DYNAGROUP
TRANSFORMING OUTDOOR SPACES

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TIMBER TREATMENT INFORMATION

What are the common types of timber treatment, their benefits and suggested applications?

BENEFITS

CCA

This stands for copper chromium arsenic. It is the most effective and common treatment used in fencing and landscaping applications, and has been used in Australia since the 1970's. CCA treated fencing and landscaping timber is by far the most widely accessible, and is stocked by every timber retailer and hardware store. This treatment is considered by the industry as 'standard'.

ACQ

This stands for alkaline copper quaternary. This was developed as a 'safer' alternative to CCA in close contact applications, and has been in use in Australia since the 1990's.

Copper Azole

This is more commonly known by brand names, such as Tanalith®E, NatureWood® CA and MicroPro®. It is also considered a 'safer' alternative to CCA in close contact applications.

LOSP

This stands for light organic solvent preservative, and is a spirit based solvent that contains copper naphthenates and synthetic pyrethroids as well as other chemicals. It can only be used in applications where it doesn't make contact with the ground (or in areas constantly damp or moist) as it can only be treated to H3.

APPLICATIONS

CCA

- fencing
- retaining walls
- garden edging

ACQ

- vegetable gardens
- playgrounds,
- schools & daycare landscaping

Copper Azole

- vegetable gardens
- playgrounds
- schools & daycare landscaping

LOSP

- above ground, weather protected applications such as internal beams

FAQ'S

Is CCA-Treated timber suitable for use in vegetable gardens?

- Studies have shown that preservatives such as CCA are not absorbed into food crops like grapes, tomatoes and cucumbers. Some root crops like carrots and beetroots have been reported to pick up small amounts of arsenic from CCA, but it is in an organic non-toxic form and in any case is largely removed by peeling the vegetable.

Does the arsenic and or chromium leach out of CCA-Treated wood into soil?

- The chemistry of CCA wood preservatives results in the copper and chromium and arsenic being chemically attached (or fixed) inside the wood so that it remains in the timber. Nevertheless, highly sensitive chemical analysis may detect small amounts of these chemicals in soil next to CCA-treated wood or wiped from its surface. In most cases however, these small levels are well below the concentrations found naturally present in the environment.

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FAQ'S

What treatments are suitable for decking and children's playground equipment?

- The APVMA (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority) determined in 2005 that for 'close contact' applications such as children's play equipment and decking that non-arsenic treatments be used.
- the non-arsenic treatments are ACQ, Copper Azole and LOSP.

What timber can I use for schools and childcare centres?

- In schools and childcare centres (and places similar in nature), all outdoor structures would be considered 'close contact'. Therefore, only non-arsenic treatments should be used.
- The non-arsenic treatments are ACQ, Copper Azole and LOSP.

Why is CCA most commonly used then?

- CCA is the lowest cost, and widely considered the most effective, timber treatment available. As a result, it is the preferred treatment of most consumers and tradespeople.

How do you safely handle CCA-Treated timber?

- You use exactly the same precautions for handling CCA-treated timber as you would for handling untreated timber. Sensible, normal practices and hygiene should apply, e.g. minimize exposure to sawdust particles and splinters by using suitable masks and gloves and washing hands before eating.

Hazard Class	Where the treated wood may be used	What the timber is protected against	Common treatments
H1	Inside, under cover, protected from the weather and well ventilated	Insects	LOSP
H2	Inside, under cover, protected from wetting, no leaching	Insects and termites	LOSP
H2F	Inside, under cover, protected from wetting, no leaching, envelope treated,	Insects and termites	LOSP
H2S	Inside, under cover, protected from wetting, no leaching, South of the Tropic	Insects and termites	LOSP
H3	Outside above ground, periodic wetting but where the timber can dry out; some	Insects, termites and moderate decay	CCA, ACQ, Copper Azole, LOSP
H4	In or on the ground subject to severe wetting and leaching	Insects, termites and severe decay	CCA, ACQ, Copper Azole
H5	In or on the ground subject to severe wetting and leaching, with or in fresh	Insects, termites and very severe decay	CCA
H6	In contact with sea water	Marine borers and decay	CCA

Source & Reference: www.tpaa.com.au/

For more information check out our website or scan the QR code: