

Condition of timber for treatment

New Zealand Timber Preservation Council Inc



WOODmark® - Your assurance of treatment

The WOODmark® is the New Zealand timber industry's registered trademark for assurance of treatment quality. Only timber treatment companies licensed and regularly monitored by the New Zealand Timber Preservation Council can use the sWOODmark® brand. The WOODmark® brand indicates compliance with the New Zealand Standard NZS3640:2003 Timber Preservation and with the requirements of the New Zealand Timber Preservation Council's Timber Preservation Quality Manual.

SPECIFICATION	HAZARD CLASS	TYPICAL END USE
LOW DECAY HAZARD Protected from weather, insect resistant	H1.1	Interior lining and trim
LOW DECAY HAZARD Protected from weather but with a risk of moisture exposure	H1.2	Wall framing
MODERATE DECAY HAZARD Above ground, exposed to the weather	H3.1	Weatherboards, fascia boards & exterior trim
MODERATE DECAY HAZARD Above ground, exposed to, or protected from the weather but with a risk of moisture entrapment	H3.2	Structural decking, fencing, pergolas & gazebos
HIGH DECAY HAZARD Ground contact	H4	Fenceposts, agricultural posts & landscaping timber
SEVERE DECAY HAZARD Ground contact and high risk end use	H5	House piles & poles, decking piles, transmission poles, cribwalls & retaining wall
MARINE USE Salt water immersion	H6	Marine piles & timber

DECAY & INSECT ATTACK - The timber or wood produce to be treated will be:

Free of decay

Surfaces shall be free of fungus fruiting bodies and continuous coverings of mould and stain fungi. Internal brown or orange stains are regarded as evidence of decay.

Free of insect attack

- Insect attack is penetration of the wood by insect larvae.
- Presence of damage by bark, cambium and pinhole borers is permitted.
- Presence of dry wood termites in post or pole material is permissible provided that end use is not precluded by other reasons.
- All such affected material must be steam or kiln sterilised as soon as possible after felling. Specific approval to treat must first be obtained from the Council.

NB: *The external appearance of produce is not a reliable guide to internal condition. Inspection of suspect material should include ripping or cross cutting to expose internal surfaces, incremental boring is not a reliable indicator.*

Timber with decay will not achieve maximum preservative and strength qualities.

MOISTURE CONTENT - The moisture content of timber or wood produce to be treated needs to be such as to achieve consistent penetration and retention of treatment preservatives. The moisture content will depend on species and treatment process. Experience has shown that the following will result in satisfactory preservative treatment.

Diffusion

- Green-off-saw. Surface drying or rain wetting before treatment should be avoided.

Bethell & Lowry

- Pine species – max 30% mc
- Other species – max 25% mc

LOSP

- All suitable species – max 20% mc

Tan Dry & Drip Free

- Dry wood (Less than 25% mc)

APM

- Partially dry and pre-steamed

A moisture meter should be used for routine measurement of moisture content of both roundwood and sawn timber.

Timber with excess moisture will not absorb sufficient preservatives to prevent decay or insect attack.

DRYING PRIOR TO PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

Appropriate moisture content can be achieved by:

- Forced air, kiln and dehumidifier drying using established good practices and schedules.
- Air drying, testing for moisture content should be directed at the slowest drying area of packets or stacks.
- Testing for moisture content should be extensive enough to establish that the overall charge moisture content complies with requirements. Normally this requires a minimum ten meter readings per charge. The average moisture content of the charge should be entered on the charge sheet.



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