

Learn what you need to know to stay safe.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Environmental Protection Authority www.epa.govt.nz

Work Safe New Zealand www.business.govt.nz/worksafe

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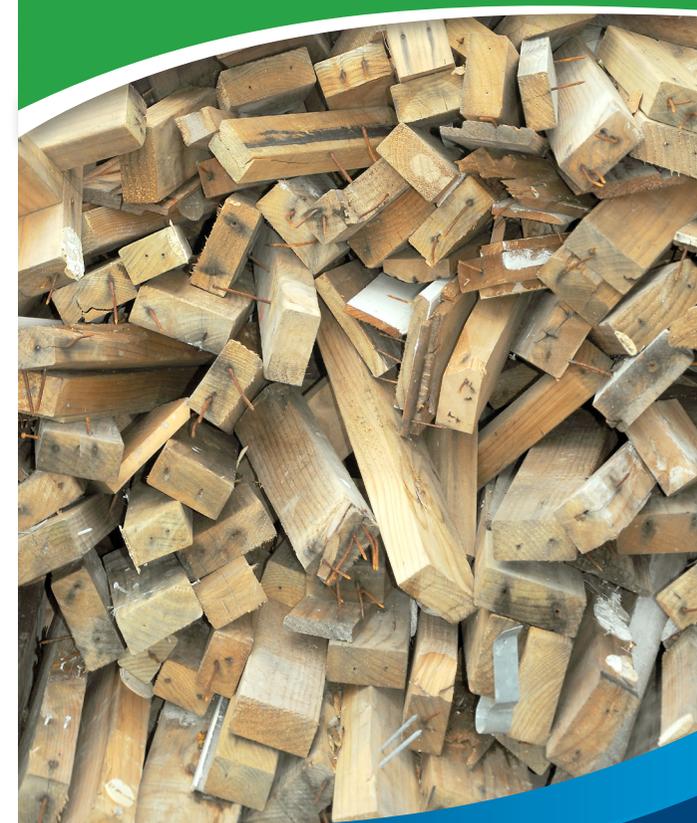


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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

LEARN WHAT NOT TO BURN

Never burn treated timber



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WHAT IS CCA?

Chromated copper arsenic or CCA is a chemical used in timber treatment processes.

Most residential construction in New Zealand uses pinus radiata timber, a perishable, fast-growing softwood not naturally resistant to insects and fungi. To enhance its resistance, the timber is typically treated with toxic chemicals such as chromated copper arsenic.

CCA has pesticide and anti-fungal properties and New Zealand is one of the world's largest users of CCA-treated timber products.

It is because of the toxicity of CCA that burning treated timbers is banned in New Zealand.

When building a new home or renovating, an accumulation of off-cuts and other scrap treated timbers is inevitable. This waste needs to be disposed of in an approved landfill facility and not burnt in a home fire or outside in the open.

We all need to be aware that using treated timber as firewood or burning it in the open air releases toxic chemicals that pose a risk to our health.

“If in doubt, throw it out”

Treated timbers can often be identified by stampings or stencilling onto the wood indicating the nature of the treatment. Various treatments leave the timber with a green-coloured tinge. However, it is not always possible to identify treated timber, so the general rule of “If in doubt, throw it out” should be applied when unsure about the nature of timber to be burned.

Avoid burning treated timber and other items such as plastics so we can all breathe easier.

Informed communities make informed decisions when deciding what to burn and what not to burn. Making better choices will promote better indoor and outdoor air quality, and that benefits everyone.

ITEMS THAT YOU SHOULD NEVER BURN

The following items should never be burnt because they can give rise to toxic, offensive, and/or injurious fumes:

- Chemicals
- Materials that can produce toxic gases when burnt
- Food waste
- Metals
- Paints, varnishes and the like
- Animal carcasses
- Pesticides
- Plastics
- Rubber (this includes tyres and other items that contain rubber and plastic such as old furniture)
- Treated timbers
- Waste oil or petroleum products*

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has the important role of controlling and monitoring air quality under its regional discharge to air plan, and has rules which aim to control the environmental effects arising from burning.

To find out more about the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Discharge to Air, Land and Water Plans, visit its website: www.boprc.govt.nz



**Information taken from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's brochure, 'Smoke Sense - a sensible approach to open burning'.*