

For more information, view our website on Pressure-Treated Lumber at

<http://www.ufpi.com/product/ptlumber/index.htm>

Question & Answers Concerning Pressure-Treated Lumber

Limited Warranty Protects Wood Against Insects, Rot and Decay.



PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER, A WOOD PRESERVATION

Lumber's greatest enemy is biological attack — destruction by termites, fungi, marine borers and bacteria. After more than a half century of scientific tests and practical experience with various treating chemicals, there is a variety of weapons that have been formulated to protect wood against insects, rot and decay.

1. WHAT PRESERVATIVES ARE USED FOR PRESSURE TREATMENT AND HOW LONG ARE THEY EFFECTIVE?

For a long time, CCA (Chromated Copper Arsenate) has been used as a reliable

wood preservative. CCA treated wood protects against all major forms of destructive attack and is effective for many years. More recently, preservative manufacturers have made a transition to a newer preservative: ACQ (Alkaline Copper Quaternary.) ACQ is also effective for decades, reducing demands on forest resources.

2. WHAT INGREDIENTS MAKE UP ACQ?

ACQ is a waterborne system that is copper-based. The copper and quaternary compounds together provide protection from a broad spectrum of fungi and termites, preventing rot and decay.

3. IS SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED?

Although termites, fungus and destructive micro-organisms detest treating chemicals, in pressure-treated wood, it's clean, emits NO fumes and is nonirritating.

Our Safe Handling Information Sheet outlines specific handling tips. A copy is available at your retailer/dealer, or visit our web site at www.ufpi.com.

The single most important precaution is **DO NOT BURN TREATED WOOD**. Burning treated wood releases the chemical bond with wood cells, so dispose of scraps and sawdust with your landfill trash.



Universal Forest Products®

Wear gloves when handling treated lumber. And always wear safety goggles and a dust mask when sawing or cutting treated lumber just as you would with untreated lumber.

4. HOW SAFE IS TREATED WOOD?

Very safe when used as directed. The preservative injected into lumber reacts with the wood substance to form an insoluble complex. It won't evaporate or vaporize. Treated wood is clean, odorless, non-staining, safe to work with and handle. Its locked-in protection is nonirritating to children, adults, animals and plants.

The minute amounts of preservative released over time due to wear-off of the product or water contact have been carefully studied. The conclusion is clear: it is safe for the environment and safe for people and pets.

5. CAN PRESERVED WOOD BE USED INDOORS?

Treated wood may be used indoors for any application except cutting boards and countertops.

6. WHY CAN I USE PRESSURE-TREATED WOOD FOR A PICNIC TABLE AND NOT A COUNTERTOP?

Simply because picnic tables are primarily used for serving prepared food while a kitchen countertop is used primarily as a cutting surface for raw food.

7. CAN TREATED WOOD BE USED IN GARDENING?

Yes. Treated timbers used to construct raised vegetable and flowerbeds are increasingly popular and practical. Recent scientific

tests prove that the preservative does not significantly leach into surrounding soil. And treated wood used for tomato stakes, flowerbed edging, planters, retaining walls, trellises, and compost bins have the added advantage of lifetime durability.

8. CAN ALL TREE SPECIES BE TREATED?

Three species of pine — southern yellow, ponderosa and red — are most open to treating. Some softwoods — spruces, hem/fir, larches, Douglas fir — benefit from incising (cutting small slits across the grain) to aid chemical penetration and treatment retention. Most hardwoods are too dense and complex to be treatable.

9. I SOMETIMES FIND TAGS STAPLED TO THE END OF TREATED LUMBER I BUY. WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

Universal Forest Products places end tags on all of its pressure-treated products to ensure that our customers know key information about the product such as the type of warranty, whether it is for use in direct ground contact or only above ground applications, and where applicable, information needed for acceptance by local building codes. Many of these tags on our treated wood products even have detailed information on the safe handling of our pressure-treated products, the same information contained in the Safe Handling Information Sheet.



Do More With Every Project!

10. WHAT DOES "PCF TREATMENT" MEAN? DOES THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE KIND OF TREATED LUMBER I SHOULD USE?

Treatment levels are measured in pounds of chemical injected per cubic foot (pcf) of wood. Additionally, our tags will always state "above ground only" (.25 retention) or "ground contact" (.40 retention) so you can be sure you are using the right material for the job.

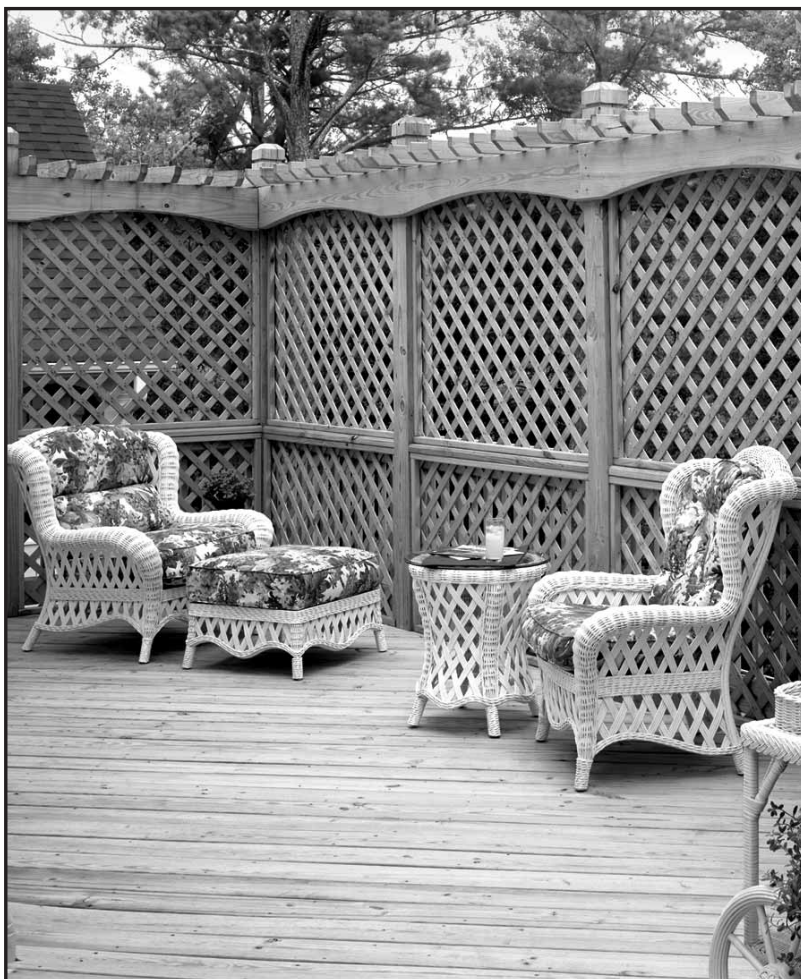
Higher levels of retention are available for special purposes such as extensive moisture/earthen contact - e.g. in foundations, pole barns, fresh & saltwater docks, culverts, etc.

11. ANY SUGGESTIONS WHEN BUILDING WITH TREATED LUMBER?

One quite important one: Use hot-dip galvanized meeting ASTM-A153/A653, 304 or 316 stainless steel or other fasteners, otherwise, your treated wood will last longer than the unprotected fasteners you've used to put it together. Do not use preserved wood in direct contact with aluminum. A poly barrier is recommended for any applications where treated lumber will meet aluminum flashing. Aside from that precaution, you can saw it, sand it, paint it, or glue it just like any ordinary wood.

12. I CUT THE END OFF OF MY ACQ TREATED WOOD, AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT ISN'T TREATED IN THE MIDDLE. DO I HAVE A BAD PIECE OF TREATED WOOD?

No. Universal Forest Products



looks to the American Wood-Preservers' Association (AWPA) for defining quality treatment for our ACQ pressure-treated wood products. Products treated in strict conformance with AWPA standards will have some wood which appears "untreated" if the wood is end-cut after treatment. Most commonly, this is heartwood which is naturally decay resistant. This is not an indication that the wood was not properly treated, and you do not need to be concerned. With the exception of some Western species, these end-cuts do not require any special treatment. (See Limited Warranty for details.)

Brush-on Preservatives for Field Cuts.

According to American Wood-Preservers' Standard M4-02, lumber and timber which are used in above ground applications and are of sapwood species such as southern, red or ponderosa pine, generally do not require treatment to provide a good service life. This category includes the majority of the treated products Universal Forest Products provides. Other heartwood species, typically found in the Western US, should be field treated when cut or drilled. If you are concerned about wood exposed due to cutting or drilling, you can use a brush-applied preservative.

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Home centers and lumber-yards often carry brush-applied preservative systems based on two different active chemicals: either copper naphthenate or IPBC (3-iodo 2-propynyl butyl carbamate). These systems should be applied, in accordance with their labels, to any surface exposed by damage or field fabrication. Users should carefully read and follow the instructions and precautions listed on the preservative system label when using them.

13. AFTER MY PROJECT IS BUILT, IS ANY SPECIAL MAINTENANCE NECESSARY?

Left unfinished, treated wood ages gracefully, eventually softening to an attractive drift-wood gray. On flat surfaces such as decks, however, leaves and other debris may collect

and create unsightly stains. Even if your lumber has the locked-in protection of factory applied water repellent, you'll want to follow an annual maintenance program that includes a semitransparent stain or a sealant which contains an ultraviolet stabilizer. If you stain your project, a quality penetrating latex or oil base stain is recommended.

14. WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT TREATED WOOD?

Decades of research and testing have gone into its development, and we certainly haven't answered every question about it. However, a full line of free literature is available to you through your building materials dealer. Finally, you should be aware of this: lengthening a wood structure's life through

pressure treatment *lowers* the pressure on our planet's exhaustible mineral and energy resources. 226,000,000 trees are saved every year by pressure treatment. Treated lumber makes one tree last as long as many untreated trees. So... Use pressure-treated wood with confidence in its everlasting quality and safety. You'll be protecting our environment's major renewable building material.

15. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER?

Additional information is available at www.ufpi.com.



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