

Mould in Treated Timber

Surface Mould is Harmless and Will Not Affect the Structural Integrity of Treated Timber

In the right conditions mould can form on almost any surface. Often it is seen on fibro cement surfaces on the shady side of a building. Yes, it is unsightly and is a nuisance, but provides no sort of threat to a building's performance, regardless of the surface it is on.

Carol Clauson, Supervising Microbiologist at the Forest Products Laboratory in the US Dept of Agriculture states:

“Mould fungi, which cause no damage to the wood other than unsightly discolouration, are typified by their coloured spores, usually green or black....”



H-4 Treated Post: Structurally unaffected by Surface Mould

Atmospheric dust can carry a number of nutrients that settle on a surface. This provides a source of nourishment for mould to thrive upon. The atmosphere also contains mould spores which settle on the same surface as the nutrients and with the aid of moisture, which is also present in the atmosphere in the form of humidity, the ingredients for mould growth can come together and flourish.

If there is an activating ingredient nearby – for example close to where agricultural or garden fertiliser has been sprayed or applied, the level of both spores and nutrients in the air will be higher again. The likelihood of mould will increase significantly. Even if the timber has been previously stored in proximity to fertiliser the chance of mould infestation on the timber surface increases.

The only concern for treated framing is that mould discolours the surface. Keeping the timber completely dry is all that is needed to inhibit further growth however it is possible to wipe the surface with a mouldicide or a solution of bleach to remove the dark patches and return the timber to its original appearance



Above are some images of mould on timber treated with CCA preservative from H-3.2 & H-4 Hazard classes. The timber is aged and has been in place possibly for 30 years, it has been covered in black mould since being erected.

The timber remains sound and in good condition for it's age despite the surface mould being present

On the right is a photo of untreated framing timber that has been exposed to moisture and then enclosed so that drying has been slowed and mould has been able to establish itself. Once again the timber is in sound structural condition but just looks unsightly. This is a cosmetic problem only and the timber is perfectly sound.



“Although mould fungi do not damage the wood, they do produce numerous spores and these spores can have an adverse effect on people with allergies. Cleaning the wood helps to eliminate that exposure”.

- Carol Clauson, Supervising Microbiologist

SUPERIOR STRUCTURAL TIMBER

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