



# The Importance of Field Treating Pressure Treated Wood Products

Field treating end cuts and drill holes during construction is critical to maintain the protective qualities of the wood.

During pressure treatment, preservatives are infused into wood cells to create a protective shell. Cutting and drilling holes exposes parts of the wood that were not treated with preservatives, increasing the opportunities for decay fungi or insects to deteriorate the wood.

Properly treating end cuts and drill holes in pressure treated wood, with a field treatment product or end-cut product, enhances the durability of the wood.



Image courtesy of Western Wood Preservers Institute

## Field treating application

Field treating is done using a brush to apply the product to the end-cut area or hole. Follow the product’s label for application instructions. When field treating pressure treated wood that is placed over water, care should be taken to avoid dripping the product into the water.

## Preservatives for field treating

There are a number of field treatments available in the retail market designed for either above-ground or ground-contact applications for pressure treated wood. (See Wood Preservation Canada’s Building Tips guide for the definition of the two applications). These can be purchased at local home centers, building material retailers and paint stores. Care must be taken to select the correct field treatment preservative for either above-ground or ground contact applications. Those designed for ground contact applications have a higher concentration of the active ingredients in order to protect from the harsher deterioration conditions. See the following Table for guidance.

Installation Location	Pressure Treatment Preservative	Field Treatment Preservative
Outdoors – above ground (CSA 080 Use Category 3.2)	Copper Azole Type B (CA-B) Micronized Copper Azole (MCA) Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA)	Copper Naphthenate, minimum 1% copper as metal solution strength, Zinc Naphthenate with minimum 2% zinc solution strength, or a 2% copper-based end cut wood preservative.
Outdoors – ground contact or marine (CSA Use Categories 4 and 5)	CA-B, MCA, CCA, ACZA, Creosote	Copper Naphthenate, minimum 2% copper as metal, solution strength.

Below are a few examples of field treatment products available in the retail marketplace. Consult with the supplier of the product for the intended end-use.

- ArmorAll™ End Cut Wood Preservative
- Cut-N-Seal® Wood Preservative
- Circa 1850 Dex® End Cut Wood Preservative
- Pentox® Wood Preservative Green

## CSA 080 Field treating standards

“When cutting or drilling after treatment is needed, a field treatment preservative specified in CSA 080.3 or AWPA M-4 shall be used and applied in accordance with its label. At least two coats shall be applied. If such treatment is not applied, the treated commodity might not provide the intended service life.”

(Source: Clause 8.1.4.3, CSA 080 SERIES:21, Wood preservation. © 2021 Canadian Standards Association.)

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