

Questions & Answers Concerning Pressure-Treated Lumber

Limited Warranty Protects Wood Against Insects, Rot and Decay.



1. WHY USE PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER?

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 are a variety of weapons that have been formulated to protect wood against insects, rot and decay.

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

Today, there are a number of effective wood preservatives available to us. Of all them, micronized preservatives stand out as a technology offering superior performance. ProWood Micro CA is a revolutionary product being offered throughout the United States by Universal Forest Products.

3. WHAT INGREDIENTS MAKE UP PROWOOD MICRO CA?

ProWood Micro CA is a waterborne system that is copper based. The copper and a cobioicide together provide protection from a broad spectrum of fungi and termites, preventing rot and decay.

4. HOW DOES PROWOOD MICRO CA DIFFER FROM ACQ?

ProWood Micro CA uses “micronized” copper particles that bond permanently to wood cells. ProWood Micro CA causes less corrosion in fasteners and gives wood a lighter, fresher appearance after treatment than ACQ (Alkaline Copper Quaternary).



5. IS SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED?

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.

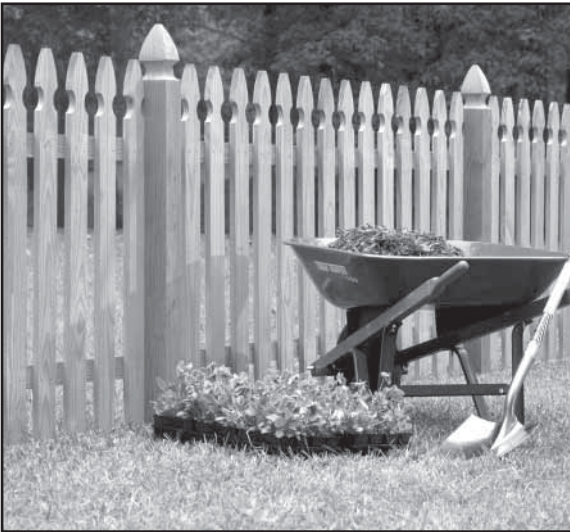
The single most important precaution is DO NOT BURN TREATED WOOD. Burning treated wood releases the chemical bond with wood cells, so dispose of scraps and sawdust with your landfill trash.

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

6. HOW SAFE IS TREATED WOOD?

Treated wood is 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, nonstaining and safe to work with and handle. Its locked-in protection is nonirritating to children, adults, animals and plants.

The minute amounts of preservative released during a treated wood structure's serviceable lifetime have been carefully studied. The conclusion is clear: It is safe for the environment and safe for people and pets.



7. CAN PRESERVED WOOD BE USED INDOORS?

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

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

While picnic tables are primarily used for serving prepared food, a kitchen countertop is used primarily as a cutting surface for raw food and should not be made of treated wood.

9. CAN TREATED WOOD BE USED IN GARDENING?

Yes. Treated timbers used to construct raised vegetable and flowerbeds are increasingly popular and practical. Scientific tests prove there is no significant uptake of preservatives into plants. And treated wood used for tomato stakes, flowerbed edging, planters, retaining walls, trellises, and compost bins have the added advantage of improved durability.

10. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TAGS STAPLED TO MY LUMBER?

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.

11. ARE THERE DIFFERENT TYPES OF TREATED WOOD FOR DIFFERENT USES?

Yes. Our tags will always state the intended end use, such as "above-ground only" or "ground contact" so you can be sure you are using the right material for the job. Higher levels of preservative are available for special purposes such as extensive

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moisture/earthen contact - (e.g., in foundations, pole barns, fresh and saltwater docks, culverts, etc).

12. ANY FASTENER RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN BUILDING WITH PROWOOD MICRO CA?

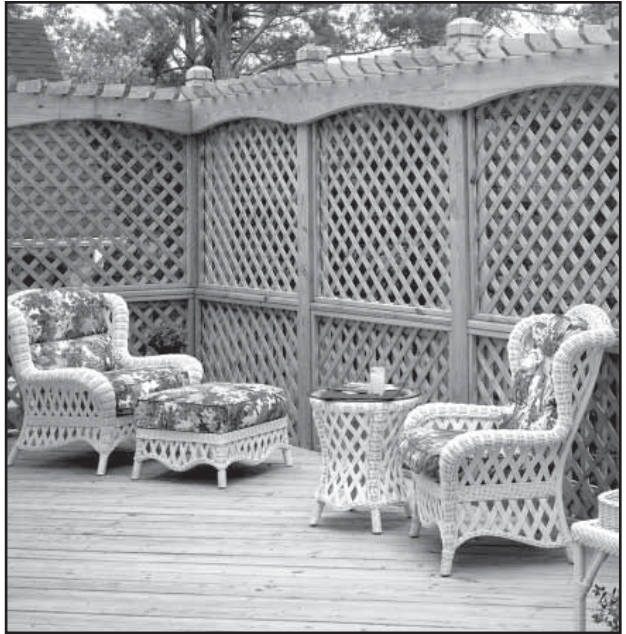
Use hot-dip galvanized fasteners or other fasteners as required by building codes; otherwise, your treated wood will last longer than the unprotected fasteners you've used to put it together. Since ProWood Micro CA is less corrosive than ACQ or copper azole, these recommendations are the same as they were with CCA-treated lumber. Fastener manufacturers may also recommend products that work well for ProWood Micro CA.

Aluminum building products can be placed in direct contact with ProWood Micro CA treated wood products used for interior uses and above-ground exterior applications, such as decks, fencing, and landscaping projects. Examples of aluminum products include siding, roofing, gutters, door and window trim, flashing, nails, fasteners and other hardware connectors. Aluminum contact is not recommended when ProWood Micro CA treated wood products are immersed in water, or are subject to frequent and prolonged wetting or other severe exposure conditions. In such cases, a moisture-resistant protective barrier should be placed between the aluminum products and ProWood Micro CA treated wood.

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

No. 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 M4-06, lumber and timber that 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 U.S., 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. Home centers and lumberyards often carry brush-applied preservative systems based on two different active chemicals: 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.

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

Left unfinished, treated wood ages gracefully, eventually softening to an attractive driftwood 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 semi-transparent stain or a sealant that contains an ultraviolet stabilizer. If you stain your project, a quality penetrating latex or oil-based stain is recommended.

15. WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT TREATED WOOD?

Decades of research and testing have gone into treated wood's 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. Millions of trees are saved every year by pressure treatment. Treated lumber makes one tree last as long as many untreated trees. Please use pressure-treated wood with confidence in its ever-lasting quality and safety. You'll be protecting our environment's major renewable building material.

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

Additional information is available at www.ufpi.com.



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