

Wood Preservatives

What is Treated Wood?

Treated wood is wood that has been treated with a chemical preservative for purposes of protecting the wood against attacks from insects, microorganisms, fungi, and other environmental conditions that can lead to decay of the wood. There are two types of treated wood: water-based preservatives and oil-based preservatives. Treated wood does NOT include natural wood with no chemical preservatives nor natural wood that is painted or has a surface finish such as lacquer, shellac, polyurethane, and varnish.

Do's

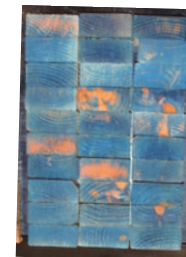
- Whenever possible, avoid working with treated wood products in workshops/studios. Consider alternatives such as cedar or painted metal.
- If you need to work with treated wood products, you must complete a chemical safety standard operating procedure to document training.
- Only use water-based wood preservation chemicals that are approved by the EPA for residential use. The workshop/studio advisor should have the safety data sheet and EPA-approved labeling for the treated wood product.
- Personnel must work in the paint booth or under certified ventilation snorkels to apply toxic wood treatments to ensure sufficient airflow.
- Woodwork with treated wood in workshops/studios equipped with dust collection systems, in paint booths, or at an outdoor location that is approved by SJSU safety/technical staff.
- Personnel must wear long sleeves, long pants, shoes, socks, chemical-resistant gloves, and goggles when handling treated wood. Wear impact resistant eye protection during steps that could generate substantial dust or projectiles.
- Treated wood products made at SJSU must be labeled to indicate the type of treatment and a warning not to burn the wood.
- Implement routine housekeeping rules to ensure that dusts do not accumulate on the surface.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling wood preservative chemicals or treated wood.
- If sawdust or preservatives have contaminated your clothes, launder prior to wearing them again. Wash them separately from other clothes.



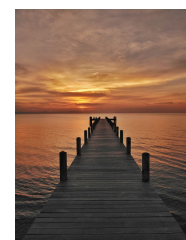
Treated wood often has holes where treatment was injected.



Treated wood is often identified with a stamp/label on the end.



Treated wood may have a distinct color or odor that is different from natural wood or painted wood.



Treated wood is often found in products that are intended for outdoor use, especially in environments with a lot of water. BE CAREFUL if you salvage materials from outdoors.

Don'ts

- DO NOT BURN TREATED WOOD! This will produce toxic fumes!
- Do not use chromated arsenicals, creosote, or pentachlorophenol wood preservatives in SJSU workshops/studios.
- Do not use oil-based preservatives or wood preservatives that were approved for commercial or industrial use (e.g., propiconazole and acid copper chromate).
- Do not use treated wood for landscaping, compost, food-related items (like picnic tables), beehives, or animal feeders.

Need Help?

- Ask the lab/shop supervisor
- Ask the department/college safety staff

- Ask SJSU Environmental Health & Safety ehs@sjsu.edu