



Correctly treated CCA timber that has full sapwood penetration



Permacure ACQ New generation timber preservative being prepared in a laboratory

## How to choose a wood preservative

Dolphin Bay has become a leading supplier of wood preservatives to the timber market in southern Africa since the company was established in 1996.

In this article Dolphin Bay's managing director, Bertus Coetzee, draws on the wealth of his company's expertise to explain how to assess whether your timber was treated with the right preservative and will remain in top shape for decades to come.

The choice of treatment should be dictated by the extent to which the timber is exposed to attack, Bertus says. If the wood will be exposed to water, weather or the ground, you'll need to ensure it was treated with CCA or Permacure ACQ.

For timber intended for roof trusses or other indoor structures or mouldings, the choice opens up to include Boron or P-TBTN.

Remember that wood should have been debarked, properly dried and, ideally, cut into the desired dimensions before being treated.

(When buying timber, look out for the Safewood logo. This ensures a 50-year guarantee from Dolphin Bay for wood in hazard class H2 (used under roofs, without contact with the ground) that has been properly treated with CCA, Permacure ACQ, Permanol (P-TBTN) or Boron.

Dolphin Bay offers a 30-year guarantee on wood in hazard classes H4 and H5 (in direct contact with the ground, or constantly or periodically in contact with fresh water or heavy wet soil) with the Safewood logo, that has been properly treated with CCA or Permacure ACQ.)

### Need a tough all-rounder? Choose CCA

CCA is the world's most widely used wood preservative, favoured for more than 75 years as the most effective treatment available. It works perfectly for all hazard classes, from H2 to H5 (from wood under roofs, with no contact with the ground, to wood that touches the ground or is in contact with moisture or wet soil). CCA protects against wood-destroying fungi, insect larvae and termites. Its advantages include cost-effectiveness, great durability and a long track record.

CCA fixes into the wood, without leaching into the environment. As a result, CCA-treated timber is safe for use indoors, or elsewhere where animals and people come into contact with it.

### Sussing out the alternatives? Consider Permacure ACQ

Like CCA, ACQ (alkaline copper quaternary) can be used for hazard classes H2 – H5, and protects wood against attack by wood-destroying fungi, insect larvae and termites. ACQ has come into wide use in recent years in USA, Europe, Japan and Australia, as a more environmentally friendly option than older wood treatments.

Dolphin Bay is the registration holder for this formula with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in South Africa.

### Need indoor timber? Opt for Permanol (P-TBTN)

Permanol (P-TBTN) protects wood of hazard classes H2 (used under roofs and without contact with the ground) against attack from fungi, insect larvae and termites. It is manufactured by Dolphin Bay.

This is a great choice if you need timber that does not warp. Due to the smaller molecule of solvents used as a carrier for the active ingredients, this preservative ensure that the timber retains its shape. But this treatment can be expensive and is normally reserved for laminated beams and/or mouldings.

### Going for green? Choose Boron

Boron, a chemical element, is becoming increasingly popular due to its reputation as one of the world's most environmentally friendly wood preservatives, and its great effectiveness when used for the appropriate purpose. It is meant for timber in hazard class H2 – wood exposed to insects, including termites, but not to fungal attack, leaching or weathering.

Like all other treatments, Boron must be applied in the prescribed way, in sufficient quantities, to meet the relevant industry standards. ■