

Wolman Wood Care Products' response to the upcoming ban on CCA-treated wood

On February 12, 2002 the EPA announced a voluntary decision by the industry to switch consumer use of treated lumber products away from pressure-treated wood that contains arsenic by December 31, 2003 in favor of new, alternative wood preservatives. This development affects all residential uses of wood treated with chromated copper arsenate, also known as CCA. Although the "EPA has not concluded that CCA-treated wood poses any unreasonable risk to the public or environment", we decided to write a response to this announcement to further educate our customers.

Chromated copper arsenate, or CCA, is a chemical compound that has been used as a preservative to protect wood from rot, fungus and termite infestation for over sixty years. The EPA from time to time will reevaluate older pesticides to ensure that they meet current safety standards. In doing so, they have decided to begin promoting an alternative way of preserving wood. Although CCA wood is very popular in the lumber industry, it is only one of many different recipes for pressure-treating wood. The EPA announcement only pertains to formulas that contain arsenic. In further determination, **the EPA is not recommending homeowners remove or replace any existing structure made with CCA wood. They are, however, recommending a penetrating oil finish to be applied to these structures on a regular basis.**

We recommend using all Wolman products --- Wolman® F&P®, Wolman® RainCoat® with Toner, Wolman® Deck Stain and Wolman® RainCoat® clear oil base to seal the wood. According to the EPA, some studies have indicated that applying certain penetrating coatings may reduce the migration of wood preservative chemicals from CCA treated wood. Below is a list of questions and answers to further inform yourself on this topic.

Does Wolman Wood Care Products produce Wolmanized pressure-treated wood?

No. Arch Wood Chemical controls the production of Wolmanized pressure-treated wood. Many years ago, both Wolman and Arch Chemical's CCA division were part of the Koppers Company, the manufacturer that controlled the production of pressure-treated wood and the production of the wood care product line. Now, however, Wolman Wood Care Products is part of Zinsser Company, Inc. and we produce "after market" wood care products only.

Will the EPA have any further announcements on this development?

Since further testing will be conducted, we do anticipate further announcements.

Are Wolman F&P, RainCoat oil base, Toners, Deck Stains all considered to be penetrating oil finishes? Yes. The F&P and RainCoat clear oil base are considered a true oil base and the Toners and Deck Stains are considered water-borne, oil-enhanced products.

Is all pressure-treated wood being banned?

No. Only the pressure-treated wood that contains arsenic is being banned. There are, however, many kinds of EPA friendly pressure-treated wood on the market today. Arch Chemical manufactures one of these called Wolmanized Natural Select.

Should I replace my CCA-treated wood structure?

No. The EPA does not recommend replacing or removing any existing structure made with CCA-treated wood. It does recommend applying penetrating oil finish to the structure on a regular basis.

How do I find someone to do this work for me?

Call Wolman Wood Care Products Customer Service line at 800-556-7737 or e-mail us and we will be happy to recommend a Wolman Certified Contractor in your area.