



TOWN OF TRUCKEE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION

Pressure Treated Lumber

Effective January 1, 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned chromated copper arsenate (CCA) as a preservative for wood intended for residential use. This is the typical “green” colored pressure treated lumber that has for many years been readily used and available. In place of this preservative, two waterborne compounds are now available: alkaline copper quat (ACQ types B and D) and copper azole (CBA-A, CA-B). These new compounds are as effective at resisting rot and bugs as was CCA. They are not as toxic, but they are more corrosive to steel.

The new preservative treatments contain more copper than did CCA. Consequently, they are more corrosive to common steel connectors – up to five times more corrosive according to the American Wood Preservers Association. For this reason, the Town of Truckee will be assuring that proper connectors are used – to prevent corrosion. Section 2304.10.6 of the California Building Code requires that **fasteners for pressure-preservative treated** and fire-retardant treated **wood shall be of hot dipped zinc galvanized, stainless steel, silicon bronze or copper.**

The manufacturers of the products we have seen require that metal connectors be protected with G185 hot-dipped galvanization. Note that there are several levels of hot dipped galvanization ranging from G-60 to G-185. The G level corresponds to the number of ounces of zinc applied to the metal per square foot. For example, G-60 means 0.60 ounces of zinc per square foot of metal. Normal hot-dipped galvanizing used to refer to G-60 and G-90. This is no longer adequate with the new pressure treated lumber products. Nails, exterior bolts and washers, flashing and connection hardware such as hold downs, hangers and other connectors must be protected when used in conjunction with pressure treated lumber. The type of pressure treatment, as per the pressure treatment company’s specifications, dictates the level of galvanization protection. **Be careful to make sure that the connectors you select are at least as good as those required by the pressure treatment manufacturer.**

Note that hold down bolts and anchor bolts are not required to be hot-dipped galvanized. However, washers used in conjunction with anchor bolts should be hot dipped galvanized. An alternative to using hot dipped connectors in sole plates or mud sills may include borate pressure treated lumber.

Be advised that borate treated lumber can only be used where it is protected – not subject to water exposure.

If you should have any questions, please call the Building Division (530) 582-7821.