



Painting Fire-Treated Wood

Fire-retarding treatments applied to lumber, plywood shingles and shakes are applied in a fashion similar to preservative treatments applied to pressure-treated wood in that special salts are impregnated into the wood under pressure. Fire-retardant salt treatments reportedly will control flame spread and maintain the wood's strength under fire conditions much longer than untreated wood.

Quality exterior-grade fire-treated wood should be processed with a non-leachable salt. This prevents high humidity or direct weathering from producing discoloration and efflorescence-like surface deposits. However, we have had field experience with some brands recommended for exterior use which were apparently processed with lower-cost leachable salts which resulted in severe discoloration of applied paints and stains. This was confirmed by laboratory evaluations.

General Painting Recommendations

It is essential for all building materials, and particularly fire-treated wood, to be dry prior to painting. Moisture content should not exceed 15 percent. Test patches must be conducted to determine the paintability of questionable material as some brands may be unpaintable. If the test patch exhibits results to any extent other than highly favorable, do not recommend or sell material for painting. The surface should be considered non-paintable. Quality non-leachable exterior fire-treated wood must be primed with a liberal coat of **6001 Hydrosealer Primer Sealer**. Finish with two coats of a 100% acrylic exterior house paint or solid color stain.