



# ECOWOOD™

GOOD FOR GENERATIONS TO COME



Answers to frequently asked questions



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## **TANALISED® ECOWOOD™**

### **Outdoor treated wood products ideal for residential, leisure and civic applications**

Preservative treated timber is widely used throughout the community in a multitude of applications from simple agricultural and rural uses to supporting the very structure of our homes. To date, for more than 40 years in Australia and New Zealand, preservative treated wood has provided safe and dependable service in all these situations.

By its very nature, timber preservation is a passive and low impact form of pest control where the preservative becomes fixed within the wood's cell structure but makes it unpalatable or toxic by ingestion to the various forms of wood destroying organisms such as termites. In this context it has been shown to represent minimal if any risk to humans when used as recommended.

However, in recent times there have been increasing community concerns about certain chemicals including wood preservatives and a regulatory emphasis on examining the entire life cycle impact of many human activities and products. Recent regulatory changes in Australia, the USA and Europe have greatly increased the demand for alternative wood preservatives, and it has to be expected that these trends will continue in our region.

It has been the challenge of the timber preservation industry to develop new, alternative preservatives that are cost effective yet able to offer comparable performance to traditional treatments such as CCA (Copper Chrome Arsenate).

Using patented copper and azole co-biocide preservative technology, TANALISED® ECOWOOD™ incorporates Tanalith® E, one of the most successful new wood preservatives introduced throughout the world in recent times, and is fully approved in Australia and New Zealand.

TANALISED® ECOWOOD™ is ideal for situations where treated timber products must meet the highest expectations of user, community and environmental safety.

Arch Wood Protection promotes and recommends TANALISED® ECOWOOD™ where designated by specifier or user preferences, environmental considerations, or government regulation.

We trust that you find the following information useful and hope that you will soon take an opportunity to specify or use TANALISED® ECOWOOD™.



**Q. What is TANALISED® ECOWOOD™?**

Tanalised® Ecowood™ is a range of treated wood products protected with unique timber preservatives incorporating copper and azole co-biocides as active constituents. It has been thoroughly tested in Australia and overseas and has excellent performance against decay and insect attack. Tanalised® Ecowood™ is produced using thorough vacuum/pressure impregnation process and is available as both softwood and hardwood timber products.

**Q. Is the treatment safe?**

Yes. The preservative used in Tanalised® Ecowood™ is approved by the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and the New Zealand Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMANZ) even for wood products used in applications involving contact with children and other frequent human contact situations.

None of the constituents of Tanalised® Ecowood™ are considered to be toxic or harmful at the levels present in the timber. Material Safety data sheets are available for further information.

**Q. How do I know that these new preservatives work?**

The patented copper and azole preservative technologies used in Tanalised® Ecowood™ were originally developed for the European market over 20 years ago. It is the result of many years of research and development with alternative copper based timber preservative formulations and is approved in over 20 countries worldwide.

In Australia and New Zealand, extensive testing performed in accordance with established criteria by the CSIRO and other research organisations provided support for approval by the APVMA.

Subsequently, Tanalith® E (copper azole) has gained approval under relevant state legislation and AS1604 - Specification for preservative treatment. Contact Arch Wood Protection for further information.

**Q. For what applications is Tanalised® Ecowood™ suitable?**

Tanalised® Ecowood™ is suitable for H3 (above ground), H4 (ground contact) and H5 (softwood only) as defined in AS1604 -Specification for preservative treatment, which covers most exterior applications in building and construction, landscaping and rural uses.



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#### **Q. Yes, but is it guaranteed?**

Yes. In addition to all consumer rights conferred under the Trade Practices Act, Arch Wood Protection and our partner suppliers offer the Tanalised® structural guarantee on Ecowood™ against decay and termite attack when installed correctly for the appropriate hazard class.

Contact your Tanalised® timber supplier or Arch Wood Protection for further details.

In order to make any guarantee claim, the purchaser should keep the original guarantee form or other documentation such as invoices showing the date(s) of supply, quantities and the treatment brand details that should be on each piece of treated timber. Note that the guarantee applies only to Tanalised® timber that becomes unserviceable due to the action of wood decaying fungi or termites. It does not apply for example, to mechanical damage or the effects of weathering.

#### **Q. Where else in the world is TANALISED® ECOWOOD™ used?**

Tanalised® Ecowood™ is a trade name used in Australia and New Zealand. Approvals for Tanalith® E and related Copper Azole based preservatives have been granted in over 20 countries worldwide such as Japan, the USA, Canada, New Zealand and a number of major European countries including the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Sweden, Ireland, Italy and Holland.

#### **Q. Why should I use TANALISED® ECOWOOD™ over other types of treated timber?**

In Australia, the APVMA have ruled that from March 2006 CCA (copper chromium arsenate) preservative is not to be used to treat timber and wood products intended for certain applications such as residential decking, children's' play equipment, hand rails, garden furniture and picnic tables. While Arch Wood Protection strongly believes in the safety of CCA preservative for these and all other common outdoor construction applications, Tanalised® Ecowood™ provides consumers and specifiers with an alternative choice, particularly for non-arsenic containing treated wood intended for outdoor and ground contact situations. Tanalised® Ecowood™ is intended for long term performance against decay and termites. It incorporates only recycled copper and safe organic azole biocides as active constituents which may be more acceptable to certain users or more appropriate in particular applications such as playgrounds. Ecowood™ is preferred for prefabrication and re-manufacturing where extensive machining and cutting work generates a lot of treated wood dust and waste.



**Q. What are the safe handling procedures?**

As when working with normal untreated timber, use common sense safety and hygiene precautions. Keep your work area clean, avoid inhalation of wood dust, wear appropriate safety equipment for the tools you are using (such as safety glasses when power sawing) and wash your hands before meal breaks and after work. Further information such as material safety data sheets are available from your supplier or Arch Wood Protection.

**Q. I hear a lot of claims about different products being environmentally friendly. How can any treated timber be environmentally friendly?**

It is true that the slogan “environmentally friendly” has been over used and even misused in some cases. The reality is that the issues involved are complex and in many cases there are no clear and definitive answers. However in the majority of studies completed, timber derived from sustainably managed plantation and regrowth resources compares very favourably to most alternative building materials regarding net environmental impact. Particularly compared to manmade materials such as steel, aluminium, plastic and concrete, timber has substantially lower environmental cost in terms of

energy consumption, intractable waste production, use of non-renewable resources and greenhouse gas emissions. The use of chemical preservatives in timber does have additional environmental impact but this is necessary for and offset by the durability that the treatment confers to the low natural durability softwoods and regrowth hardwoods. This resource could not otherwise be effectively used for exterior or ground contact applications where exposure to natural biological hazards such as fungal decay and termites are expected. In this way treated timber can substitute for manmade materials or help to conserve old growth forest resources when high levels of durability are required.

None of the constituents in Tanalised® Ecowood™ represent known health or environmental hazards when used as recommended. The copper itself for example, comes largely from recycled scrap copper and can be chemically extracted from the treated wood waste for reuse at the end of the product’s service life. So in summary, it is environmentally responsible to specify or use Tanalised® Ecowood™.



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**Q. Can I use TANALISED® ECOWOOD™ around food, water, vegetables or other plants?**

As with any treated wood, Tanalised® Ecowood™ should not be used in direct contact with human food or drinking water during storage or preparation. Incidental contact of food with treated timber, such as in play grounds, picnic tables and decks is fine as there is little or no potential for migration of the preservative onto the food. Similarly, Ecowood™ is suitable for gardens, landscaping, mushroom trays, grape and tomato stakes, greenhouse uses and similar applications.

**Q. What about pets and animals?**

In the great majority of cases with domestic pets, farm animals, including bee hive construction and wildlife Tanalised® Ecowood™ is safe. Treated timber is not recommended for use with parrots or other gnawing animals nor for use in fish ponds.

**Q. Is it corrosive to nails, bolts and other metal components?**

Generally Tanalised® Ecowood™ has a low corrosion potential. However corrosion resistant metal fixings and components are recommended in weather exposed or damp situations. Hot dip galvanised, nickel coated or stainless steels should be suitable as well as non-ferrous alloys such as monel, brass and silicon bronze. Contact between Tanalised® Ecowood™

and zinc-alume coated sheet steel roofing may cause pitting of the metal coating.

**Q. Do I need to paint Tanalised® Ecowood™?**

As for all dimensioned timber in exterior, weather exposed situations, painting or staining is strongly recommended for protecting against bleaching, surface moulds and stains, cracking and dimensional movement. Once dry, Tanalised® Ecowood™ can be painted like any normal timber. Always follow the paint manufacturer's instructions for application and maintenance of the coating.

**Q. What about resealing end cuts and rebates?**

As with all treated timber in weather exposed, damp or in-ground situations, it is essential to coat freshly exposed surfaces after cutting or machining with an "in can" timber preservative solution such as Tanalised® Ecoseal or CN Timber Oil. For high natural durability timber such as certain hardwoods (ie: Spotted Gum, Ironbark), resealing should not be necessary in above ground (H3) situations.

**Q. How do I dispose of timber wastes and off-cuts?**

Tanalised® Ecowood™ wastes and off-cuts can be disposed of through normal waste collection and disposal services. Treated sawdust and shavings are not recommended for composting, mulching or for use as animal litter.

**Q. Can I burn  
TANALISED®ECOWOOD™  
waste and off-cuts?**

Treated timber should not be burnt in domestic heaters nor used as cooking fuel. Most states have laws against the open burning of building or general waste in built up areas. However studies on the burning of Tanalised® Ecowood™ show that there is little if any increased hazard for anyone inadvertently exposed to the combustion fumes or residues compared to those from a normal wood fire. Approval to burn Ecowood™ off-cuts in industrial facilities has been given in some states. Contact Arch Wood Protection for further information

**Q. Can I use TANALISED®ECOWOOD™  
with other timbers?**

Tanalised® Ecowood™ can be used with other timbers, treated or untreated and most other building materials with no problems. Care should be taken to ensure that all timbers in a project are correctly specified and used regarding hazard class of treatment, structural load capacity and moisture content ("wet" or "dry"). Also ensure that coating and fixing systems are appropriate and correctly specified for the timbers and applications required.

**Q. How would I recognise  
TANALISED®ECOWOOD™?  
What does it look like?**

Ecowood has a similar appearance to traditional CCA treated timber.

However, the timber merchant should have Tanalised® Ecowood™ stock clearly identified. In addition, the treatment can be confirmed from the brand number that should be present on each piece of treated timber (preservative No 58 - see AS1604).

**Q. Where can I find out more  
information?**

Contact us at Arch Wood Protection ([www.tanalised.com](http://www.tanalised.com)). Chances are that we have or can get the information you need. Also, for more information about timber preservatives in general, contact the Timber Preservers Association of Australia, the CSIRO Division of Forest Products, your state timber advisory service, forestry departments, your state EPA or the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority.

**Q. How do I order or specify  
TANALISED® ECOWOOD™?**

Government or official specifications should call where required for timber products treated with a non-arsenic bearing preservative complying to AS1604 according to the hazard level required (see AS1604 parts 1 - 5). Consumers can ask for Ecowood™ by name from your timber supplier. Full treatment specifications and levels can be referenced in AS1604 under copper azole preservatives. If you have any difficulties sourcing or specifying Tanalised® Ecowood™, contact Arch Wood Protection for assistance.



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TANALISED® ECOWOOD™ is a range of outdoor treated wood products that incorporate copper and organic azole based wood preservatives. It has been thoroughly tested in Australia and overseas and has excellent performance against decay and termite attack in building, landscaping and rural applications.



- ◆ Built in durability with unique and environmentally sound copper and organic azole based preservatives.
- ◆ Conforms to latest APVMA, US EPA and European Union directives for consumer use of preservative treated wood products.
- ◆ Ideal for playgrounds, schools, around families, in national parks, for re-manufacturing and many other common applications.
- ◆ Suitable for in ground and above ground applications.
- ◆ Backed with the Tanalised® structural guarantee.

Tanalised® Ecowood products are manufactured by a number of independent producers throughout New Zealand and Australia.

Available from:

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