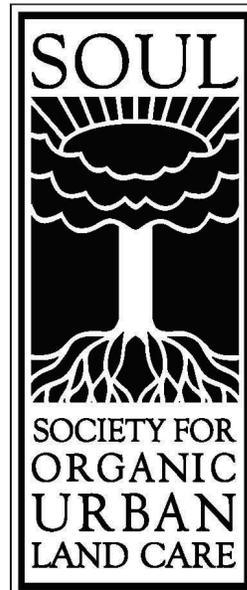


Organic Land Care *with*



"We are Earth,
the people, plants and animals,
rains and oceans,
breath of the forest and flow of the sea."

Preamble of the Earth Charter, 1992

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This newsletter is distributed free of charge to all SOUL members. Please feel free to share this publication.

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February, 2006

Pressure Treated Wood Alternatives

With thanks to Heide Hermary from Gaia College

- Wood Impregnation #99 (Bioshield Paints, U.S.A. The formula is proprietary. Supposedly of extremely low toxicity).
- Lifetime Wood Treatment (Valhalla Wood Preservatives, Calgary). Also a proprietary formula. According to a lab test there was no toxic residue in the soil after 1 year. <http://www.valhalco.com/>
- Lee's Priceless Recipes (1895):
"Take boiled linseed oil and stir in it pulverized charcoal to the consistency of paint. Put a coat of this over the timber, and there is no a man that will live to see it rotten."
- Charring the wood surface that will be in contact with the soil works extremely well (the pulverized charcoal in the recipe above is based on the same principle).
- Here is a list of woods in order of decay resistance: You will see that our western red cedar is not high on the list (in fact it will decay in a few years if it is in direct contact with soil), but the other woods are not commercially sold - though probably available from arborists.
 1. Robinia pseudoacacia (Black locust)
 2. Juniperus virginiana (Eastern red cedar)
 3. Paulownia tomentosa (Princess tree)
 4. Thuja plicata (Western red cedar)
 5. Sequoia sempervirens (Redwood)
 6. Gleditsia spp. (Honeylocust)

Non-toxic, Affordable Pressure-Treated Lumber

A new process encases wood fibers in trace amounts of glass, with surprising results.

By Mark Powers

Source: <http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/knowhow/tools/article/0,16417,1099729,00.html>

Leave it to a chemist specializing in immune deficiency disorders to devise a pressure-treated wood that's rot-proof, bug-proof, and so clean you could eat off of it. Its maker says it's even safe enough to put in your mouth. But we're not sure why you'd want to do that.

What you should do with it is build a deck, raise a garden bed, and erect that tree house you promised the kids. And sleep well knowing the wood won't leach toxins or corrode the metal fasteners that hold all those weekend projects together.

The new lumber is called TimberSil, and it's an alternative to wood preserved with potentially hazardous heavy metals like arsenic, chromium, and copper. Instead, TimberSil is infused with sodium silicate, a melted mix of sand and soda ash. The latter is a common ingredient in washing detergent. Once treated, the wood is baked in giant kilns to permanently encase its fibers with a flexible layer of innocuous glass. (Note that the amount of silicates used in the treatment process is too small to produce harmful dust when sawing, says TimberSil vice president Ron Hobbs. But standard respiratory and eye safety wear is recommended, as when working with untreated lumber.) TimberSil arrives on the racks dry and ready to paint or stain. It offers more stability than other treated woods, which shrink as they dry,

leading to cracks, splitting, and checks. And unlike its green-tinged counterparts, TimberSil retains its natural color.

Because it's essentially sealed in glass, TimberSil won't break down in wet or moist conditions. "We've pulled the stuff out of the ground after more than a year and it comes out without so much as a nick," says Hobbs. "After washing it off, it looks brand new."

Check out the TimberSil website:
<http://www.timbersil.com/>



**Visit the SOUL display at the Victoria Seedy Saturday, downtown convention centre (February 18th)
and
the CHBA Home Show, Saanich Fair Grounds (February 24, 25, and 26th)**



**SOUL Film Night
Thursday February 16th 7:30 P.M.
The Future of Food - Deborah Garcia
At 3485 Upper Terrace, Oak Bay**

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