

Preservative-Treated Wood Products

2025 California Building Code (CBC), Section 2303.1.9 Preservative-treated wood 2025 California Residential Code (CRC) R304

Lumber, timber, plywood, piles and poles supporting permanent structures required by Section 2304.12 of the 2025 California Building Code (CBC) to be preservative treated shall conform to the requirements of the applicable American Wood-Preservers' Association (AWPA) Standard U1 and M4, for the species, product, preservation and end use. Preservatives shall be listed in Section 4 of AWPA U1. Lumber and plywood used in wood foundation systems shall conform to Chapter 18 of the CBC and R304 of the CRC.

Section 2304.12. General: Where required by this section, protection from decay and termites shall be provided by the use of naturally durable* or preservative-treated wood.

- Where wood joists or the bottom of a wood structural floor without joists are closer than 18 inches, or wood girders are closer than 12 inches to the exposed ground in crawl spaces or unexcavated areas located within the perimeter of the building foundation, the floor assembly shall be of naturally durable or preservative-treated wood.
- Wood supported by exterior foundation walls including wood framing members, wood sheathing etc., that rest on exterior foundation walls and are less than 8 inches from exposed earth shall be of naturally durable or preservation-treated wood.
- Wood framing members and furring strips attached directly to the interior of exterior of masonry or concrete walls below grade shall be of approved naturally durable or preservative-treated wood.
- Sleepers and sills on a concrete or masonry slab that is in direct contact with earth shall be of naturally durable or preservative-treated wood.
- Wood girder ends entering exterior masonry or concrete walls shall be provided with minimum 1/2-inch air space on top, sides and end, unless naturally durable or preservative-treated wood is used.
- Wood siding on the exterior of a building shall not be less than 6 inches from earth except where siding, sheathing and wall framing are of naturally durable or preservative-treated wood.
- Laminated timbers that form the structural supports of a building or other structure and are exposed to weather and not fully protected from moisture by a roof, eave or similar covering shall be manufactured of naturally durable or preservative-treated wood

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- Wood posts or columns supporting permanent structures and supported by a concrete or masonry slab or footing that is direct contact with the earth shall be of naturally durable or preservative-treated wood.
Exception: posts or columns that meet all of the following:
 - 1- Are not exposed to the weather, or are protected by roof, eave, overhang, or other covering if exposed to the weather.
 - 2- Are supported by a concrete pier or metal pedestals projected not less than 1 inch above the slab or deck and are separated from the concrete pier by an impervious moisture barrier.
 - 3- Are located not less than 8 inches above exposed earth
- Wood in contact with the ground or fresh water shall be naturally durable (species for both decay and termite resistance) or preservative treated using water-borne preservatives in accordance with AWPA U1 (Commodity Specifications A or F) for soil or fresh-water use.
- Post or columns supporting permanent structures that are embedded in concrete that is in direct contact with the earth, embedded in concrete that is exposed to the weather or in direct contact with the earth shall be of **preservative-treated wood**.
- Wood structural members that support moisture-permeable floors or roofs that are exposed to the weather, such as concrete or masonry slabs, shall be of naturally durable or preservative-treated wood unless separated from such floors or roofs by an impervious moisture barrier.
- Wood members exposed to weather that form the structural support of buildings, balconies, porches or similar permanent building appurtenances without adequate protection from a roof, eave, overhang or other covering to prevent moisture or water accumulation on the surface or joints between members shall be of naturally durable or preservative-treated wood.
- Wood used in retaining or crib walls shall be **preservative treated** in accordance with AWPA U1 (Commodity Specifications A or F) for soil or fresh-water use.

Identification: Wood required by Section 2304.12 to be preservative treated shall bear the quality mark of an inspection agency that is listed by an accreditation body that complies with the requirement of the American Lumber Standards Treated Wood Program, or equivalent.

Moisture content: Where preservative-treated wood is used in enclosed locations where drying in service cannot readily occur, such wood shall be at a moisture content of 19 percent or less before being covered.

* **Naturally durable wood. Definition:** The heartwood of the following species with the exception that an occasional piece with corner sapwood is permitted if 90 percent or more of the width of each side on which it occurs is heartwood.

Decay resistant: Redwood, cedar, black locust and black walnut.

Termite resistant: Redwood, Alaska yellow-cedar, Eastern redcedar and both heartwood and all sapwood of Western redcedar.

Field treatment: All cuts, holes, and injuries of the surface of treated material shall be field-protected by brushing, spraying, dipping, soaking, or coating with an approved material.

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