

Q: What's new in pressure treated wood?

Since CCA was phased out as a wood preservative in 2004, the most popular replacement has been ACQ. Now Universal Forest Products (UFPI) has introduced **ProWood Micro**, a wood product that claims some significant advantages over ACQ treated wood. To gain better insight into how the new product compares, GBPD posed some questions to Dick Gauthier, VP of Marketing for Universal Forest Products.

Q: Tell us about the preservative used in ProWood Micro.

A: ProWood Micro contains micronized copper and the same quaternary compound that we used with ACQ. The copper is the primary biocide with the quat being the secondary biocide.

Q: What's different about your preservative process?

A: ProWood Micro is different from the other copper based preservatives (ACQ, Copper Azole) in that the copper component in ProWood Micro uses micronizing technology. Micronizing eliminates the solvent that is needed with ACQ and Copper Azole. No solvent means better performance, better corrosion properties and a lighter, fresher appearance. ProWood Micro can be used in direct contact with aluminum and can be used with the same hot-dip galvanized fasteners that were used with CCA.

Q: How did you improve the anti-corrosion performance?

A: As mentioned above, the lack of a solvent is the driving factor behind the much improved corrosion properties. The copper in ProWood Micro is very small (sub-micron sized) and will stay suspended in a water based solution. The copper particles in ACQ and Copper Azole require a solvent like MEA (monoethanolamine) to keep the copper dissolved in a water based solution. The copper particles in ProWood Micro are less mobile in the wood structure and are less available to react with metal of a fastener or connector, resulting in better corrosion performance.

Q: Your preservative system is waterborne, and there is a perception that some waterborne preservatives don't fare well in outdoor use. Is this the case with ProWood Micro lumber?

A: Like CCA and ACQ, ProWood Micro performs well in outdoor applications, both in above ground and ground



contact applications. Our warranty program for ProWood Micro is the same as our programs for ACQ and CCA.

Our Technical Bulletin titled, "Stake Tests Prove ProWood Micro Protection," helps demonstrate our confidence in the performance of the product. It can be found online at www.prowoodmicro.com/gbp in the Literature section.

Q: How does UFPI employ the Osmose NatureWood and SmartSense preservatives differently from the other lumber product manufacturers that also use them? What makes the ProWood Micro line unique?

A: UFPI's ProWood Micro line of treated wood products is treated to the highest standards in the industry. UFPI is unique in that we have a dedicated team of wood preservation scientists who evaluate cutting-edge preservatives, like ProWood Micro, as well as assist our manufacturing facilities in all aspects of the treating process.

The things that set our ProWood Micro products apart are also the things that set UFPI apart – our high levels of customer service and our long term commitment to the industry.

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