

Sustainability Working Group

SWG

TOOLBOX TALK Handling treated timber H3.2 - H.5

May 2024

TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS WHEN HANDLING TIMBER TREATED WITH CCA

Timber is treated with CCA, Copper Chromium Arsenic. Arsenic is POISON! When you are handling treated timber, you are in contact with poison.

H3.2

Timber used outdoors above ground:
Decking and fencing

H4

Timbers used in high decay areas such as ground contact: Fence posts and landscaping

H5

Ground contact where conditions of continuous wetting may occur:
Poles and retaining walls

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Chemicals used to treat timber may leach out of the timber on the surface of the wood!

To avoid skin contact, always wear gloves which:

- strong enough to resist tearing and non permeable
- will protect you from painful splinters
- should be cleaned or disposed of after working with treated timber



To avoid breathing in sawdust or vapours when cutting:

- always wear a P2 mask whether the timber has been treated or not
- always cut outside in a well ventilated space



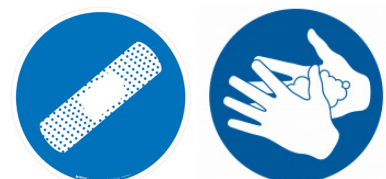
To avoid contact with eyes from sawdust and woodchips when cutting:

- always wear protective eye wear

HYGIENE

Chemicals used to treat timber may irritate your skin or be ingested into your body!

- Cover any cuts or abrasions to avoid exposure to treated timber or treated timber sawdust with a heavyweight fabric plaster
- Wash hands and face thoroughly with soap and water after handling timber, especially before eating, drinking, smoking, or using the toilet
- Wash your work clothes separately from household clothing before wearing them again



Sustainability Working Group

SWG

TOOLBOX TALK
Handling treated timber H3.2 - H.5

May 2024

WHEN CUTTING, ALWAYS

Sawdust created with treated timber may irritate your lungs and eyes!

- When cutting treated timber ensure you have on-tool extraction with an H Class filter
- Clean up as you go to maintain a dust - free environment



DISPOSAL OF TREATED TIMBER OFFCUTS

Chemicals used to treat timber may be on your clothes!

- Dispose all offcuts into the skip bins on Fletcher Living sites
- Do not use treated timber as a home heating source
- Fletcher Living's waste provider will transport the timber to the Golden Bay cement plant where it will be used as a Bio Fuel to replace coal in Whangarei



DISCUSSION POINTS

- What does CCA stand for?
- What is Arsenic?
- Do you wash your clothes separately after handling CCA treated timber?
- What should you wear when handling treated timber?
- Name 3 items to mitigate exposure?



CONCLUSION

- ALWAYS WEAR GLOVES
- ALWAYS WEAR A MASK AND PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR WHEN CUTTING ANY TIMBER
- ENSURE YOUR TEAM HANDLING CCA TREATED TIMBER KEEP THEIR HEALTH AND SAFETY PARAMOUNT

Further reading:

- <https://www.level.org.nz/health-and-safety/materials-handling/working-with-treated-timber/>
- <https://www.sutherlandtimber.co.nz/files/momac/Sutherland%20Tanalith%20C%20Mar%202022.pdf>
- <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/dust/wood-dust-controlling-the-risks/>

Sustainability Working Group

—
SWG

TOOLBOX TALK
Handling treated timber H3.2 - H.5

May 2024

I have read/heard and understood the information in this Tool Box Talk. I will ask my Manager or a Fletcher Living Construction Supervisor if I have any questions.

Company Name	Name	Date	Signature