

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

Vol. 23

No. 49

Week of 12/5/2022

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

WOOD PRESERVATIVES

Today's safety meeting covers a topic that we don't normally think about when working with wood — the hazards presented by pressure-treated lumber. Because of its resistance to termites and decay, this type of lumber is commonly used for decks, steps, and landings where it will be exposed to moisture. One of the common chemicals used to treat wood is chromated copper arsenate (CCA). Exposure to this chemical can be hazardous to your health and well-being. Before using any kind of treated lumber read the MSDS!

The chemicals that are used to treat lumber aren't hazardous to just humans; they can also harm wildlife, pollute water supplies, and pollute the air if they are burned. Treated wood should not be used where it may come in contact with public drinking water (except for uses involving incidental contact such as docks and bridges). You should avoid frequent or prolonged inhalation of sawdust from treated wood. When sawing or machining treated lumber, wear a dust mask. If possible, perform these operations outside so sawdust, especially airborne sawdust, from the treated lumber doesn't accumulate inside.

When you've been working with treated wood, always wash exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water before eating, drinking, applying cosmetics (including lotion and lip balm), or using tobacco products. If wood preservatives, sawdust from treated lumber, or any other chemicals accumulate on your work clothes, wash those clothes before wearing them again. It is best to wash them separately from other household laundry.

The chemicals used to treat lumber are applied under great pressure. From a practical standpoint the wood feels denser, harder, and sometimes even damp. It can be more difficult to shape and cut. It also tends to be heavier than common pine or fir, so go easy on your back.

Never use treated wood for counter tops or cutting boards. You don't want it where the chemicals can come in contact with and contaminate food. Treated wood should not be burned in open fires, stoves, fireplaces, or in residential boilers. When they are burned, the chemicals can create toxins which will be in the smoke and ash.

Treated lumber can be an excellent building material as long as you use it correctly and safely.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Always wear appropriate eye and hearing protection
when using wood working tools!**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____