



Some facts on Chemically Treated Wood



There are 3 main chemical wood preservatives used globally, pentachlorophenol (penta), creosote and arsenicals (copper chrome arsenic or CCA)

Penta is banned in over 25 countries world-wide

Creosote has significant restrictions on its use and application. Mainly on Agricultural or Equestrian and **not** in domestic use.

In February 2002, the European Pesticide Association (EPA) released for comment a preliminary agreement with 3 major manufacturers of CCA to end manufacturing of wood preserved with CCA for residential use by the end of December 2003. It was believed that some children may face an increased risk of developing lung or bladder cancer over their lifetime from playing on playground equipment made from CCA pressure-treated wood. This risk is in addition to the risk of getting cancer due to other factors over one's lifetime. Another reason was to reduce the likelihood of arsenic leaching into the environment.

In January 2003 the European Union announced a ban on all but a restricted number of industrial uses of CCA. This was part of a wider global ban on use of CCA pressure treated timber. On 1st January 2004, after 70 years of production, the manufacture of pressure treated (CCA) wood for residential use ended.

There has never been a guarantee on treated timbers in ground contact, there has been an 'expected life'.

Why use UC4?

The replacement treatments to CCA are not as effective unless timber is correctly prepared prior to treatment. Premature failure of the 'expected life' previously known with the CCA pressure treated timbers is no longer possible under industry standard practice.

| USE CLASS TABLE | |
|-----------------|--|
| Use Class (UC) | Use |
| 1 | Above ground, covered. Permanently dry, insect risk. |
| 2 | Above ground, covered. Occasional risk of wetting. |
| 3a | Above ground, coated. Exposed to frequent wetting. |
| 3b | Above ground, uncoated. Exposed to frequent wetting. |
| 4 | In contact with ground or fresh water. Permanently exposed to wetting. |



Osiose Naturewood preserved wood can be pressure treated to use classes UC1, UC2, UC3 and UC4.

Further info on the pressure treatment process can be found on our website: <http://barlowsofhermitage.co.uk/links.aspx> and select the link to 'Treatment Process'



Timber of Choice

Redwood Timbers; Larch is naturally durable, Pine needs to be dry before treatment so that they will accept treatment to a greater penetration giving a UC4 classification.

Timber to avoid

Whitewoods; such as Spruce are **not** suitable for UC4 classification. There is a process called ‘incising’ but this is not currently available in the UK

Moisture Content

The timber needs to be 28% or less prior to treatment.



Drying Process

There are two processes...Air Drying or Kiln Drying

Air Drying...Naturally air drying timbers is the most environmentally friendly & the best approach to reducing the moisture content. This enables the treatment to be absorbed by the wood and retained. The treatment penetrates through the sapwood to the heartwood resulting in a properly protected timber for use in ground contact.

Kiln Drying...using a large kiln or oven the timber is dried under controlled conditions. Further info on the kiln drying process can be found on our website: <http://barlowsofhermitage.co.uk/links.aspx> and select the link to ‘Kiln Drying Process’.

Preparation

Layers of timber are separated by spacers to allow for consistent drying and treatment right through the pack.

Rustic Stock



Sawn Stock

