PWT Treated™ LVL - FAQs

July 2025
125

1) **What is PWT Treated LVL and how does the treatment get into the wood?**
Pacific Woodtech has teamed up with Kop-Coat to create the only commercially available fully treated LVL. The TRU-CORE® technology process was developed to move treatment chemicals through wood; the migration process is accelerated when energy, such as heat from an LVL press, is added.

2) **What is the difference between PWT Treated LVL and traditional preservative treatment processes?**
The difference is that traditional processes use VOCs and/or incising to drive treatment into only the outer 0.4" perimeter of a wood member, while the patented TRU-CORE® technology can drive treatment into the entire member (no gradient) without adding regulated mineral solvents or water-based drivers, which can affect strength and/or void warranties in engineered wood products.

3) **The process treats the entire wood member uniformly throughout its cross section without adding VOCs or mineral solvents AND retains the full strength of the wood fiber?**
Yes.

4) **What AWPA Use Category would PWT Treated LVL fall under?**
PWT Treated LVL can be used in exterior construction above ground applications (UC3B) and for components that are difficult to maintain, repair, or replace and are critical to the performance and safety of the entire system.

5) **What type of applications can PWT Treated LVL be used for?**
Any above-ground interior or exterior use such as deck beams, deck joists, deck columns (when on piers of 8" or greater in height, with a 1" offset). It is also a great product for treated sill plates, when used with a foam gasket for separation from the concrete, which is required by code. PWT Treated LVL should not be used in "ground contact."

6) **I thought that Douglas-fir LVL does not accept treatment well; is that true?**
Many western species, including Douglas-fir, are "refractory species," which means they have different anatomical properties, such as pore size and structure, making traditional treating processes difficult. However, when you look at the physiology of dry Douglas-fir, you will see that with some modern technology, it can be treated quite easily.

Kop-Coat's TRU-CORE® technology offers full penetration of Douglas-fir using modern preservatives. See ESR-3834 for additional details.

7) **Is the treatment still "moving" through the wood member after the LVL is shipped?**
No, the treatment continues to normalize for about 24 hours after the LVL is pressed. After that time, the process has stabilized within the product.

8) **Why hasn't this been done this before?**
Kop-Coat developed the technology and applied for their first patent on this technology in 2004. To date, there are over 90 commercial wood treatment penetration programs across the globe.

Other companies have tried to develop similar penetration technologies but have failed.

9) **Do the active treatment chemicals degrade over time?**
All organic molecules degrade over time - regardless of treatment process. The ones selected for TRU-CORE® technology retain their strength for 30 to 60 years in use - this is a significant improvement over traditional treatment processes where only the outer layer of wood fiber is treated.

10) **How can I tell PWT Treated LVL from untreated LVL?**
The LVL will also be stamped/marked "PWT TREATED" and will have a muted olive colored sealer that is different than the standard Pacific Woodtech "honey brown" sealer on untreated LVL.

11) **Does PWT Treated LVL have an odor?**
There are no solvents or VOCs in the treatment, so the genuine smell of wood is retained.

12) **Can PWT Treated LVL be used indoors?**
Yes, the active chemicals used in the treatment process are below EPA levels for indoor use.

13) **Is there an SDS for PWT Treated LVL?**
Yes, it is posted on our website.

14) **Is there any risk when handling PWT Treated LVL? What precautions should be taken?**
The risks associated with touching/handling PWT Treated LVL are no worse than those of untreated LVL.

Always wear proper PPE per the safety data sheet
- Handle in accordance with good industrial hygiene and safety practice.
- Keep away from open flames, hot surfaces, and sources of ignition.
- Ensure adequate ventilation or use appropriate respiratory protection to avoid wood dust inhalation.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke when handling this product.
- Remove and wash contaminated clothing before re-use.

15) **What would happen if someone were to ingest PWT Treated LVL? What precautions should be taken after such exposure?**
The hazards are no worse than those of untreated LVL.

Per the SDS: Ingestion is not an expected route of exposure. Rinse mouth. Immediate medical attention is not required.

16) **Do cut ends, notches, and holes need to be re-treated?**
No, since PWT Treated LVL is treated throughout the piece (no gradient), re-treatment is not necessary. However, it is recommended to recoat cuts with a sealer or paint to minimize swelling, as moisture will wick into end-grain fibers more quickly than edges and faces.

17) **Can PWT Treated LVL be stained or painted?**
Yes, PWT Treated LVL can be stained or painted.

18) **Is flashing required?**
Proper flashing is required over ledger boards to meet code. Refer to building code requirements for ledger boards.

Flashing (metal or plastic) or approved flashing tape is required on any upward horizontal surfaces of the PWT Treated LVL to satisfy the warranty.

Flashing tape must have passed design standard AAMA 711-13, Level 3, Class A, perform in high and low temperature extremes, and have minimum UV protection of 120 days exposure.

Deck drainage systems that cover upward horizontal surfaces of PWT Treated LVL joists and beams, preventing wetting from occurring, are acceptable substitutions for flashing on the joists and beams.

Failure to use proper flashing, approved flashing tape, and/or proper deck drainage systems will void the warranty.

Failure to apply flashing in accordance with the manufacturers' written installation instructions and as required by code will void the warranty.

19) **Can PWT Treated LVL beams and joists be clad?**
Cladding is allowed if it will not trap moisture, as this will reduce the performance and life expectancy of even treated wood products.

20) **How should PWT Treated LVL be disposed of??**
PWT Treated LVL can be disposed of in the same manner as untreated LVL.

21) **I have heard of ACQ (alkaline copper quaternary), copper azole (CA), and MCA (micronized copper azole) for pressure treated wood. What treating chemicals are in PWT Treated LVL?**
ACQ, CA, and MCA are chemicals used for post-manufacture, pressure treating of wood products. PWT Treated LVL uses a PTI based system. PTI stands for Propiconazole (fungicide), Tebuconazole (fungicide), and Imidacloprid (Insecticide). Our PWT Treated LVL has twice the PTI retentions required for UC3B, with no gradient that you would see in pressure treated lumber.

PTI is very common. It has been around for over 20 years. These PTI protection systems are used for many types of wood products including decking, fencing, siding, windows, sheathing, flooring, framing and other wood and wood-based building materials.

Our literature is updated frequently.
Please visit www.pwtewp.com for the
most current version of our specifications.

Published: July, 2025
Valid until: July, 2026

Cal. Prop 65 Warning:

⚠ WARNING: Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood.