



Comprehensive Fire Safety

With more than two decades of experience developing pressure-impregnated fire-resistance wood products, CHEMCO has developed an excellent process, allowing our products to meet stringent fire-resistance standards. And while fire-resistance wood roofing, siding, and decking can significantly enhance the exterior fire-safety of your home, there is more to be done. CHEMCO agrees with fire safety advocates who recommend homeowners manage the entire “home ignition zone”, including the exterior and grounds around a home where a fire might start, feed, and spread. Comprehensive management of the home ignition zone includes site planning, vegetation management, and non-combustible or fire-resistant building materials.

Site Planning: Slope, set back, and topography are fundamental considerations. So is firefighter access. Emergency vehicles need clear signage and a 12-foot-wide driveway with 15 feet of vertical clearance. A turnaround is also helpful.

Vegetation Management: This denies ready fuel to a fire to ensure a small fire does not feed and spread quickly. Dense vegetation, dry or dead wood, and flammable materials such as leaves, should be cleared away from your home. Also remove “ladder fuels” around trees. Ladder fuels are intermediate shrubs and bushes that enable a grass fire to climb up to the treetops. Keep your trees and shrubs watered and green.

Fire-Resistant Building Materials: CHEMCO-treated cedar shake and shingle roofing systems are available in Class A, B, and C. There is no higher fire-resistance rating for a roofing system than Class A. CHEMCO also offers pressure-impregnated fire-resistance wood for siding, decking, soffits, and fascia.

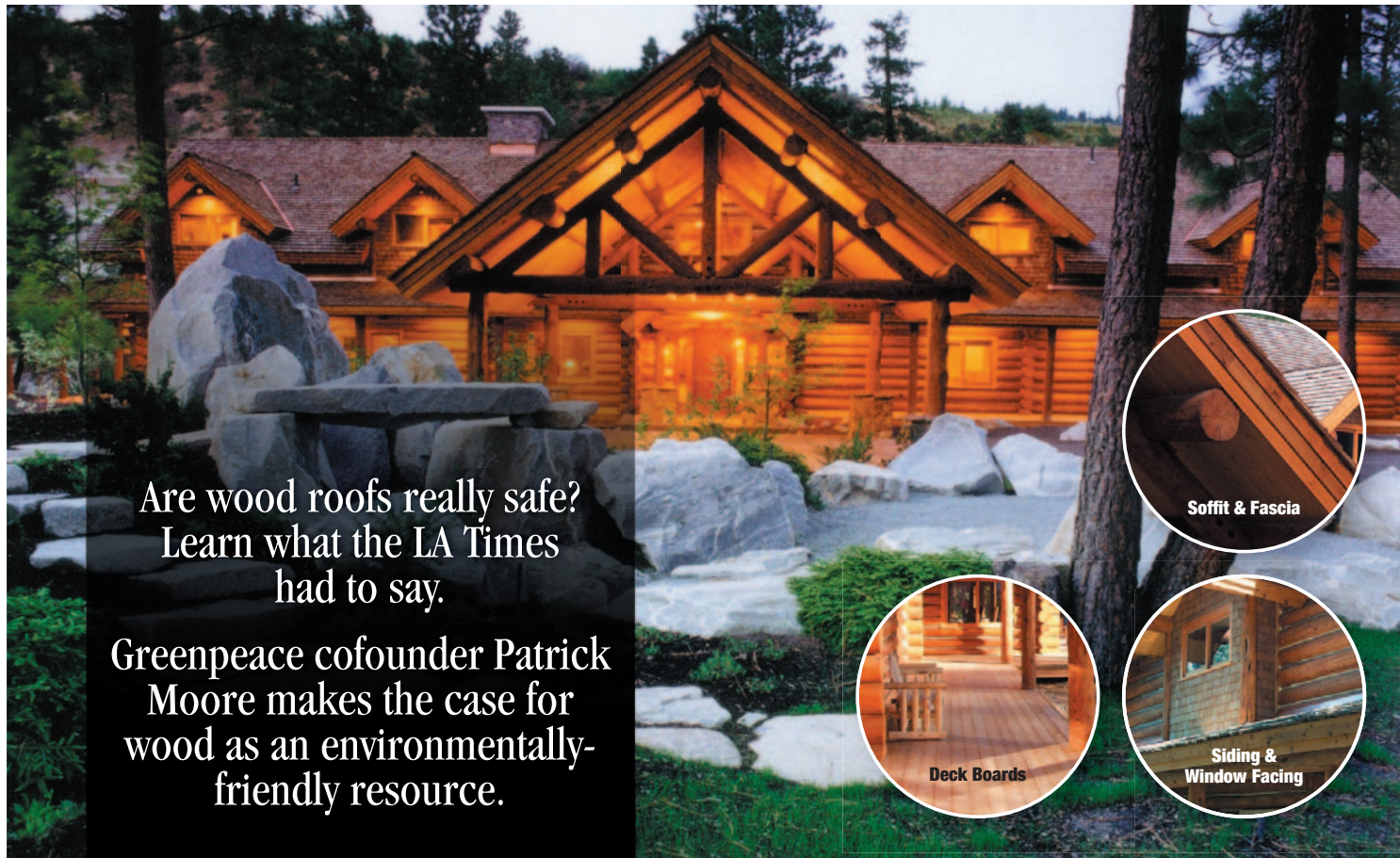
So if you're concerned with fire safety, take a comprehensive approach to minimize fire risks, and ask for CHEMCO-treated exterior wood.



Your resource for issues and approved building material in California.

- The LA Times uncovers some surprising info on how treated wood actually reduces the likelihood of fires.
- Stopping a neighbor's fire from leaping: A true story shows what you can do to protect your home.
- California Homeowner's Guide to Protecting Home Your Home from Fire.
- Four Facts About Fire Retardant Wood.

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SaferWood
 PROVEN TO STOP FIRE IN ITS TRACKS



Are wood roofs really safe?
 Learn what the LA Times had to say.

Greenpeace cofounder Patrick Moore makes the case for wood as an environmentally-friendly resource.



Fire Displaces Thousands in Northern Los Angeles County

California's spectacular natural environment is a draw for both homeowners and wildfires. With this year shaping up to be one of the worst in history, how to keep homes safe has become the season's hottest topic.



Fighting Fire With...Fire-Resistant Products and Technologies

One of the West's most notorious tinderboxes has been selected as the site to test the latest advances in protecting homes from wildfire. Learn how you can improve your home's chances for survival with lessons from the Leavenworth Lodge.



Save Our Heritage

Blowing the lid off the safety myths surrounding tile roofs. A fresh perspective from a survivor of the San Diego fires. In the October 2003 issue of the Save our Heritage Organization's Reflections newsletter, David Miller, discusses preserving historical buildings with fire-resistant cedar shakes and shingles.



LA Times Tackles Wood Roofing

One bad apple doesn't spoil the whole bunch. The dangers of letting politics, not science, determine what's best for homeowners.

Debunking Myths About Shakes & Shingles

Answers to common misconceptions

There are a lot of myths perpetuated about wood shakes and shingles. Let me debunk four of them here.

1) Fire-resistance treatment lasts only three to five years and then needs to be retreated.

Who came up with this one? SaferWood-treated shakes have passed an accelerated weathering test simulating 20 to 30 years of outdoor exposure, and a 10-year outdoor natural weathering test. Government research indicates that pressure-impregnated fire-resistance should last for the useful life of the shake or shingle roof.

2) Shakes and shingles are dry and brittle.

Although air and moisture has been removed before treating, the moisture is replaced with the fire-resistance formula. After the wood is exposed to the weather, it will re-hydrate to reflect the relative humidity present in the environment. In dry climates the wood will indeed be dry.

3) The treatment cuts the life of the wood.

Although there is little testing on this subject, I have noticed that it takes one to one and a half years for the treated shakes and shingles to begin to weather. Untreated wood starts to weather within six months. This indicates a slowing in the aging process of the wood, possibly extending the life of the shakes and shingles. Take it or leave it. That's my opinion.

4) Shakes and shingles are illegal to use in my area.

The media and our competitors have really done a bangup job on this. There are relatively few neighborhoods or counties in California that have banned wood roofing. When in doubt call SaferWood and we'll check it out for you. In some cases you may be able to obtain variances to permit wood roofing. So check it out.

The same thing goes for this newsletter. Got a comment, question, suggestion, complaint? Use the convenient fax-back form or email us at feedback@saferwood.com to let us know what's on your mind.

Oceanside Home Saved by Fire-Resistant Roofing



Fire destroys adjacent home while SaferWood-Treated shakes do not catch fire

As Spring approaches, attention in the west turns in part to the danger of wildfires and the threat they pose to homes. This is particularly true for those living near grasslands and forests. Unfortunately, many living in urbanized areas ignore words of caution, with catastrophic results. The National Fire Protection Agency's Firewise Program (www.firewise.com) details steps homeowners can take to prevent a wildfire from spreading to their home. Creating a defensible space around a dwelling in rural areas focuses on landscaping and fire-resistance roofing material. Creating defensible space is also important in more compact urban areas. Urban residences are often threatened from burning embers from a neighbor's home, or neighborhood kids shooting fireworks into the sky that make their way to the roof.

Robert Wueste of Oceanside, Calif., proved that prudent fire-safety steps can save urban homes from the spread of fire from an adjacent home. In the early morning hours of

Dec. 28, 2001, Mr. Wueste awoke to horror of his neighbor's home engulfed in flames. He moved his family to safety and then watched as flames and burning embers landed on the side and roof of his waterfront home. With only a 6-foot easement between the homes, he thought his home was destined for destruction. Wueste's home, however, survived the intense inferno burning only a few feet away. A few years earlier he had re-roofed his home with SaferWood-treated fire-resistance cedar shakes and built a 5-foot retaining wall between the homes. That combination helped save the day in this situation.

Exterior wood, including sections of the roof, was scorched but it did not catch fire and did not burn. His home was saved. His family was safe. And his irreplaceable personal possessions were saved. Creating a defensible fire-safe urban space, including SaferWood-treated fire-resistance wood products, made all the difference to the Wueste family.



"The fire was so hot, it melted the buttons off my microwave sitting about 6 feet inside the exterior wall", he said, "but my home was saved and I'm thrilled," said homeowner Robert Wueste.