



Project of Note



Treated Wood Bridge Arrives on Campus

Lakeshore Technical College needed to replace an aging pedestrian bridge in the middle of their Cleveland, Wisconsin campus. Because of the location, the college saw an opportunity to create a campus centerpiece. Wheeler Lumber, South Dakota, was contacted to explore treated timber options for the new bridge.

The old bridge not only accommodated pedestrian traffic on top, it carried multiple utilities underneath. The replacement would need to do the same, without interruption to the utilities.

Wheeler designed two large pressure treated glue-laminated Douglas fir beams placed on either side of the utilities. The beams were sized to handle pedestrian and light vehicle loads on the bridge as well as carry the combined weight of the utilities. The depth of the beams also hid the utilities. The deck was comprised of pre-fabricated dowel-laminated Douglas fir pressure treated panels and a recycled lumber wear surface. The cedar railing components were oversized to compliment the depth of the beams. Lighting and planter boxes added to the aesthetics. The glu-lams and panels were both treated with a Penta-type solution.

(story continued on back)

Western Treaters Ready for the Next Generation of Preservatives

Wood preservers have until December 31, 2003 to discontinue treating with CCA for materials intended for residential applications. And, it appears western treaters are well positioned to make a smooth transition to the new generation of preservatives.

Some WWPI treaters have already discontinued treating with CCA and are using alternative products such as ACQ, Copper Azole and Borates. However, the majority of western treaters report they will be making the transition in late third quarter, 2003.

In building material yards, it is a different story. A limited survey revealed only spotty availability for the new preservatives. Large contractor yards in California seem to be leading in the switch to new treating preservatives, while in the rest of the western states, they are less readily available or on a special order basis. Because of the slightly higher cost of the new products and the stellar performance by CCA over the years, retailers seem to be waiting until end of the year before they switch their inventories entirely.

Protect Your Project with a Quality Sealer

Exposed wood, pressure-preservative treated or not, should be protected from the weather. Although pressure treated lumber is protected against rot, decay and termite attack, an application of a water repellent sealer is recommended. Natural weathering, harsh sunlight, excessive moisture and temperature changes can degrade the appearance of exterior wood installations very rapidly. Applying a quality water repellent will help protect the wood from the elements and will minimize the swelling, cracking, splintering, warping and mildew that occurs with wood products. The sealers can be applied to new wood projects for immediate protection, however, the wood should be dry. To check for dryness, sprinkle water on the wood. If it is rapidly absorbed into the surface, the wood is ready for application.

Always select good quality water repellents for your outdoor project. Ask your treated wood retailer for information regarding specialized products for your installation and coating needs.



Treated Wood Bridge *continued*

The bridge arrived as a kit and was built around the existing utilities with no disruption in service. By using prefabricated timber components the bridge was completed fast during the college summer break.

The form and function of a well-detailed timber bridge provides the landmark used daily by the students of Lakeshore Technical College.



CODE ♦ CORNER

Recent questions to WWPI Toll-Free Number
1-800-729-WOOD

Q. "I'm getting ready to replace an elevated deck off the family room in our home. I plan to use treated wood for the entire structure, because the last stuff rotted out and I was concerned that it might collapse. I thought the building codes required I use treated material but my neighbor said it wasn't necessary. What's the right answer?"

A. Well, it depends on where you live. The building codes state that in geographical areas where needed, wood members which support buildings, balconies, or porches shall be treated wood or naturally resistant wood if exposed to weather and without adequate cover protection. So, if you live in the Northwest or along the coast, your jurisdiction is likely to enforce this ordinance but if you live in most of California or in the Southwest, it probably does not.

WWPI has noted an increasing number and sometimes-fatal deck collapses over the last several years — in all parts of the West. Some were caused by load bearing issues and poor engineering, but most were the result of using untreated wood that failed because of rot and decay. WWPI recommends wherever you live and regardless if that section of the code is enforced, use only treated wood for a long-lasting and safe structure.