

Treated Lumber vs. Termites



Testing of treated lumber and sawn posts at the northerly limit of termite activity in Ontario. This test site is maintained in collaboration with the City of Kincardine. Termites eat through a thin shell of preservative treatment, but material meeting the penetration requirements of CSA standards performs well.

Commodity: Lumber

Test method: Ground contact + subterranean termites

Test Site: Kincardine, Ontario

Date of installation: 1988

Preservative: CCA, type C*

Treatment: Pressure treatment to CSA O80.2 (ground contact)

Wood Species: Spruce-pine-fir, Lodgepole pine, Red pine

Condition of Untreated Samples:

- Spruce-pine-fir 2 x 4: 67% failed after 10 yrs
- Red pine 2 x 4: 50% failed after 10 yrs

Condition of Treated Samples:

- Spruce-pine-fir 2 x 4: 100% serviceable at 10 yrs
- Spruce-pine-fir 4 x 4: 100% serviceable at 10 yrs
- Lodgepole pine 4 x 4: 100% serviceable at 10 yrs
- Red pine 4 x 4: 100% serviceable at 10 yrs
- Red pine 6 x 6: 100% serviceable at 10 yrs

Projected average service life of properly treated product in a similar climate: Over 15 years

* Type C is the most modern formulation of CCA.