

Pressure Treated Wood Care and Maintenance

- Pressure treated wood does come with a lifetime warranty against rot, decay, and termite damage, but pressure treatment does not protect against the weathering cycles of wetting and drying. The elements of weather can cause wood to check, crack, warp, twist and splinter over time. The ultraviolet rays from the sun can destroy the top layer of wood cells, resulting in gray, bleached appearance.
- The number 1 misconception about lumber is the Pressure treated lumber, cedar, and redwood is maintenance-free; however, no wood is maintenance-free. All pressure treated wood, cedar, and redwood is susceptible to damage from sunlight, rain, and snow. Protective finishes, such as water repellents and preservatives, are the best way to help minimize water and sunlight damage.
- A new fence should be protected from the elements immediately with water repellent finishes or preservatives that are specifically designed for application to new wood.
- If you choose a semitransparent stain with water repellent make sure the surface is clean and dry. Either wait until the surface is dry or immediately apply clear water repellent and wait approximately 8 weeks and then apply your chosen color of semitransparent stain.
- Water repellents should be applied every 12- to 18 months, stain – every 24-36 months.
- Fence Picket Board Spacing- during construction butt boards together tightly. As drying occurs, some shrinkage can be expected. If the wood has been dried after treatment, allowing for shrinkage is not necessary.
- Pressure treated wood is designed for long-term performance in outdoor applications and, therefore, require high quality, corrosion- resistant nails, screws and hardware. Use hot-dip galvanized (conforming to ASTM standards: ASTM-A153 for hot dip fasteners and ASTM-A653, Coating Designation G-185 for hot-dip connectors and sheet products), stainless steel, or other fasteners and hardware as recommend by the hardware manufacturer. Direct contact with aluminum fasteners is not recommended.