drying and consists of self-study lecture notes with assessments on the following topics:

- General wood drying
- Air drying
- Kiln drying
- Setting of drying schedules
- Drying defects.

By the end of the course students will be able to understand how to prepare wood correctly for drying and how to set drying schedules according to the wood species. They will also get an understanding of the defects that can be caused if the wood is dried incorrectly.

It is ideal as refresher for all sawmill employees, or foresters lacking the wood science background

For more Information and registration: Lorette de Villiers - lorette@sun.ac.za • 0829211945

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