



Wood Preservation Canada



Get The Facts Permanent Wood Foundations

Is there a difference between PWF and Pressure Treated Wood?

- YES! Permanent Wood Foundation (PWF) material is pressure treated wood, but not all pressure treated wood can be used for PWF materials.
- All lumber and plywood used in a PWF must be pressure treated with Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) wood preservative.
- PWF material will be identified with a certification mark stating conformance with CSA Standard 0322, Procedure for Use in Preserved Wood Foundations.
- Most home improvement retailers do not stock PWF material. Before you begin your PWF, make sure you're working with the correct product.



How do you identify PWF products?

- Look for the stamp! All PWF products will have a certification mark indicating that it's treated with CCA and in conformance with the CSA Standard 0322.



Where can I find PWF products?

- Most home improvement retailers do not regularly stock PWF material. To find a stocking retailer near you, contact one of the PWF manufacturer below:
 - Armor Wood Products, Edmonton, AB
 - Brisco Wood Preservers, Brisco, BC
 - Doman Building Materials, Langley, BC | Doman Building Materials, Sudbury, ON
 - Taiga Forest Products, Langley, BC

What is a Permanent Wood Foundation (PWF)?

- An in-ground engineered construction system designed to turn a home's foundation into useable living space.
- It consists of a below-grade stud wall constructed with pressure treated plywood and lumber, which supports the structure and encloses the living space.

Why consider PWF?

- Whether you're building a home, an extension, or if you've purchased a home with a PWF, rest assured that this form of construction is durable, comfortable, adaptable, energy efficient and economical.
- PWF is a proven construction method that has many unique advantages over other foundation systems.
- The first Canadian PWF examples were built in the 1950s, and their energy-saving qualities make them a popular choice to this day.
- Originally a favoured system for remote areas where weather conditions offered challenges for alternative materials, PWFs are now a preferred option for homeowners looking to enjoy their basement living spaces year-round.

Which part of the Building Code covers PWFs?

- Design and construction of PWF is addressed in Part 9 (Housing and Small Buildings) of the National Building Code of Canada, which refer to the CSA S406 Standard, Specification of permanent wood foundations for housing and small buildings.
- The CSA S406 Standard provides design and construction requirements including information on site preparation, materials, cutting and machining, footings, sealants and damp proofing, exterior moisture barriers, backfilling, and site grading.
- Obtain a copy of CAN/CSA-S406 from the Canadian Standards Association at www.csagroup.org/store.

For more information on PWFs, visit woodpreservation.ca/permanent-wood-foundation.



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