

## LIGHT ORGANIC SOLVENT PRESERVATION

by

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### Preservation with Organic Solvents

As the concept of preserving wood grows, so application of wood preservatives using light organic solvents as the carrier increases.

Preservatives dissolved in organic solvents have the following benefits:

- ease of application either domestically by brush or industrially by immersion or vacuum.
- dimensional stability even on narrow cross sections.
- immediate readiness for use
- suitable for many species including spruce.

The scale of industrial treatment process means that it becomes relatively easy to develop specific treatment fluids for defined purposes: e.g.

- termite resistance
- water repellancy
- horticultural use
- millwork and other precision needs

Penetration and retention requirements of the active preserving ingredients determine the precise nature of the industrial treatment process.

Since the wood following treatment is not prone to splitting, full cell penetration is not required.

The precise method of treatment selected will be a function of:

- species
- end use.

In Europe the market for organic solvent preservation has been stimulated by:

- active manufacturer promotion
- use of higher proportions of sapwood
- small dimension components

and, over the last fifteen years, readiness by specifying authorities to ensure a sound and consistent level of wood preservation in new buildings.

## Relevance to Canada

As wood becomes increasingly costly, and important as a building component, so all forms of wood preservation becomes more attractive to the end user and to the legislator.

In Europe, traditional water-borne systems and the more specific organic solvent systems each have a part to play in developing our industry.

Could this become the case in Canada?

Is there a market and is there a need for an industrial treatment system that will greatly extend the concept and applicability of wood preservation?