



December 30, 2020

Attn: Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility (NRRWF) Customers

Effective January 1, 2021 California law prohibits the disposal of treated wood waste in the NRRWF. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control now regulates treated wood waste as a hazardous waste material. *This new law creates challenges for hundreds of solid waste facility operators, and local communities, within California.* At NRRWF we are researching practical options for our customers and the Butte County community.

### **What is treated wood?**

Two main groups of treated wood preservatives, water-based and oil-based, are generally familiar to consumers. Wood treated with water-based preservatives are widely used and commonly utilized in residential, commercial, marine, agriculture, recreational, and industrial applications. Many of these products are available at local hardware stores and used in the fencing and decking industries. Wood treated with oil-based preservatives is primarily used to preserve utility poles, pilings, fence posts, and railroad ties.

- Example chemicals used to treat wood
  - Water-Based Preservatives
    - Acid Copper Chromate (ACC)
    - Alkaline Copper Quaternary (ACQ)
    - Copper Azole (CA)
    - Chromatid Copper Arsenate (CCA)
    - Copper-HDO
  - Oil-Based Preservatives
    - Copper Naphthenate
    - Creosote
    - Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
- How treatment chemicals are applied to the wood
  - Pressure Treatment
  - Brief Dipping
  - Cold Soaking and Steeping
  - Diffusion
- Uses of treated wood
  - Exterior application
  - Applications where the wood will be in direct contact with soil or water
  - Applications where long life is important
  - Utility industry – electric, gas, or telephone service

- Commonly treated source lumber includes:
  - Hem-Fir and Douglas-Fir
  - Pines (e.g. Southern Yellow Pine, Red Pine, Ponderosa Pine)
  - Spruce

## How to identify treated wood



Photo 1. Pressure treated wood showing indentations

Treated wood is visually distinguishable by:

- Looking for an end tag or a wood manufacturer's stamp code
- Looking for indentations on the wood surface (see Photo 1)
- After cutting, look for visible stains that appear only around the perimeter
- Looking for discoloration (e.g. green or dark brown appearance)

Treated wood may have an end tag that looks similar to the figure below.

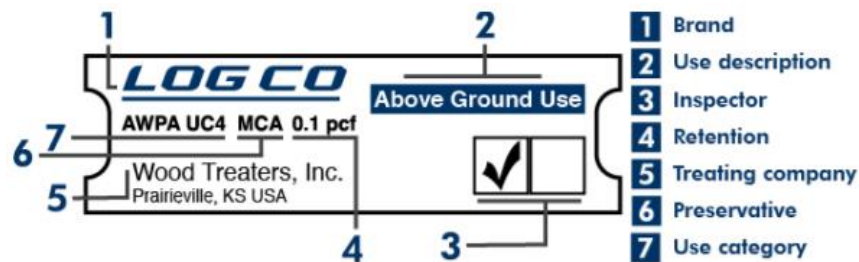


Photo credit: National Pesticide Information Center.

For more information visit the State Department of Toxic Substances Control web-site at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2020/12/2020-Treated-Wood-Waste-Factsheet-Update.pdf>).

NRRWF will do its best to keep customers aware of what we can do, and when, regarding the disposal of treated wood waste. Please visit [www.recyclebutte.net](http://www.recyclebutte.net) for updates.