



**Post and Poles**  
**Treated and Untreated**  
Treating is done to your specifications



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## Fencing Lumber Green or Kiln Dried



# Things to know about treating wood

When specifying treated wood, it is important to confirm specifications with the end user. This is especially true when working with government agencies.

There are several options to consider, including treatment chemicals, retention levels, incising, and more. Here's an overview of treated lumber specification options, including incising and chemical options:

1. **Wood Species:** Choose the appropriate wood species based on factors such as durability, appearance, and availability. Common species for treated lumber include pine, cedar, and hemlock.
2. **Treatment Chemicals:**
  - **Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA):** Historically used but now phased out due to environmental concerns.
  - **Alkaline Copper Quaternary (ACQ):** Commonly used as a replacement for CCA, effective against decay and insects.
  - **Copper Azole (CA):** Another alternative to CCA, providing protection against decay and termites.
  - **Borate:** Effective against wood-destroying insects and decay fungi, often used for interior applications.
3. **Retention Levels:** Retention level refers to the amount of treatment chemical retained in the wood, typically measured in pounds per cubic foot (pcf). Common retention levels include:
  - **0.25 pcf:** Suitable for above-ground use with limited exposure to moisture.
  - **0.40 pcf:** Suitable for ground contact and freshwater immersion.
  - **0.60 pcf:** Suitable for saltwater immersion and critical structural applications.
4. **Use Classifications:** Treated lumber is classified based on its intended use and exposure conditions:
  - **UC1:** Interior, dry conditions.
  - **UC2:** Interior, damp conditions.
  - **UC3:** Exterior, above-ground use.
  - **UC4:** Ground contact.
  - **UC5:** Marine applications.
5. **Incising:**
  - **Standard Incising:** Small cuts or perforations made in the wood surface before treatment to enhance preservative penetration.
  - **Heavy-Duty Incising:** Deeper cuts or perforations for dense or difficult-to-treat wood species.
6. **Appearance Grade:** Specify the desired appearance grade based on aesthetic preferences and application requirements, such as Select, #1 Common, or #2 Common.
7. **Dimensions:** Specify the dimensions and profiles of the treated lumber based on the project requirements, such as dimensional lumber, boards, timbers, or specialty products like decking and fencing materials.
8. **Environmental Considerations:** Ensure that the chosen treatment chemicals comply with environmental regulations and guidelines, and consider options that minimize environmental impact.
9. **Certification:** Look for treated lumber products certified by organizations such as the American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) or third-party quality assurance programs to ensure compliance with industry standards.

By carefully selecting treated lumber specifications, including treatment chemicals, retention levels, incising, and other options, you can ensure that the lumber meets the desired performance, durability, and environmental requirements for your project.

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