SaferWood
Thermex-FR

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR FINISHING

The selection and application of paints and stains to wood products treated by SaferWood with Thermex-FR must be done intentionally and selectively. The chemicals of some stains, paints, and coatings adversely interact with the fire-retardant resin upon either initial application or after weathering resulting in diminished fire retardancy of the product and/or unsatisfactory adhesion, durability, or appearance of the coating (including leaching chemical residue).

This notice is intended to provide general information about the potential application of paints or stains to our wood products pressure infused with proprietary fire-retardant resins.

Before using any paint or stain on our fire-retardant treated wood products, you should consult with a coatings expert or manufacturer to ensure that their recommended coating has been successfully tested on our products. We do not warrant or endorse any coating or manufacturer.

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Lumber and Plywood

Many end users report that they have successfully applied paint and stains to our fire-retardant lumber and plywood products. Reports suggest that penetrating oil stains are likely to perform best. If a solid coat is desired, some end users report that a high-quality oil-based stain blocking primer provides the best moisture shield and can help minimize the chances of fire-retardant residues leaching to the surface. Other reports indicate that two coats of an all-acrylic topcoat paint over the oil-based blocking primer offers good weathering performance.

Please remember that we are only sharing information we have received from some end users; we are not recommending, endorsing, or warranting any coating solution. You should confer with a paint professional and test paint or stain samples on the product for your climate and application.

Preparation and Application Tips

Based on reports from end users of our fire-retardant treated lumber and plywood products, we offer the following "tips" for you to consider when selecting and applying a coating for these products. Again, we are not experts in coatings and offer these "tips" only to assist you in evaluating your coating options.

• Consult your local paint professional for coating recommendations specifically suited for fire retardant pressure treated products and follow all the manufacturer's instructions.

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• Always apply the recommended product to a small test area to determine compatibility and suitability over time.

• Clean the surface and thoroughly rinse off any chemical residue from the fire-retardant treatment process.

• For paint, using a stain blocking oil-based primer after cleaning the surface may reduce the chances of defects in the color topcoat.

• If possible, wait 3 to 6 months prior to coating to allow for natural surface conditioning.

• When using a power washer do not use pressure that will disrupt the wood fibers. Do not exceed 1500 psi.

• Be aware of product moisture levels. Let the product dry to at least 15% moisture before applying any coating, or whatever lower moisture level the paint or stain manufacturer recommends.

• Never use water-based paint or stain, unless tested and confirmed for suitability by the manufacturer.

• Consider the flammability of the coating.

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• Always test the paint or stain in the actual climate and intended application of the treated wood.

Disclaimers and Notices Regarding Product Appearance and the Use of Coatings

Chemco, inc. and FSR Treatment, the manufacturers, other treaters or licensees, and sellers of lumber, plywood, and other wood products pressure treated with FSR's proprietary fire retardant chemicals (collectively the "Products"), make no representations, provide no warranties of any kind, express or implied (including as to merchantability or implied fitness for an intended purpose), and assume no responsibility at any time in regard to the cosmetic appearance of the Products (whether coated or uncoated) or to the application of any paint, stain or other coating to any of the Products. Without limitation, all warranties are disclaimed as to:

• The Product's cosmetic appearance and variations therein including as to color, stains, and deposits in and on the original treated uncoated Product and changes thereto that occur thereafter due in part to and during the weathering/aging process; and

• The compatibility, adhesion, appearance, or durability of any coatings applied by anyone to the Products.

Before application of any coating(s) to a Product, the flammability of the finished product must be considered. Remember: the fire-retardant code classification of the product is based on testing of FR-treated, uncoated/unfinished material. The

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application of a coating may adversely affect the fire retardancy of the product and the resulting compliance with applicable building codes governing fire-retardant wood products.

Appearance Over Time

Any Product used in exterior applications will not retain its original color, color uniformly, or its general appearance with age and weathering. Additional factors that will impact Product appearance, coloration or staining include, without limitation, (i) deposit variations, (ii) the wood species of the Product, (iii) the nature of weather including moisture conditions and exposures, (iv) the type of coating employed, (v) the chemical composition of the coating, (vi), the coating color, and the type and number, if any, of any stain blocking primers and coatings applied, (vii) the moisture content of the Product and the surrounding environment when the coating is applied, (viii) the pre-coating surface preparations including any recommended post-installation natural drying/conditioning period(s), priming, and preparations between coats, (ix) the extent of extractive bleeding in the Product (all wood contains extraneous materials the organic components of which are called extractives including tannic), and (x) the fire-retardant resin used to treat the Product.

Prior to purchase of FR treated wood, end users and their design/product advisors should: (1) examine like-treated and aged product in the same geographical environment of intended usage to evaluate cosmetic coloration/staining/deposit variations and performance, (2) test the desired finishing system on sample FR

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material and expose the product to actual use conditions to determine if the desired effect can be obtained and maintained, and (3) if the decision is to coat, end users should follow the paint/stain manufacturer's recommendations and instructions regarding which of their coatings to use with FR treated wood, and the application methodology for the recommended coating. Carefully investigate and test any recommended coating. Not all paints and stains are compatible with exterior fire-retardant pressure treated wood material. There are many different chemical compositions among the hundreds of coatings and those variations can impact coating quality and performance, especially in a fire-retardant treated wood application.

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