



## TECHNICAL NOTE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: [www.frtw.com](http://www.frtw.com) or 1.800.TEC.WOOD (832.9663)

# FINISHING GUIDELINES

## CCA Preservative Treated Wood

**CCA** treated lumber and plywood can be finished or glued with precautions and procedures that are essentially the same as those for untreated wood. Paint, stain, or adhesive manufacturers should be consulted for acceptability of their products with preservative treated wood. As with untreated wood, finish and adhesive performance is highly dependent on moisture content, surface preparation, application, and other factors.

### **MOISTURE CONTENT**

Moisture content is a critical factor in determining the effectiveness of wood finishes and adhesives. Excessive moisture results in poor finish or adhesive performance. Hoover Treated Wood Products, Inc. recommends water borne preservative treated wood be ***kiln dried after treatment (KDAT)***.

Even when **CCA** lumber and plywood is **KDAT**, additional drying time may be necessary for coatings or adhesives to be properly applied per manufacturer's recommendations. Treated wood should only be finished or glued in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations after a period of warm, dry weather when wood moisture content is uniformly low.

### **SURFACE PREPARATION**

Surface preparation is extremely important as well. In addition to being thoroughly dry, the surface must be free of all residues, such as dirt, pitch, dust, mildew and other materials. Sanding, cleaning, scraping, brushing or wiping may be necessary to clean the surface. Avoid washing or pressure washing because it re-wets the wood.

### **PAINT OR STAIN?**

According to the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), wood shrinkage and swelling due to fluctuations in moisture content constantly stresses a paint film and will cause cracking and peeling. Consequently, for exterior wood, penetrating stains are likely to perform better because they are less likely to crack and peel off.

If paint is used, FPL testing shows that two coats of all-acrylic top-coat paint applied over a stain-blocking acrylic latex primer lasts longer than other paint systems for exterior wood. Oil-based paint films usually provide the best moisture shield, but they are not the most durable because they tend to become brittle and are more likely to crack and peel.

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Any exposed wood; pressure treated or not, should be protected from the weather. Application of a quality clear waterrepellent or semi-transparent stain, which contains water repellent, will help minimize the effects of cyclic weather exposure. Clear water repellent can be immediately applied to your **KDAT** deck or other project.

IT IS THE USER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO TEST THE DESIRED FINISHING SYSTEM OR ADHESIVE ON SAMPLE MATERIAL AND EXPOSE TO ACTUAL USE CONDITIONS TO DETERMINE IF THE DESIRED EFFECT CAN BE OBTAINED. Due to the variety of weather conditions, building exposures, storage conditions and construction techniques, Hoover Treated Wood Products, Inc. accepts no liability with regards to the finishing or use of adhesives with its products.