



WESTERN WOOD PRESERVERS LTD.

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C.C.A. PRESSURE TREATED SHAKES & SHINGLES **A LASTING CHOICE**

Common User Questions

Of all the wood products found in your local lumber yard, none have shown a more spectacular rise in popularity during the last fifty years than C.C.A. pressure treated wood.

In 1976, it was a poorly understood material that was rarely, if ever, stocked by any Canadian yards; now it is unusual to find a dealer in North America who does not carry a generous assortment of pressure treated material.

Despite its increasing popularity, there are still many who are not totally familiar with C.C.A. pressure treated wood. Here are some common questions asked regarding the treatment:

1. What Exactly Is Pressure Treated Cedar?

As defined by Canadian Standards Associations (CSA) and American Standards, pressure treated wood is a special product that has been placed in a sealed steel retort, flooded with preservative and subjected to a vacuum-pressure cycle of sufficient time to impregnate the wood cells to industry standards of established classes, retentions and penetrations of preservative. Usually, these pressure vessels are six feet or more in cross-section and forty feet or more in length. They consist of industrial pumps, valves, electronics and gauges capable of maintaining a fluid pressure of 125 psi minimum, so as to force the preservative as deeply into the wood cells as possible.

All major nations of the world, including Canada, have issued standards governing penetration and retention of preservative relative to the end use of the treated wood products. In Canada, we have standards prepared by CSA.

2. How Many Years Will Pressure Treated Wood Last?

If the wood is treated to industry standards of retention and penetration, then available test and service records indicate that C.C.A. treated wood should last in the excess of forty years, for marine or ground contact use. In all cases, properly C.C.A. pressure treated wood has been shown to outlast untreated cedar.



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3. Is C.C.A. Treated Wood Safe To Handle?

Yes, C.C.A. treated wood has been widely used throughout the world for the past 80 years. Extensive studies of acute and long term toxicity effects, carried out by the public and private research institutions in North America and Europe, have demonstrated no special risks in the normal handling of C.C.A. treated wood by builders and contractors. However, it should not be used in direct contact with stored foods, nor should any off cuts be burned, since the gases formed when C.C.A. breaks down add to the normal toxic load when wood is burned. As with any wood substance, a dust mask should be worn when sawing or working the product with power tools.

C.C.A. is the abbreviation for Chromated Copper Arsenate. The chemical reaction that takes place inside the wood results in a stable, 99% non-leachable product that is completely odourless. The arsenate is in a molecular bound state; quite different from elemental arsenic and far less toxic.

4. Is C.C.A. Treated Cedar Toxic To Plants?

No. The product is defined as non-phytotoxic and cannot be translocated into the root, leaf or vascular system of a growing plant. It is commonly used in construction of nursery trays, greenhouses and is widely used in farm building construction, as well as fence posts, grape and tomato stakes and mushroom trays.

5. Can C.C.A. Pressure Treated Cedar Be Painted Or Stained?

Yes, in fact the chromated copper component of C.C.A. has proven to act as an excellent primer. Tests carried out in the United States have shown that wood products treated with chrome primer hold their paint or stain at least 50% longer than wood treated with normal primers. This means that the paint or stain you use to coat your C.C.A. treated wood will likely last at least six years before recoating. C.C.A. treated wood can also be glued with all commonly used adhesives.