

Pressure-Treated Lumber Information – National’s High Performance Coating

Why has pressure treated lumber changed?

In 2002 the EPA announced a voluntary decision by the treated wood industry to move consumer use of treated lumber products away from a variety of pressure-treated wood that contains arsenic. This transition affects virtually all residential uses of wood treated with chromated copper arsenate, also known as CCA, including wood used in play-structures, decks, picnic tables, landscaping timbers, residential fencing, patios and walkways/boardwalks. As of January 2004, the EPA does not allow CCA products for any of these residential uses.

There are now a variety of new wood preservatives that protect wood from dry rot, fungi, molds, termites, and other pests without the use of known carcinogens like arsenic or chromium.

What has replaced CCA treated lumber?

Two of the most common treatments that are taking CCA's place are waterborne compounds: alkaline copper quat (ACQ types B and D) and copper azole (CBA-A, CA-B). Sold under the trade names Preserve, NatureWood, and Natural Select, they have been used around the world for up to 15 years. These EPA-approved low-toxicity pesticides resist bugs, mold, and rot as effectively as CCA.

Are ACQ and the other treatments more corrosive to hardware and fasteners?

The treatments that protect the wood against attack by fungal decay and termites also promote metal corrosion. Therefore, hardware and fasteners should be corrosion-resistant. Aluminum should not be used in direct contact with this wood.

Metal will corrode when installed in corrosive environments, or exposed to corrosive materials. These are some of the environments and materials, which may cause corrosion and make it impossible to accurately predict if, or when, significant corrosion will occur.

- Ocean salt air
- Fire-retardants
- Preservative-treated wood
- Dissimilar metals
- Fumes
- Fertilizers

What Hardware is recommended for use on ACQ and other treated lumber?

<u>Recommendation*</u>	<u>Finish or Material</u>
Best	Stainless Steel (300 series, 18-8)
Better	Galvanized Triple Protected (National painted hardware) National’s high performance coating (On zinc plated products)
Not recommended	Standard Zinc Plating Bare Steel Aluminum

Note: Always use fasteners with the same material and finish as the hardware. Galvanized screws can be used with National’s high performance coated products. National supplies the appropriate screws in packages where screws are provided.

* All recommendations are based on independent testing using ASTM – B117 salt spray test, and AWWA – E12 humidity sandwich test.