



## FAQ's: Ecolife Pressure Treated Lumber

### 1. What type of nails or screws do you recommend?

- Use building-code approved, corrosion-resistant fasteners and connectors suitable for use in pressure-treated wood.
- Recommended Fasteners are hot-dipped galvanized or stainless steel.
- For coastal installations, use code approved stainless steel.
- Ecolife is less corrosive to connectors and fasteners and can be used in direct contact with aluminum products, even in continuously wet applications.



### 2. How do I remove the grade stamp from my deck?

- In most cases a light sanding will remove the grade stamp or lighten its appearance.

### 3. How long do I need to wait before I stain or paint my deck or fence?

- For optimal performance of paint and stain coatings, allow treated wood to dry prior to application.
- Test the wood with a few drops of water to see if the wood is dry enough to readily absorb the water. Apply the stain to a small portion of the deck to ensure the wood is sufficiently dry. As soon as the wood is porous enough to accept the stain, it is ready to stain. Typically, treated wood will dry and be ready for finishing 60 days after installation.



- Apply a high-quality oil or water-based finish with UV protection to slow down the process of wood turning gray from exposure to the sun.
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### 4. What do you recommend I use to paint or stain my deck?

- We recommend a good quality oil-based or water-based stain or exterior wood water sealant product with UV protection to help prevent the wood from turning gray from exposure to the sun.
- Always follow the manufacturer's application and use instructions.
- Apply a water repellent sealer at least every two years.

### 5. How long will treated wood last?

- Ecolife treated wood carries a Lifetime Limited Warranty against fungal decay and termite attack.

### 6. What do you recommend I use to clean my deck?

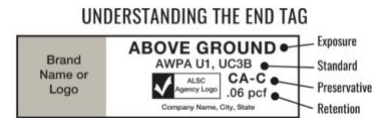
- To provide long-term aesthetic appeal, create a maintenance plan that includes an annual cleaning, and keep your deck free from dirt and debris.
- A diluted solution of liquid detergent and water with a stiff brush will remove mildew and dirt.
- For hard to clean surfaces, use a deck brightener containing oxalic acid to retain the wood's natural beauty. Never use household chloride bleaches on wood decks as it can cause damage to the wood fibers and fasteners.



- Care should be taken if a pressure-washer is used for cleaning decks, as excessive pressure may cause damage to the wood.

## 7. What are the differences between Ecolife® and MCA treated lumber?

- Wood preservative treatments are standardized by the American Wood Protection Association indicating they have demonstrated proven performance.
- Ecolife is a newer generation, environmentally-advanced preservative, that is non-metallic with a built-in wood stabilizer which repels water, reduces cracking, checking and splitting.
- Ecolife fights exposure to the sun and is used in applications six inches or more off the ground for use in building decks, railings, fence pickets, arbors, trellis', joists and beams.
- MCA is the treatment used in Home Depot's<sup>1</sup> ground contact lumber specifically treated to protect wood in contact with soil and moisture.
- MCA can be used in above ground applications in areas six inches or less from the ground or in the ground; or in cases where soil, vegetation, leaf litter or other debris may build up and remain in contact with the component; or restrict air flow to circulate underneath the construction; are in direct contact with untreated wood or older construction with any evidence of decay; when deck beams are difficult to replace; when components are wetted on a reoccurring basis; and when used in tropical climates.



## 8. Installation Tips

- Butt boards tightly together during installation as they will shrink slightly in width and thickness as they dry out.
- Pre-drill holes at the ends of boards to help prevent splitting.
- Use screws to improve holding performance.
- Install fasteners flush to the wood surface. Do not overdrive fastener.
- Install the un-cut end of support posts in ground contact applications.



## 9. Safe Practices When Working with Pressure-Treated Wood

- Wear appropriate safety protection when working with treated wood products including gloves, goggles and dust mask.
- Wash hands thoroughly with mild soap and water after working with treated wood.
- Do not burn pressure-treated wood or use treated wood debris as mulch.
- Pressure-treated wood should not be used where it may come into direct or indirect contact with drinking water or a component of food, animal feed or beehives.
- Dispose of treated wood debris in accordance with local regulations.

