

## Field-cut Treated Lumber



Field-cut treatments are necessary to re-seal the envelope when preservative-treated wood is cross-cut, exposing a core of untreated wood. Forintek cut short lengths of permanent wood foundation (PWF)-grade CCA-treated lumber and coated the cut ends with a variety of field-cut preservatives. The wood was half-buried in soil and rated annually for decay of the ends. Copper naphthenate, a commonly available retail preservative and currently the only one listed in CSA standards for field-cut application, performed very well. Zinc naphthenate did not perform as well and should only be used out of ground contact. Untreated cut ends were severely decayed within six years.

**Commodity:** Field-Cut Preservative

**Test method:** Ground contact

**Test Site:** Westham Island, BC

**Date of installation:** 1987

**Preservative:** Various

**Treatment:** Brush-coated with two applications of preservative

**Wood Species:** PWF-grade Hem-fir 2 x 6, incised and CCA-treated

**Condition of Untreated Samples:** 86% decayed after 6 yrs, 100% severely decayed or failed after 10 yrs

### Condition of Treated Samples:

- Zinc naphthenate (2% zinc): 60% decayed at 6 yrs, 92% decayed after 10 yrs
- Creosote at 70 C: 9% decayed at 6 yrs, 26% decayed after 10 yrs
- Copper naphthenate (2% copper): 100% serviceable at 6 yrs, 2% decayed after 10 yrs

**Note:** After 10 years exposure, there was no difference in performance between a three-minute dip and a double brush coat of copper naphthenate.