



TREATMENTS

Low Pressure Treated Timber User Guide

Important information for users of Protim Clearchoice Low-Pressure treated timber

What is Protim Clearchoice?

Protim Clearchoice is the brand name for wood pressure treated with an organic based preservative. Protim Clearchoice is a pressure applied preservative system for timber to be used in construction projects that will require protection to Use Class UC1, UC2 and/or UC3 (see table). Protim Clearchoice preserved wood has been preserved by the correct application of Protim E406 wood preservative, and then allowed to dry.

Properly treated Protim Clearchoice preserved wood is protected against wood destroying insects and attack by wood decaying fungi.

Protim Clearchoice preserved wood is suitable for roof timbers, timber framing, carcassing, and internal and external timber projects that are above damp-proof course/ ground level. For use out of ground contact or out of surface water contact. Timbers exposed to weathering should be given the additional protection of a well-maintained surface finish.

What length of service life can be expected?

Service life of the treated timber depends upon the species, end use and application rates. In general it can be expected that internal timbers used in Use Class 1 or 2 will last in excess of 60 years. Those timber exposed to weathering but installed above ground ground contact will achieve service lives of between 15-30 years. However care should be taken to chose the correct species for the end-use and to specify the correct level of treatment.

How do I specify treatment with Protim Clearchoice?

- 1) Firstly identify the component end use.
- 2) Identify the Use Class pertaining to this end use – e.g. timber framing = Use Class 2.
- 3) Identify any special service life considerations – do they differ from those described above? If so consult PTGTreatments for specialist advice.
- 4) Identify and report the species of the timber to be treated as this has a considerable bearing on suitability for certain treatment process or end uses. Also identify and report the moisture content of the timber.
- 5) PTGTreatments recommends a form of words such as 'Timber to be treated to a 60 year service life in Use Class 2 conditions. The species is pine and the moisture content is lower than 28%'.
- 6) Specify whether a Treatment Certificate is required.

USE CLASS TABLE	
Use Class (UC)	Use
1	Above ground, covered. Permanently dry, insect risk.
2	Above ground, covered. Occasional risk of wetting.
3a	Above ground, coated. Exposed to frequent wetting.
3b	Above ground, uncoated. Exposed to frequent wetting.



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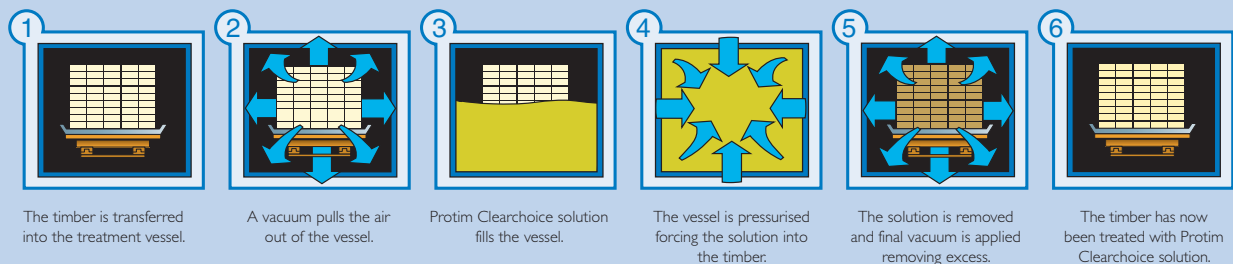
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Preparation of timber prior to treatment

- 1) Timber packs must be of the correct moisture content in order to allow sufficient penetration into the wood fibre. Below 28% moisture content is the recommendation.
- 2) Timber must be debarked and, as far as possible, free from sawdust and debris. Plastic wrapping should be removed. Packs that have been very tightly banded should have the bands cut prior to treatment to allow free passage of the fluid into the packs.
- 3) All possible working of the timber should be performed prior to treatment
- 4) If timber shows signs of incipient attack from fungus or insects it should not be treated.
- 5) A small amount of blue-stain is not critical.
- 6) Where possible, space the packs with laths in order to allow free passage of the fluid and to aid the drying process afterwards.

The Treatment Process



Collection of treated timber

Treated timber should always be allowed to dry sufficiently before it is despatched. In general a period of not less than 24 hours should elapse. This is typically a minimum requirement and timber packs should be touch dry with no free fluid in the packs at all. It should be remembered that timber will also swell to some extent during treatment and should be allowed to dry at a natural rate until it has reached its pre-treatment moisture content.

Re-working of treated timber

Occasionally it may be necessary to re-work treated timber. Every effort must be made to avoid this but if it must be done the following should be observed.

- 1) Any surface exposed by drilling or cutting must be coated with a cut end preservative. Failure to coat will affect the value of the preservative. It is recommended that the coated ends are not put in the ground or in direct contact with water. Rip sawing, thickening and planing are not permitted unless the timber is subsequently processed to the original specification.
- 2) Never place a re-treated end in ground contact.
- 3) Where any working is carried out, read and follow the health and safety instructions in the Important Information section of this guide.

Gluing

The compatibility of glues and mastics should be checked before application. Always follow the product manufacturer's recommendations.

Which metal fixings can I use?

Certain metal products (including fasteners, hardware and flashing) may corrode when in direct contact with wood exposed to water. Use fixings and other hardware which are in compliance with building regulations for the intended use. Use fixings, hardware or any metal products as recommended by their manufacturer:



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Appearance of Protim Clearchoice

Protim Clearchoice products are often clear in appearance giving the treated timber a natural look, however Colour tints may be added to treatment solutions during the manufacturing process to provide a ready means of identifying wood that has recently been treated.

These are dyes and will often fade after a period of time.

Can I paint and stain this timber?

If you desire to apply a paint, stain, clear water repellent or other finish to your preservative treated wood, we recommend that you apply the finishing product to a small test area to ensure that it provides the intended result, before proceeding.

Cutting

Preserved wood should not be cut or otherwise reworked as this will expose unpreserved wood.

Any surface exposed by drilling or cutting must be re-treated with an approved (i.e. by the UK Health and Safety Executive) cut end preservative. Failure to re-treat may reduce the effectiveness of the preservative treatment. Rip-sawing, thicknessing and planing are not permitted unless the timber is subsequently re-preserved to the original specification.

If cutting cannot be avoided, then precautions should be taken to keep airborne dust levels below the Workplace Exposure Limit for Wood Dust. In particular, avoid inhalation of dust when using high speed cross-cut saws or mechanical sanders.

Important Information

- Wear a dust mask and goggles when cutting or sanding wood.
- Wear gloves when working with wood.
- Wash work clothes separately from other household clothing before re-use.
- All sawdust and construction debris should be cleaned up and disposed of after construction.
- Do not burn preserved wood.
- Do not use preserved wood for mulch.
- Only preserved wood that is visibly clean and free of surface residue should be used.
- Do not use preserved wood under circumstances where the preservative may become a component of food, animal feed, or beehives.
- Preserved wood should not be used where it may come into direct contact or indirect contact with drinking water.
- Use fixings, hardware or any metal products as recommended by their manufacturer.
- If wood is to be used in an interior application and becomes wet during construction, it should be allowed to dry before being covered or enclosed.
- Some preservative may migrate from the wood into soil/water or may dislodge from the preserved wood surface upon contact with skin. Wash exposed skin areas thoroughly.
- Mould growth can and does occur on the surface of many products, including treated or untreated wood, during prolonged surface exposure to excessive moisture conditions. To remove mould from treated wood surfaces, wood should be allowed to dry. Typically, mild soap and water can be used to remove surface mould.
- Disposal Recommendations: Preserved wood may be disposed of in landfills or burned in commercial or industrial incinerators or boilers in accordance with National and Regional regulations.
- Protim Clearchoice preserved wood is compatible with most coatings, glues and sealants and can normally be coated with most wood finishes 48 hrs after treatment. Before you start, we recommend you apply the finishing product to a small test area before finishing the entire project to ensure it provides the intended result before proceeding. Protim Clearchoice preserved wood may be glued with resorcinol, phenol/resorcinol or urea formaldehyde glues. Protim Clearchoice preserved wood is compatible with most sealants and mastics, always follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- For more information visit www.osmose-europe.com



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Use wood preservatives safely. Always read the label and product information before use.