

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Use & Handling Tips

The following precautions should be taken both when handling the preserved wood and in determining where to use and dispose of it. Many of these precautions also apply to untreated wood and other building materials.

Use Site Precautions

- All sawdust and debris should be cleaned up and disposed of after construction.
- Do not use treated wood under circumstances where the preservative may become a component of food or animal feed. Examples are mulch from recycled treated wood, cutting boards, counter tops, animal bedding, and structures or containers for storing animal feed or human food. (e.g., in raised beds an impervious liner such as heavy polyethylene is recommended between treated wood and soil)
- Only treated wood that is visibly clean and free of surface residue should be used where contact is likely.
- Do not use treated wood for construction of those portions of beehives which may come into contact with honey.
- Treated wood should not be used where it may come into direct or indirect contact with drinking water, except for uses involving incidental contact such as support posts for docks or bridges.



Handling Precautions

- Dispose of treated wood by ordinary trash collection. **TREATED WOOD SHOULD NOT BE BURNED** in open fires or in stoves, fireplaces, or residential boilers because toxic substances may be produced as part of the smoke and ashes. Treated wood from commercial or industrial use (e.g., construction sites) may be disposed of by complying with local landfill rules or burned in commercial or industrial incinerators or boilers when done in accordance with state and federal regulations.
- Avoid frequent or prolonged inhalation of sawdust from wood, treated or untreated. When sawing, sanding, and machining wood, wear a dust mask. Whenever possible, these operations should be performed outdoors to avoid indoor accumulations or airborne sawdust.
- When power-sawing and machining, wear goggles to protect eyes from flying particles.
- Wear gloves when working with wood.
- Use proper techniques when lifting.
- After working with wood, and before eating, drinking, toileting, and use of tobacco products, wash exposed areas thoroughly.
- Because preservatives or sawdust may accumulate on clothes, they should be laundered before reuse. Wash work clothes separately from other household clothing.

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Fasteners

- Hot-dipped galvanized fasteners (meeting ASTM A 153) and connectors (ASTM A 653 Class G185 sheet), or better, are recommended. Fasteners not meeting or exceeding these requirements could result in premature failures and degradation of fasteners and treated wood.
- Screws take longer to drive than nails, but hold boards more securely and will allow for easier removal if necessary.
- Use 3 1/2" long nails on nominal two-inch decking and 3" nails for 5/4" decking. Use two nails across a 2 x 4 and three across a 2 x 6. Drive nails at a slight angle toward each other.
- To reduce splitting when using nails, especially near the ends of boards, drill a pilot hole about three quarters the diameter of the nail. For dense or brittle wood, grind sharpness from nails or blunt the points by striking them carefully with a hammer.



End Cuts

- Liberally coat all cut ends, holes, or other intrusions into the wood with a suitable wood preservative product containing a minimum of 0.675% copper as oxine copper (copper-8 or copper-8-quinolinolate) or 1% copper as copper naphthenate. (One such product is Outlast® Q8 Log Oil. See www.chemtch.com for information and to order).
- Orient supporting posts so that original factory treated ends are in contact with the ground. Trim the top ends as needed and cover them with post caps or cut them at angles to shed water and treat with a brush-on preservative (see above).



Maintenance

No maintenance is needed to maintain resistance to decay fungi and termites. However, protection is required to maintain the wood's appearance against weather. Sun and rain cycles cause stresses in lumber and result in swelling, shrinking, warping, and cracking.

- The North American Deck and Railing Association (NADRA) recommends yearly deck safety checks. For a checklist, see www.nadra.org.
- To help protect against moisture damage, apply water repellent after your project is completed and the wood has had a chance to thoroughly dry.
- You can use a deck cleaner/brightener every couple of years to freshen the look of your deck. Bleach is not recommended since it contains chlorides and can cause hardware corrosion.
- After cleaning the deck, reapply a water repellent or water repellent stain to restore color to the deck.

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