

# **SAPSTAIN CONTROL TREATMENTS BEFORE OR AFTER DRESSING**

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# SAPSTAIN CONTROL TREATMENTS BEFORE OR AFTER DRESSING

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Dipping or spraying green lumber with stain control chemicals has been reported recently as valuable for delaying or preventing stain and decay infection in bulk-piled lumber, as well as in the air-seasoning piles for which such treatments were originally developed.<sup>2,3,4/</sup> But it should be kept in mind that if lumber is dipped and then dressed while it is still green, the advantage of the treatment is largely lost. The chemicals do not penetrate the wood to any great depth, and are mostly removed with the shavings. If green lumber is surfaced within 3 days after sawing, the dipping or spraying should be done as it comes from the planer, instead of before surfacing. If the dressing is done more than about 3 days after sawing, but while the lumber is still green, the best course would be to treat directly after sawing and again after dressing.

The stain fungi work fast. Experience has shown<sup>5, page 71/</sup> that in 2 days the fungi sometimes penetrate freshly sawn boards so far that anti-stain chemicals applied at that time cannot reach them. In warm weather a 2-day delay in dipping may allow interior stain. But if the lumber is dressed before dipping, the chemicals of course reach wood farther below the original surface than if they had been applied to the rough lumber, and it therefore appears reasonably safe in such cases to delay dressing and treating as much as 3 days after sawing. In cold weather a delay of as much as 4 or 5 days should be permissible.

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- 1/ In cooperation with the Forest Products Laboratory, maintained by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Madison 5, Wis., in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin.
  - 2/ Verrall, Arthur F., and Carl Hartley. Lumber shipped green should be protected. So. Lumberman 170 (2131): 52. Jan. 15, 1945.
  - 3/ Wright, Ernest, and Carl Hartley. Green lumber shipments need protection. The Timberman 46 (5): 100-104. Illus. March 1945.
  - 4/ Hartley, Carl. Lumber shipped green can be protected against decay. Forest Pathology Special Release 26. 3 pp. Oct. 1945. Reprinted in Miss. Valley Lumberman 76 (51): 11, 30. Dec. 21, 1945; So. Lumber Journal 50 (1): 52. Jan. 10, 1946; So. Lumberman 172 (2158): 55. Mar. 1, 1946.
  - 5/ Scheffer, Theodore C., and Ralph M. Lindgren. Stains of sapwood and sapwood products and their control. U. S. Dept. of Agr. Tech. Bul. 714, 123 pp. Illus., 1940.



Dressing of course would not enable the chemicals to get any deeper into the ends of the boards. Therefore, if treating is delayed as much as 2 days after trimming in warm weather or 4 days in cold weather some end stain might result, irrespective of what is done in the way of surfacing. Fortunately end stain is not as important as side stain. For lumber that is dressed only on two sides, dipping after delayed surfacing might also fail to prevent edge stain. Dipping after dressing would be likely to raise the grain on dry lumber, but this should not be important on lumber that is still green.

The decay fungi do not develop as fast as the staining fungi. Thus, a delay that might allow a little stain infection to become established would not necessarily spoil the effect of the dip in hindering decay infection. The safer rule, however, is to dip early enough to avoid stain.

Whenever done, dipping of course does not give permanent protection. The safest procedure is to dry lumber before shipping, thereby avoiding both fungus damage and the other well-known disadvantages of green lumber.