

Penta-Treated Wood & Health

Wood preserved using penta does not pose adverse health effect. Although penta must be toxic to do its job of protection wood from insects and compared to other wood preservatives or other commonly used chemicals. With proper application, handling and use, exposures to penta among wood treaters, lineman and others who work with penta are low-typically far below levels at which test animals have shown any toxic effects -and well within safety margins.

Using highly conservative assumptions, the latest scientific data show that penta poles do not pose significant risks to people, wildlife, aquatic life, or the environment.

Occupational and Environmental Exposures

Wood treaters

An eight-year review of the use of penta as wood preservative completed in 1986 found on increase in significant adverse health effects among workers in the formulation or treating process. Workers in these job functions were considered to penta.

Linemen

Linemen also do not have a significant increased risk of cancer or other serious health effects from climbing penta poles. An assessment of lineman's potential risk in 1999 by Risksciences.com found that the possibility of developing serious health problems from working with penta poles was extremely low.



Penta-Treated Wood & Health



resources

Children

Children are not at risk from playing in areas where penta poles are present. This was the conclusion reached in a 1999 assessment conducted by CPF Associates that used EPA standard methods. According to the study, there are only 1.6 grams of penta in the soil around a typical utility pole, and these concentrations decrease very rapidly with distance from the pole. That said, utility poles are not toys, and parents should instruct children never to lick or climb a pole. Common sense is all that is required to eliminate potential risk to children from penta poles.

Taking Care

A number of safety precautions should be taken when handling, using or disposing of penta-treated wood to minimize potential health effects. These include:

Handling Precautions

- Wear gloves and clothing that prevents direct contact with the skin.
- Avoid frequent or prolonged inhalation of sawdust
- Wash clothes stained with penta before reuse.
- Wash work clothes separately from other household clothing.
- Wash all areas of the skin after handling wood, and before eating or smoking.

For additional safety and handling guidance, please refer to the Consumer Information Sheet- Pentachlorophenol pressure-Treated Wood and Manufacturer's Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for Penta and Penta-Treated Wood.



Usage Precautions

- Do not burn in open fire or stoves, fireplaces, or residential boilers.
- Do not use where there are opportunities for domestic animals or livestock to lick, bite or rub against treated wood.
- Do not use in residential industrial or commercial interiors except for laminated beams or for building components having two coats of recommended sealant.
- Do not use on items that will be for food storage, preparation or consumption by humans or animals.
- Do not use on furniture or other items where there will be frequent or prolonged contact with skin or clothes.

Cox INDUSTRIES, INC
Better Ideas. Better Wood.™

860 Cannon Bridge Road | Orangeburg, SC 29116
877.492.7728 | coxwood.com