

TREATED WOOD CONSUMER SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

This information pertains to treated wood as utility poles, crossarms, braces, railroad ties, plywood, and dimensional lumber commonly treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA) or other arsenic-containing compounds, pentachlorophenol, creosote, or copper naphthenate.

Consumer Information

This wood has been preserved by pressure-treatment with a United States Environmental Protection Agency registered pesticide to protect it from insect attack and decay. Preservative-treated wood should be used only where such protection is important.

Preservatives penetrate deeply into and remain in the pressure-treated wood for a long time. Exposure to preservatives may present certain hazards. However, some chemicals may migrate from treated wood into surrounding soil over time and may also be dislodged from the wood surface upon contact with skin. Therefore, the following precautions should be taken both when handling the treated wood and in determining where to use and dispose of the treated wood.

Handling Precautions

Dispose of treated wood by ordinary trash collection or burial. **Treated wood should not be burned in open fires or in stoves, fireplaces, or residential boilers because toxic chemicals may be produced as part of the smoke and ashes.**

Treated wood from commercial or industrial use (e.g. construction sites) may be burned only in commercial or industrial incinerators or boilers rated at 20 million BTU/hour or greater heat input or its equivalent in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

Avoid frequent or prolonged inhalation of sawdust from treated wood. When sawing and machining treated wood, wear a dust mask. Whenever possible, these operations should be performed outdoors to avoid indoor accumulations of airborne sawdust from treated wood.

Avoid frequent or prolonged skin contact with treated wood; when handling the treated wood, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and use gloves impervious to the chemicals (for example, gloves that are vinyl coated).

When power-sawing and machining, wear goggles to protect eyes from flying particles.

After working with the wood, and before eating, drinking, toileting and use of tobacco products, wash exposed areas thoroughly.

If preservatives or sawdust accumulate on clothes, launder before reuse. Wash work clothes separately from other household clothing.

Use Site Precautions

Poles treated with preservatives should not be used for log homes.

Wood treated with preservatives should not be used where it will be in frequent or prolonged contact with bare skin (for example, children's play ground equipment, chairs and other outdoor furniture) unless an effective sealer has been applied. Urethane, shellac and varnish are acceptable sealers for treated wood.

Treated wood should not be used in residential, industrial, or commercial interiors except for laminated beams or building components which are in ground contact and are subject to decay or insect infestation and where two coats of an appropriate sealer are applied. Sealers may be applied at the installation site.

Wood treated with preservatives should not be used in the interiors of farm buildings where there may be direct contact with domestic animals or livestock, which may crib (bite) or lick the wood.

In interiors of farm buildings where domestic animals or livestock are unlikely to crib (bite) or lick the wood, preservative-treated wood may be used for building components, which are in ground contact and are subject to decay or insect infestation and where two coats of an appropriate sealer are applied. Sealers may be applied at the installation site.

Do not use preservative-treated wood for farrowing or brooding facilities.

Do not use treated wood under circumstances where the preservative may become a component of food or animal feed. Examples of such sites would be structures or containers for storing silage or food, use of mulch from recycled treated wood, and animal bedding.

Do not use treated wood for cutting boards or countertops.

Only treated wood that is visibly clean and free of surface residue should be used for patios, decks and walkways.

Do not use treated wood for construction of those portions of beehives, which may come into contact with the honey.

Treated wood should not be used where it may come into direct or indirect contact with public drinking water or drinking water for domestic animals or livestock except for uses involving incidental contact such as docks and bridges.

Special Conditions for Load Bearing Uses

Recycled utility poles are not provided by American Electric Power for load bearing or structural support purposes (e.g. foot bridges, overhead lighting support) and should not be used for these purposes without professional engineering review.

For further information please contact the Industrial Hygiene Section, American Electric Power Service Corporation, P.O. Box 16631, Columbus, Ohio 43216-6631, Telephone no. (614) 716-2421.

DISCLAIMER: Treated Wood is taken "AS IS -- WHERE IS." American Electric Power makes no express or implied representations or warranties concerning this Treated Wood, including, but not limited to, merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose.