

What is Treated Wood?

Exterior wood trim adds natural dimension and architectural interest to any home. With so many warranties and manufacturers' claims to digest, separating technical facts from marketing fiction is a challenge for industry professionals. This bulletin explains current industry standards for "treated wood" with respect to the use of "wood preservatives." Preservatives are what protect end-users against future liability claims and why protective coatings/sealers on wood give limited, if any, protection against rot and decay.

What is Wood Preservation?

Wood preservation, as defined by the American Wood Protection Association (AWPA), the industry's standards developer:

"The technology of reducing and/or preventing the deterioration and destruction of wood by living organisms, particularly fungi, insects, and marine borers...through the application of wood preservatives."

In order to achieve a level of chemical efficacy that is stipulated by agencies like AWPA, these preservatives are required to be registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). XT products feature Wolman AG® which contains three EPA registered pesticides: propiconazole, tebuconazole and imidicloprid (also known as PTI). This assures the end user that there are sufficient preservative chemicals in the wood cells to prevent decay causing fungal growth. Quality Assurance processes include weekly substrate sampling to verify adequate preservation levels. Another professional association that sets performance standards for treated products is the Window and Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA). They have a Hallmark Certification Program that was designed to provide code

officials, builders, architects, specifiers and consumers with an easily recognizable means of identifying products, which have been manufactured in accordance with the appropriate WDMA and other referenced performance standards. The WDMA Hallmark is considered a mark of excellence among architects, contractors and other specifiers. It is accepted industry-wide. WDMA Standards are referenced by HUD/FHA in their Minimum Property Standards and by many other government agencies in their construction specifications. Lonza's Wolman AG® is an acceptable preservative under these standards.

It's as simple as this: Ask your supplier if their wood preservative chemicals are registered with the EPA. If not, it isn't a true wood preservative, period.

Some product manufacturers also offer "treated wood" under the guise of proprietary, two-step sealant methods. Be highly skeptical of claims like these that can't verify the use of approved wood preservative chemicals. True wood preservatives are highly regulated pesticides and can be found in a routine search of the EPA chemical database. If it's not in the database, it's not a wood preservative.

About Primers and Paint

Coatings such as sealers, primers or paints are applied to the wood surface to defend against weathering. Nearly all contain mold and mildew inhibitors, but these are not designed to prevent rot from decay causing fungi. Coatings with additives to resist mold and mildew, such as Iodopropynyl butylcarbamate (IPBC), are not sufficient to prevent rot and decay. Belco's proprietary primers also utilize these inhibitors to provide maximum weathering protection.

ABOUT BELCO FOREST PRODUCTS — In business since 1978, the company operates three manufacturing plants on 16 acres in Shelton, Washington. Belco produces a variety of exterior wood products including the best-selling XT brand, a line of premium treated trim for residential and commercial applications. All Belco products are available through leading distributors nationwide.