



## **Core Messages About Preserved Lumber**

### ***1. Preserved wood provides an economical and environmentally friendly means of protection against decay and termite damage.***

- For almost 70 years, treatment with CCA (chromated copper arsenate) has provided an economical way to protect wood against the costly and hazardous damage done by termites and rot.
- Preserved wood helps people enjoy the outdoors in security and with respect for the environment.
- CCA has an excellent safety record when properly used.
- For those consumers who prefer wood preserved with non-arsenical preservatives, they now have treated-lumber products to choose from that are also highly effective.
- Alternatives other than lumber – including nonrenewable steel, concrete and plastic – consume large amounts of energy. Using preserved wood saves roughly 32 million barrels of petroleum annually.

***2. The preserved wood industry is committed to responsible actions and works closely with the EPA and Consumer Product Safety Commission to promote consumers' interests.***

- The preserved wood industry has worked closely with EPA and other government agencies in their studies of CCA-preserved wood since 1978.
- The industry is cooperating with current studies by both the EPA and the CPSC and will be guided by their findings.
- The preserved wood industry has worked with the EPA to develop an enhanced consumer safety information program to inform consumers about the safe use of CCA-preserved wood. This program consists of:
  - New labels on the lumber containing detailed information;
  - Point-of-purchase signs and stickers;
  - Encouragement and monitoring of retailer participation;
  - A new website ([www.ccasafetyinfo.com](http://www.ccasafetyinfo.com)) and a toll-free hotline (800-282-0600) providing consumer information.

***3. The EPA regulates CCA, and the CPSC and numerous other federal agencies have evaluated its safety and approved it for use throughout the U.S.***

- CCA is registered with the EPA, which has approved its use since 1978, and continues to monitor it.
- Numerous other agencies have approved the use of CCA-preserved wood, including the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, and Department of Interior.
- Virtually every local building code requires it or an equivalent in outdoor applications where rot and insect protection are problems.

***4. The safety of CCA-preserved wood is supported by numerous scientific studies.***

- Wood preserved with CCA (Chromated Copper Arsenate) has a 70-year track record of safety, when used properly.
- **A search of peer-reviewed medical and scientific journals will not reveal a single case of CCA causing harm to children who play on CCA-treated playground equipment.**
- The preserved wood industry has worked closely with EPA and other government agencies in their studies of CCA-preserved wood. Numerous studies have shown that CCA-preserved wood is a safe product when used properly. These include:
  - An extensive 1990 study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission that found that CCA-preserved wood is an appropriate material for playgrounds and that the level of exposure to arsenic was not a health risk. The CPSC is studying the issue again, and the industry is working closely with the CPSC on its current review.
  - A 2001 analysis by Dr. Barbara Beck, an expert in toxicology and health risk assessment, concluded that there is no undue health risk from the use of CCA-preserved wood and that it is safe for public use. This is consistent with conclusions reported in the CPSC study above and those reported by the EPA in 1997.
  - **Studies in 2000 and 2001 by Dr. Christopher Teaf, director of the toxicology program at Florida State University, that found that decks and playsets made with CCA-preserved wood and the soil beneath them were well within the zone of safety.**
  - Three independent studies of workers in wood-preserving facilities concluded that workers do not experience higher-than-normal occurrences of any illnesses, including cancer.

***5. The preserved wood industry is a vibrant industry whose products are used widely by the American public.***

- Preserved wood can be found in over 50% of U.S. homes, and in decks, fences and landscaping projects. It also is found in playground equipment, piers, docks, seawalls, and utility poles.
- Preserved wood is used in zoos, national parks and nature preserves, where it enables more people to enjoy the natural environment while making only a minimal impact on it.
- There are over 300 private U.S. companies whose main business is the production of preserved wood, and they have invested more than \$2 billion in their businesses.
- Some 7 billion board feet of preserved lumber is sold annually in the U.S., equivalent to building 435,000 homes.