



STRUCTURAL WOOD SYSTEMS

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Finishing Suggestions for Treated Glulam

All or some of the glulam beams on your job have been manufactured with pentachlorophenol (Type C solvent) pressure treated lumber. A listing of chemicals used in the treating process along with the function of each follows:

1. Pentachlorophenol (Penta) is an oil borne preservative which is toxic to wood destroying organisms.
2. Mineral spirits is the oil solvent which is used to dissolve the penta. This also serves as a carrier to insure that the penta is adequately absorbed into the wood. It remains in the wood along with the penta after treatment but serves no preservative function. The mineral spirits will evaporate from the glulam after it is put into service. Evaporation could take from six months to a year depending on atmospheric conditions.
3. UCON Wood treating solvent 144. A polyalkylene glycol fluid manufactured by Union Carbide. This chemical insures even dispersion of the penta and eliminates surface crystallization.

Some finishing materials are not compatible with this treatment. **Do not use:**

1. Alkyd paint or alkyd stain.
2. Sanding sealer with zinc stearate.

Experience has shown that both finishes break down and turn "gummy" after a short period of time.

White finishes can give unpredictable results. These finishes have a tendency to randomly turn yellow or brown on some laminations in a single beam.

Structural Wood Systems factory finishes treated beams with semitransparent oil stain. Excellent results are consistently achieved with this product in all colors except white.

The Environmental Protection agency recommends two coats of an appropriate sealer where pentachlorophenol treated glulam is used in the interior of a building or may come in contact with people or animals. Experience has shown polyurethane to be a good finish for this purpose (not water-base).

This information is being provided to inform you that some paints and stains will not provide a satisfactory finish on our treated glulam. Before selecting any finish material, please talk with the manufacturer of that material to determine if it is compatible with Pentachlorophenol treated wood.



ACTIVE MEMBER