Tips on End-cut Treatment

Products for treating cuts, notches or drill holes in treated wood should comply with the following:

Location Of Wood	Original Factory Treatment	Field Treatment
In contact with ground (Use Category 4.1)	Treated with copper-based preservatives such as ACQ, CA, and CCA	Copper naphthenate (2% copper) only
Outdoors above ground (Use Category 3.2)	Treated with copper-based preservatives such as ACQ, CA, and CCA	Preferably with copper naphthenate (dark green) but alternatively with zinc naphthenate (sometimes a clear colourless solution but also available in green and brown if appearance is critical)
Indoors (Use Categories 1 and 2)	Treated with either borate-based preservatives or copper-based preservatives	A borate/propylene glycol formulation (minimum 10% borate).

Note: Canadian and American standards for treated wood do not require the full cross section of lumber and timbers to be penetrated with preservative. Cutting, notching or drilling exposes untreated wood to potential infection by decay fungi. For custom treated products, as much fabrication as possible should be done prior to pressure treatment. For all other treated wood applications, any breaches in the original treated shell should be re-sealed with a field cut preservative. These types of preservatives are formulated to soak into the wood and penetrate particularly well through end-grain. Copper naphthenate and zinc naphthenate field cut preservatives are formulated in mineral spirits. Borate field cut preservatives are formulated in propylene glycol (a food additive not to be confused with ethylene glycol) to improve penetration. Borate formulations not formulated as field cut preservatives should not be used since they will not give adequate penetration. Borate/glycol formulations should not be used outdoors because borate will leach out of wood when continuously exposed to rainfall. Use of field cut preservatives does not require a pesticide applicators license but all appropriate precautions on the product labels should be taken when handling wood preservatives.

1. Treated wood for use outdoors in ground contact Use Category 4.1, treated with copper-based preservatives such as ACQ, CA, and CCA (the last with limited residential uses, see: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/index-eng.php/english/aboutpmra/about-e.html) should be re-sealed with copper naphthenate (2% copper) only.
2. Treated wood for use outdoors above ground Use Category 3.2, treated with copper-based preservatives such as ACQ, CA or CCA (limited residential uses, see: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/index-eng.php/english/aboutpmra/about-e.html) should be re-sealed preferably with copper naphthenate (dark green) but alternatively with zinc naphthenate (sometimes a clear colourless solution but also available in green and brown) if appearance is critical.

3. Treated wood for use indoors Use Categories 1 and 2, treated with either borate-based preservatives or copper-based preservatives should be re-sealed with a borate/propylene glycol formulation (minimum 10% borate).

For more detailed information see www.durable-wood.com
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