

FACT SHEET: TREATED PINE

Treated pine is currently one of the most commonly used timber products in Australia.

Timber treatment provides protection against most bacteria, fungi, insects and termites, as well as general decay, therefore extending the life of any structure being constructed using treated pine.

Common applications in which treated pine is used include: framing, landscaping, decking, pergolas, fences and outdoor furniture

Most common treatments used in Australia:

- CCA – Copper Chrome Arsenate
- ACQ – Alkaline Copper Quaternary



HOW DO THESE TREATMENTS ACCELERATE CORROSION?

Treated pine timbers are impregnated with copper oxide, which acts as a preservative in the timber. Copper oxide – which is a metal in its original state – naturally seeks to transfer back to a metal state and looks to the nearest metal to draw electrons from in order to do so. Therefore, when a galvanised bolt is used in treated pine, the zinc content on the bolt is immediately targeted by the copper oxide, depleting it of electrons, hence accelerating the corrosion process. This natural process is known as ‘oxidation’, which is better known as ‘rusting’.

The speed in which oxidation occurs is dependent on the concentration of the copper oxide in the timber as well as the surrounding exposure to salt and moisture. Therefore, the use of treated pine in coastal environments would require suitable ‘treated pine’ fasteners to ensure the structure is secure.

