

# PRESERVATIVE TREATED TIMBER CONSUMER SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

Timber that has been preservative treated contain a variety of chemicals in able to increase the timber's durability and to protect the timber from fungus, insects and decay. All treated timber needs to be handled, used and disposed of in the correct manner to prevent any injury or illness.

Any timber that goes through the preservative treatment process shall be treated with preservatives that is registered with the National Department of Agriculture and the National Department of Health and it shall conform to and be applied according to the National Standard (e.g. the relevant SANS standards). The timber is treated according to the specific Hazard classification in which it falls under.

## Handling Precautions for Treated Timber:

1. Always wear recommended personal protective clothing when handling treated wood
2. Do not burn any treated wood off-cuts or saw dust due to the release of toxic chemical vapour
3. When machining, sawing or sanding treated wood – ensure to wear a dust mask, goggles and overalls
4. Wash hands and face thoroughly after working with treated wood
5. Do not wash sawdust contaminated clothing with other personal clothing
6. Do not use treated timber if it will be used as a component of food or animal feed
7. Treated timber should not be used long term as storage for drinking water

The following information is important to note in the case of contact with treated wood dust:

## Hazard Identification:

**Eyes:** Treated timber dust could cause irritation to the eyes. In the absence of recommended first aid it can result in greater effects such as conjunctivitis and corneal abrasion

**Skin:** Contact with skin could cause irritation. Working with treated wood could cause splinters. In the absence of washing the chemical off or when chemical is exposed to sunlight it can result in minor burns

**Inhalation:** Airborne treated timber dust may cause irritation to the nose, throat or lungs. Certain species could cause an allergic reaction

**Ingestion:** Ingestion is not likely to occur. In the case that large amounts of treated wood dust is ingested, medical attention will be required

**Chronic Wood Dust Effects:** Depending on the species, prolonged contact with wood dust could cause dermatitis or respiratory sensitization/irritation

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## First Aid Measures:

**Eye Contact:** DO NOT RUB EYES. Gently flush treated wood dust particles from the eyes for 15 minutes with large amounts of water. Seek medical attention if irritation persists.

**Skin Contact:** Rinse off the dust with water. Once skin area is free from the treated wood dust, wash area thoroughly with soap and water. Seek medical attention if irritation is severe.

**Inhalation:** Remove self from further exposure. In the case breathing has stopped, administer artificial respiration. Seek medical attention if symptoms persist.

**Ingestion:** Rinse mouth with water. Do not induce vomiting. If further symptoms develop, seek medical attention. 28 grams (1 ounce) of treated wood dust ingestion per 4.5kg of body weight may cause acute arsenic intoxication (in case of CCA).

## Handling and Storage:

**Storage Conditions:** Ensure to minimise dust accumulation. Maintain good, routine housekeeping and protect from physical damage.

**Caution:** DO NOT BURN TREATED WOOD. Do not use treated wood chips or saw dust as mulch. In the case of machining or sawing treated wood, this should be done outdoors to prevent accumulation of airborne wood dust.

## Exposure Controls/Personal Protection:

**Respiratory Protection:** None normally required unless sawing or machining the treated wood product. In this case, use an approved N95 or better duct mask.

**Eye Protection:** Wear safety goggles/glasses when sawing or machining treated wood.

**Skin/Foot Protection:** Wear leather or comparable gloves to prevent splintering. Wear a long sleeve shirt, long pants and steel toed shoes when handling treated wood.

**Ventilation:** Ensure to saw or machine treated wood outdoors or in a very well-ventilated area. An effective dust mask can be worn. Equipment should be designed in such a way to prevent the leakage of dust into the work area. Any excess dust should be captured.

**Other Protective Equipment:** Wear ear plugs/ear muffs when using power tools or heavy machinery.