



# Treated Wood *in the* News

## Research shows treated wood can minimize costly moisture damage in homes

### Home inspectors find common damage due to moisture

A recent survey of Northwest housing industry experts shows where costly moisture damage is occurring in Northwest homes and pinpoints where homebuilders could mitigate moisture problems during construction. Findings show damage in bathrooms occurs in more than 94 percent of homes inspected. Attics, roofs, window sills and windows also were areas where moisture problems were commonly found.

The survey, conducted by Riley Research, Portland, Ore., interviewed home inspectors, contractors, moisture control experts and insurance companies to determine where home moisture damage most frequently occurs. Western Wood Preservers Institute, a non-profit organization located in Vancouver, Wash., commissioned the research.



Leaking water and poor showering habits destroyed this supporting wood stud next to the bathtub.

“Building experts have long known that moisture damage occurs when wood comes into contact with the soil,” said Ted LaDoux, executive director of the Institute. “However, the study confirms structural damage also occurs inside the home where moisture



Leaking showers and sink quickly rotted the wood subflooring in this bathroom.

can penetrate structural wood, resulting in dry rot, insect attack and unhealthy mold. Not only are the repairs costing American homeowners precious dollars, the damage also leads to a degradation of indoor air quality and can create health issues for the family.

The survey also found nearly half the respondents thought building codes should require the use of pressure treated wood in some home applications. Pressure treated wood repels moisture.

“I would replace any dry rot material in my home with pressure treated material;” said Kirk Hansen, Cornerstone Home Inspection Services, Beaverton, Ore. “That includes plywood and decking and I’d use green board for sheetrock in the bath.”

Hansen added, new pressure treated materials are safer and more environmentally friendly than those of the past.

Respondents went on to cite potential benefits of using pressure treated wood inside a home. These included fighting against the growth of fungus, extending the life expectancy of a home, preventing dry rot, air quality and saving homeowners, homebuilders and insurance companies repair costs. ■