

Treated Pine Chemicals

The most common method of treatment in Australia is still CCA, other methods are often used, particularly LOSP and ACQ/Copper Azole.

It is important to remember that most LOSP Treated Pine must be painted or oiled to ensure your structure's longevity.

CCA Treatment Chromated Copper Arsenate (H1 - H5)

The much discussed treatment type containing Arsenic. Whilst it is being phased out around the world & throughout Australia it has long been considered a safe and cheap treatment method for all treated pine. Although it was scientifically found to be carcinogenic it is still the preferred choice for most builders. Its mild carcinogenic properties are easily avoided with proper handling. From March 2006 it will no longer be able to be used in decking, handrails or playground equipment. A brief and honest overview of the CCA product with regards to gardening and vegetables can be [read here](#)

There are a few producers of CCA chemical in the world, essentially they all use the same ingredients being Copper oxide, Chromium trioxide, Arsenic acid and water.

LOSP Treatment Light Organic Solvent Protection (H1 - H3)

This was becoming the Arsenic Free substitute for CCA products, however it is generally more expensive and far less effective. Most LOSP treated pine must be painted to maintain its [warranty](#) (which is half as long as CCA). Without painting LOSP treated timbers may only last a few years) A [report by the Australian Government](#) highlights the possible failure problems associated with the some types of LOSP treated pine.

Again, the LOSP chemical is popular and widely available as a treatment solution. Due to the fact the New Zealand government recognized its failures early on, there have been some changes (albeit confusing).

Osmose LOSP is called [Protim](#) and must be over painted. Its ingredients are Kerosene, Tributyltin naphthenate, Dichlofluanide and Permethrin. Koppers LOSP is now called [Azure](#) and may not require over painting, please contact Koppers for clarification. It is a newer chemical treatment and ingredients include tebuconazole, propiconazole, Permethrin, and white spirit (more refined than kero). The Koppers older LOSP treatment type is called Vascol which is similar to the Protim product of Osmose.

NB: The exact type of LOSP treatment will determine its lifespan, and if it has to be over painted. Always request from your supplier written details of painting requirements for any LOSP products. Additionally, due to the solvents in LOSP products they are generally more flammable.

ACQ Treatment Ammoniacal Copper Quaternary (H1 - H5)

This will be the alternative to ARSENIC FREE treated pine. It is considered a very safe and very effective product with no risk to humans. At the moment it is approximately 25% more expensive than the CCA, additionally it is a little difficult to source, and as such is not very popular.

We do not yet stock many ACQ products (except for Sleepers available ex-yard only).

or

Copper Azole Copper azole (CuAz) (H1-H5)

The Osmose company produces an ACQ product called [Naturewood](#). Its ingredients include Copper, Didecyldimethylammonium chloride and water

Koppers produce a similar Copper azole product called [Ecowood](#) (also known as Tan.E). Its listed ingredients include Copper, Tebuconazole and water