



**Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant**  
78 Central Street P.O. Box 823, Ashburnham Massachusetts 01430-0823  
Ph. 1-978-827-4423

## **Customer Agreement**

### **Proper Use of Discarded Poles of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant**

The chemicals with which utility poles are treated may cause adverse health effects if these poles are used in ways which cause them to come in direct contact with people, food or drinking water supplies. Also, the burning of treated wood releases highly toxic chemicals.

For your own protection, please read the Consumer Information Sheet approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the opposite side of this form. This information has been prepared for your protection. After reading the Consumer Information Sheet, please sign the following agreement.

---

I have read the guidelines regarding use of discarded treated poles and understand that certain uses of the poles may have adverse health effects. I agree to follow the advice set forth in the EPA-approved Customer Information Sheet when using discarded poles of the Ashburnham Light and Power Department.

---

Signature

Date

---

Address

# **Creosote Pressure-Treated Wood Consumer Information Sheet**

---

## **EPA Approved Consumer Information Sheet For Creosote Pressure-Treated Wood**

### **Consumer Information**

This wood has been preserved by pressure-treatment with an EPA-registered pesticide containing creosote to protect it from insect attack and decay. Wood treated with creosote should be used only where such protection is important.

Creosote penetrates deeply into and remains in the pressure-treated wood for a long time. Exposure to creosote may present certain hazards. Therefore, the following precautions should be taken both with handling the treated wood and in determining where to use the treated wood.

### **Use Site Precautions**

- Wood treated with creosote should not be used where it will be in frequent contact with bare skin (for example, chairs and other outdoor furniture) unless an effective sealer has been applied.
- Creosote-treated wood should not be used in residential interiors. Creosote-treated wood in interiors of industrial building should be used only for industrial building components which are in ground contact and are subject to decay or insect infestations and wood block flooring. For such uses, two coats of an appropriate sealer must be applied. Sealers may be applied at the installation site.
- Wood treated with creosote should not be used in the interiors of farm buildings where there may be direct contact with domestic animals or livestock which may crib (bite) or lick the wood.
- In interiors of farm buildings where domestic animals or livestock are unlikely to crib (bite) or lick the wood,

creosote-treated wood may be used for building components which are in ground contact and are subject to decay or insect infestation if two coats of an effective sealer are applied. Sealers may be applied at the installation site.

- Do not use creosote-treated wood for farrowing or brooding facilities.
- Do not use treated wood under circumstances where the preservative may become a component of food or animal feed. Examples of such use would be structures or containers for storing silage or food.
- Do not use treated wood for cutting-boards or countertops.
- Only treated wood that is visibly clean and free of surface residue should be used for patios, decks and walkways.
- Do not use treated wood for construction of those portions of beehives which may come in contact with the honey.
- Creosote-treated wood should not be used where it may come into direct or indirect contact with public drinking water, except for the uses involving incidental contact such as docks or bridges.
- Do not use creosote-treated wood where it may come into direct or indirect contact with drinking water for domestic animals or livestock, except for uses involving incidental contact such as docks and bridges.

### **Handling Precautions**

- Dispose of treated wood by ordinary trash collection or burial. Treated wood should not be burned in open fires or in stoves, fireplaces, or residential boilers because toxic chemicals may be produced as part of the smoke and ashes. Treated wood from commercial or industrial use (e.g., construction sites) may be burned only in commercial or industrial incinerators or boilers in accordance with state and Federal regulations.
- Avoid frequent or prolonged inhalation of sawdust from treated wood. When sawing and machining treated wood,

wear a dust mask. Whenever possible, these operations should be performed outdoors to avoid indoor accumulations of airborne sawdust from treated wood.

- Avoid frequent or prolonged skin contact with creosote-treated wood; when handling the treated wood, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and use gloves impervious to the chemicals (for example, gloves that are vinyl coated).
- When power-sawing and machining, wear goggles to protect eyes from flying particles.
- After working with the wood, and before eating, drinking, and the use of tobacco products, wash exposed areas thoroughly.
- If oily preservatives or sawdust accumulate on clothes, launder before reuse. Wash work clothes separately from other household clothing.
- Coal tar pitch and coal tar pitch emulsion are effective sealers for creosote-treated wood-block flooring. Urethane, epoxy, and shellac are acceptable sealers for all creosote-treated wood.

*Approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 9/85*