



## BUYERS BEWARE... Know What You Are Purchasing. Cherry-Toned Timbers Are No Bargain!

Every spring, lumber yards and home centers start filling up their yards with pressure-treated landscape lumber. However, they are also stocking plenty of the cherry-toned, landscape timbers...a.k.a., pressure-treated wood “knock-offs.” **Consumers should know the difference so they won’t make an expensive mistake!**

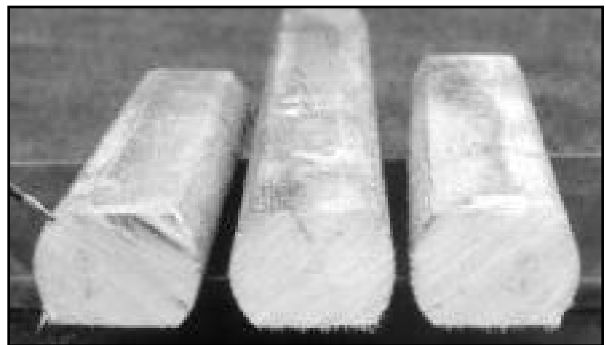
To the unsuspecting consumer, they appear to be a real bargain because they are so inexpensive. Most buyers believe they are purchasing a treated wood product that will last many years in their backyards. In fact, what they are purchasing are squared-off, peeler cores (a by-product in the production of veneer) that have been dipped in stain to simulate the appearance of a pressure-treated product. When placed in a ground contact or landscaping situation, the project that was thought to last, rots out or is eaten away by insects in just a few years. What you have now is an unhappy, disappointed hobbyist whose hard work has gone for naught.

For backyard projects that will last for many years to come, it is recommended they be constructed out of pressure-treated wood products with a minimum net retention level of .40 for ground contact; .25 for above ground use. The product should be “stamped” or “end-tagged” with the standard or manufacturer’s warranty.

Treated wood products are somewhat more expensive than their imitations, however as in most everything, there is no substitute for quality. Value is measured in many different ways. In the long run, quality pressure-treated products prove to be the real bargain.



*What appears to be a bargain could be a costly mistake.*



*Crosscuts of timbers show no trace of a preservative, only a stained surface*