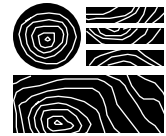


# Treated Wood News



Fall 1997



Provided by Western Wood Preservers Institute

## Project of Note



## PICTURE PERFECT PARK SETTING

The Tualatin Hills Park District had a problem at one of their recreation facilities. Commonwealth Lake, just west of Portland, Oregon, is a popular spot for fishing, hiking and enjoying the great outdoors. However, the public fishing and hiking near the water's edge was causing significant soil erosion into the lake.

The solution? A series of treated wood fishing piers and observation decks that provide public access yet maintain the park's integrity and enhance the natural setting.

The project's Douglas fir decking, piling and substructure were pressure-treated with Copper Naphthenate because of its long service and rich brown color. The railing and handrails were treated with Copper-8-Quinolinolate.

*Continued on next page*

## ICBO EXPO '97

Western Wood Preservers Institute will be participating with a trade show exhibit and a featured seminar on treated wood at the International Conference of Building Officials' 75th Annual Conference.

"Expo '97" will take place September 21-23, 1997 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza. Stop by Booth #710 to learn "what you should look for when inspecting treated wood" and meet WWPI members and staff. We look forward to visiting with you and answering your questions.



*When practical, all trimming, boring, framing, etc. should take place prior to treatment. End-cuts, drill holes or abrasions that occur at the job site should be field treated with Copper Naphthenate according to AWPA Standard M4.*

# WESTERN BUILDERS EAGER TO LEARN ABOUT TREATED WOOD

Over 12,000 builders, remodelers, contractors, developers, architects and designers attended the 1997 PCBC Western Building Show recently in



San Francisco. Many stopped by the WWPI booth to learn about treated wood and find out where it should be used to conform to the 1997 Uniform Building Code.

WWPI will participate again next year when the show returns to the Moscone Convention Center and runs June 24-27, 1998.

*Continued from front page*

The piers are excellent examples in which Best Management Practices (BMPs) were specified to assure sensitivity to the aquatic environment. For a copy of the *Best Management Practices For the Use of Treated Wood In Aquatic Environments*, call WWPI.

Treater: Permapost Products

# STATES ORGANIZATION FOR BOATING ACCESS 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Administrators and engineers from across the country are expected to attend the 11th Annual SOBA Conference, September 27 - October 1, 1997 in Portland, Oregon.

The focus of the event is on the



Conference Sponsor

planning, engineering and construction of boating access facilities, docks, marinas, and all other aspects of recreation marine construction.

WWPI and the American Wood Preservers Institute will co-sponsor an exhibit. If you plan to attend SOBA, please stop by our booth and learn why treated wood is the right building material for your next construction project.



*Treated wood piers allow the public closer access to the water than ever before.*

## THE SAFETY OF TREATED WOOD

In this age of chemical and environmental awareness, the Institute is often asked about the safety of treated wood. Like other pesticides, the preservatives used to treat wood are all subject to extensive health and environmental review by the Federal EPA which evaluates the risks and benefits before allowing their use. Most preservatives, in their concentrated form, are registered "restricted use" pesticides and can only be applied in the highly regulated wood treating plants. However, because of the low amount of chemical and low risks, treated wood is not classed as a pesticide. Guidance for appropriate uses and safe handling information is included in the treated wood Material Safety Data Sheets and the EPA approved Consumer Information Sheets available from producers and distributors of the products.

The most common types of treated wood in the construction and backyard markets are the arsenicals (CCA and ACZA). Outside the EPA, these preservatives have been examined by numerous researchers who studied treating plant workers, carpenters, laboratory animals, and applications such as playground structures, garden planters and marine piling. This research has been summarized in an article published by the American Council on Science and Health, Inc. (ACSH) which consists of 250 physicians, scientists, and policy advisors. The article appeared in the ACSH magazine, *Priorities for Long Life and Good Health* (Vol. 7 #5) in 1995.

The article concluded: *They [Consumers] can be assured of what sound science has demonstrated: that when properly processed and appropriately used, CCA-treated wood is harmless to humans, plants and non targeted animals.* Contact WWPI for a free reprint of this article.

The most stringent consumer warning requirements in the nation exist in California as a result of the voter approved Proposition 65 (The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986). This act requires, among other items, public warnings on products which contain any of over 400 substances listed by the state as "carcinogens" or "reproductive toxicants."

In 1995, legal action was brought against the treated wood industry claiming arsenical treated wood products should carry a warning due to the presence of chromium and arsenic. The industry determined a negotiated settlement was prudent business.

As a result, all CCA and ACZA treated wood sold in California now carries a Prop 65 warning statement. The legal notice found in this newsletter was also required by the settlement.

Produced and used appropriately, treated wood is safe for humans and the environment!

# ATTENTION

## CALIFORNIA CONTRACTORS AND BUILDING TRADES

A Message From The Western Wood Preservers Institute

### Proper Use of Treated Wood Products

The benefits of using pressure treated wood products are well known. Waterborne arsenical treated wood products, such as CCA and ACZA, when properly specified, quality assured, and utilized, can extend the useful life of wood for many years. The protection from wood destroying insects and fungus is made possible through the presence of chemical toxic to the target organisms.

As with all building materials, treated wood should be handled with care by workers. Eye protection and a dust mask should be worn when sawing and sanding. Waste treated wood should never be burned. Treated wood should not be cut, sawed or sanded over any source of drinking water.

A recent lawsuit has underscored the need for employers to comply with the Hazard Communication Standard to assure their employees use the products appropriately.

Proposition 65, a California law, requires warnings to California workers exposed to chemicals listed under that law, including Arsenic and Chromium, which may have been used to treat the wood you are purchasing. Treated wood producers provide their customers with Consumer Information Sheets and Material Safety Data Sheets that describe the nature of the wood preservatives used to treat this wood and the safe handling practices that should be followed by people who work with it.

The settlement of a recent lawsuit releases employers from Proposition 65 liability for exposure to wood treatment chemicals provided those employers incorporate Proposition 65 warnings about chromium and/or arsenic based wood treatment chemicals into the Hazard Communication Program required under Title 8, Cal. Code Regs. S 5194.

Employers may take advantage of this settlement if they provide the Proposition 65 warnings to their employees as required by California's Hazard Communication Regulation.

For more information about treated wood and its special decay-preventing properties, contact:

### **Western Wood Preservers Institute**

7017 N.E. Highway 99, Suite 108, Vancouver, WA 98665

## Western Agencies Certified by ALSC

The American Lumber Standards Committee certifies five agencies that serve the West. Those meeting the ALSC criteria include:



*B Inspection*



*California Lumber Inspection Service*



*Canadian Softwood Inspection, Inc.*



*McCutchan Inspection Services*



*Timber Products Inspection*

"Third party" agencies verify that pressure-treated wood was properly treated in accordance with AWPA standards. Third party inspection is not mandated by law, but is necessary to comply with the UBC. To be certain of receiving the treated wood that was specified, only accept or approve treated wood with a quality stamp or end tag of an accredited ALSC agency.



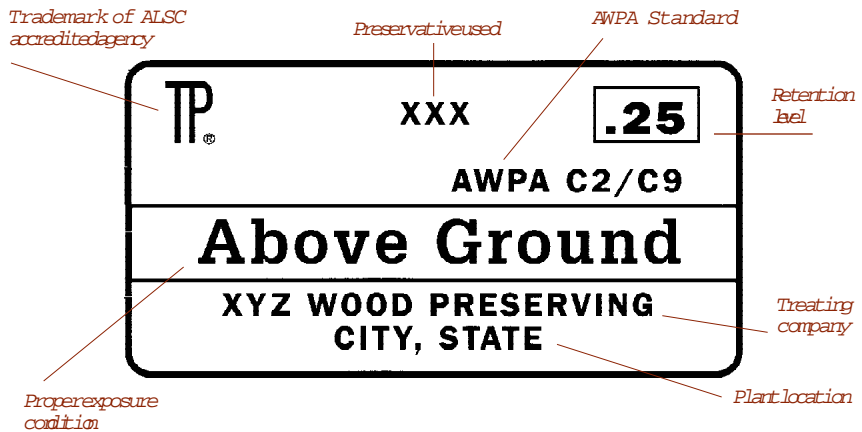
## QUALITY ASSURANCE

### INTRODUCTION

The American Lumber Standards Committee (ALSC) is responsible for the oversight and accreditation of third party inspection agencies for treated wood. In order to comply with the Uniform Building Code, treated wood must be marked with the quality stamp or end tag of an accredited ALSC agency.

The 1997 UBC reads: "All preservatively treated wood required to be treated under Section 2306 shall be identified by the quality mark of an inspection agency which has been accredited by an accreditation body which complies with the requirements of the American Lumber Committee Treated Wood Program, or equivalent."

### INTERPRETING A QUALITY MARK



### TREATING STANDARDS

APPLICATION	RETENTION LBS./CU. FT.	PENETRATION ASSAY ZONE	AWPA STANDARDS FOR WATERBORNE TREATMENTS
Above ground	0.25	0 - .60"	C1 General C2 Lumber-Timbers C5 Round Posts C9 Plywood
Ground Contact, Fresh Water Immersion	0.40	0 - .60"	C15 Light Frame Construction C16 Agriculture Use
In Ground (structural)	0.60	0 - .60"	C22 Permanent Wood Foundation (UBC SEC. 1810) C31 Out Of Contact With Ground and Continuously Protected From Liquid Water