

Chromated Copper Arsenate

Chromated copper arsenate is another wood treatment chemical. CCA preservative is used to protect wood from fungi, various insects, and marine creatures that bore into wood. The danger of CCA is that it contains arsenic – a highly poisonous metallic element. A known carcinogen, arsenic can also cause death in cases of high exposure.

Uses of Chromated Copper Arsenate

Chromated copper arsenate is commonly used to treat the wood for fences, decks, gazebos, and playground equipment. Children should not be exposed to recently treated wood, as the CCA compound may not be fully dried.

Health Effects Caused by Arsenic Poisoning

Below are some possible health effects of arsenic exposure:

- Lung cancer
- Bladder cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Skin Cancer
- Liver Cancer

As a result of consumer concerns, the wood industry voluntarily agreed to remove CCA treated wood from the market and in 2004 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stopped allowing CCA treated wood for residential uses.