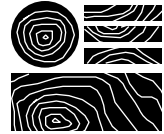


# Treated Wood News



Fall 1998



Provided by Western Wood Preservers Institute



## TREATED WOOD LINKS TRESTLES TO TRAILS

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy promotes the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors into recreational trails and bike paths for public use. Increasingly, treated wood is playing an important role in the construction of many of these projects. Treated wood is not only an appropriate building material for this type of construction, but it is a wise investment because treated wood will last for generations to come of Rails-to-Trails users.

Recently, two abandoned railroad trestles were refurbished for trail use in Pierce County, Washington. Over 15,000 board feet of CCA-treated lumber and railroad ties were used to restore the dilapidated structures.

With over 600 trails open across the country and over 600 more on the drawing board, it is

the vision of the Rails-to-Trails movement to one day be able to travel from coast to coast using rail-trails...and treated wood.

Treater:

Western Wood Preserving, Sumner, WA



JUST CHECK FOR IT!

# BEWARE! "TREATED TO REFUSAL" DOES NOT MEET UBC REQUIREMENTS

We have all seen pressure-treated wood bearing the mark "Treated to Refusal." Some may interpret it to be the ultimate degree of protection, but what does it really mean?

To produce "Treated to Refusal" material, the manufacturer forces preservatives into the wood until it refuses to accept any more. It may meet proper penetration or retention for its intended building application...or it may not. The treater will not guarantee the product's performance, nor will the product bear the quality mark of an accredited ALSC agency. In a sense, the term is somewhat of a product disclaimer.

There are several reasons why treaters choose to identify treated wood in this manner. Those factors may include:

- High moisture content in the wood prior to treatment. Excess water in the wood cells will prevent penetration of the preservatives under pressure.
- High percentage of impenetrable heartwood or refractory wood.
- A species, subspecies, or species group of wood recognized as difficult to treat.
- No or improper incising per species' specifications.
- In some cases, buyers will actually specify it.

Contractors that use or dealers that sell "Treated to Refusal" material could be in for a costly lesson. To conform with the requirements of the Uniform Building Code, treated wood must bear the quality stamp of an accredited ALSC agency. Because ALSC agencies do not recognize "Treated to Refusal" as a legitimate standard, they will not stamp it and therefore, the material is in violation of the UBC.

Recently, code officials discovered several residential projects in Arizona were in violation of the UBC because "Treated to Refusal" had been used

in construction. Even though the projects were near completion, the contractors were forced to tear down the dwellings and replace the "Treated to Refusal" material with ALSC quality stamped treated wood...an unfortunate and very expensive mistake.

To help your customers avoid such costly oversights, avoid stocking or purchasing "Treated to Refusal" material. On purchase orders and project specifications, include: "Treated wood must be identified with the quality mark of an accredited ALSC agency." Remember, agency logos are the key to meeting the requirements of the Uniform Building Code.

## CODE OFFICIALS LEARN WHAT TO LOOK FOR ON TREATED WOOD



Code officials attending ICBO Expo '98 in San Diego were eager to learn what to look for on treated wood. In order to meet the requirements of the Uniform Building Code, treated wood must be identified with the quality marks of an accredited ALSC agency.

In 1999, WWPI will introduce the CheckMark Identification Program that will enable code officials and others to readily identify if treated wood products have been monitored by an ALSC accredited, third party agency.

### UPDATED

*Guide To The Characteristics, Use And Specifications Of Pressure Treated Wood*

now available.

Call 1-800-729-Wood  
to order your free copy

