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Why use an additional field applied treatment to Preservative Treated Wood?

The 2012 Edition of the International Residential Code clearly defines the requirement of Field Treatment for preservative-treated wood products.

2012 IRC Section R317.1.1 Field Treatment. Field-cuts, notches, and drilled holes of preservative-treated wood shall be treated in the field in accordance with AWPA M4.

The requirement for field treatment of cuts and holes is also found in Section R318.1.2 When Pressure-preservative-treated wood is used for protection against decay, any cuts, notches or bored holes done in the field must be retreated. The retreatment methods and materials are to be in accordance with AWPA M4, which regulates the care of preservative-treated wood products.

The American Wood Protection Association M4 is the standard for the care of preservative-treated wood products. This standard describes the requirements for the care of preservative-treated wood materials in pressure-treating facilities, the lumberyard, and at job sites. The standard also outlines the requirements for field fabrication, field treatment, and management of used treated wood products.

The M4 Standard requires the use of an end-coat preservative such as Copper Naphthenate on all saw cuts and into drill holes during construction of preserved wood projects. It is also recommended to apply a brush on preservative to areas where moisture can collect. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for applying an application of the brush on preservative.

The management of used treated wood requires materials that cannot be recycled be disposed of in landfills or burned in commercial or industrial incinerators or boilers in accordance with Federal, State, and Local regulations. Do not burn preserved wood in open fires of any kind, stoves, fireplaces, or residential boilers.

Additional information about the standard for the care of preservative-treated wood products is available from the AWPA.

Knowing the building code contributes to better built structures through better building practices.