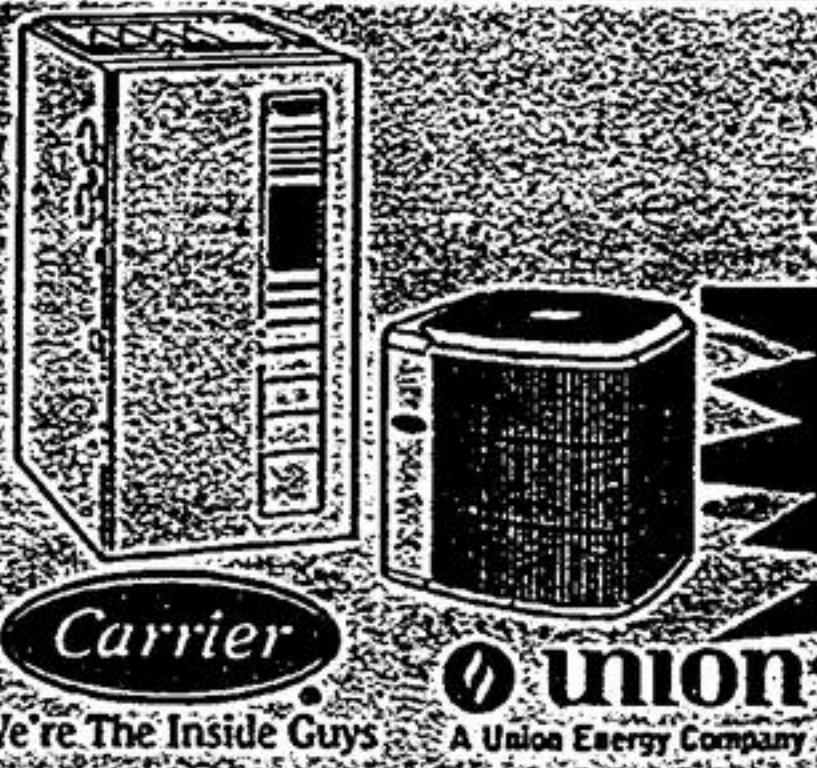


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**Home & Garden**

**Pressure-treated wood provides  
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More and more homeowners are adding comfort, convenience and value to their homes and property with outdoor structures such as decks, fences, planters and numerous other projects.

Pressure-treated lumber, the wood most commonly used for these projects, is typically purchased because it lasts outdoors, it's economical and it is environmentally-friendly.

But like everything else, it does require some maintenance to keep it looking good.

One of the most often asked questions that consumers have is what maintenance is required to keep

their pressure-treated wood looking good, said Mary Anne Kennedy, marketing coordinator of Hickson Building Products Limited.

Pressure-treated provides long-term protection against rot.

However, protection is required to maintain the wood's appearance against the weather.

Sun and rain cycles cause stresses in lumber and result in swelling, shrinking, warping and cracking, which are natural when wood is exposed to the elements.

Kennedy offered these maintenance tips:

✓ To help protect your

project against moisture damage, apply a water repellent as soon as your project is finished. If you purchase water-repellent-treated wood, you can skip the initial application.

✓ When staining wood, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Wood should be dry for best results.

✓ For deck surfaces, semi-transparent oil-based or penetrating latex stains have been traditionally recommended.

✓ To revitalize a dingy appearance caused by dirt and mildew, use a deck wash/brightener.

Treated lumber comes from our only major building material wood. The trees used are plentiful and fast growing. Treated wood requires less energy to produce than alternative building.

Wood has natural enemies and if left untreated is susceptible to rot and decay. The treatment process injects a waterborne preservative called Chromium Copper Arsenate deep into the wood.

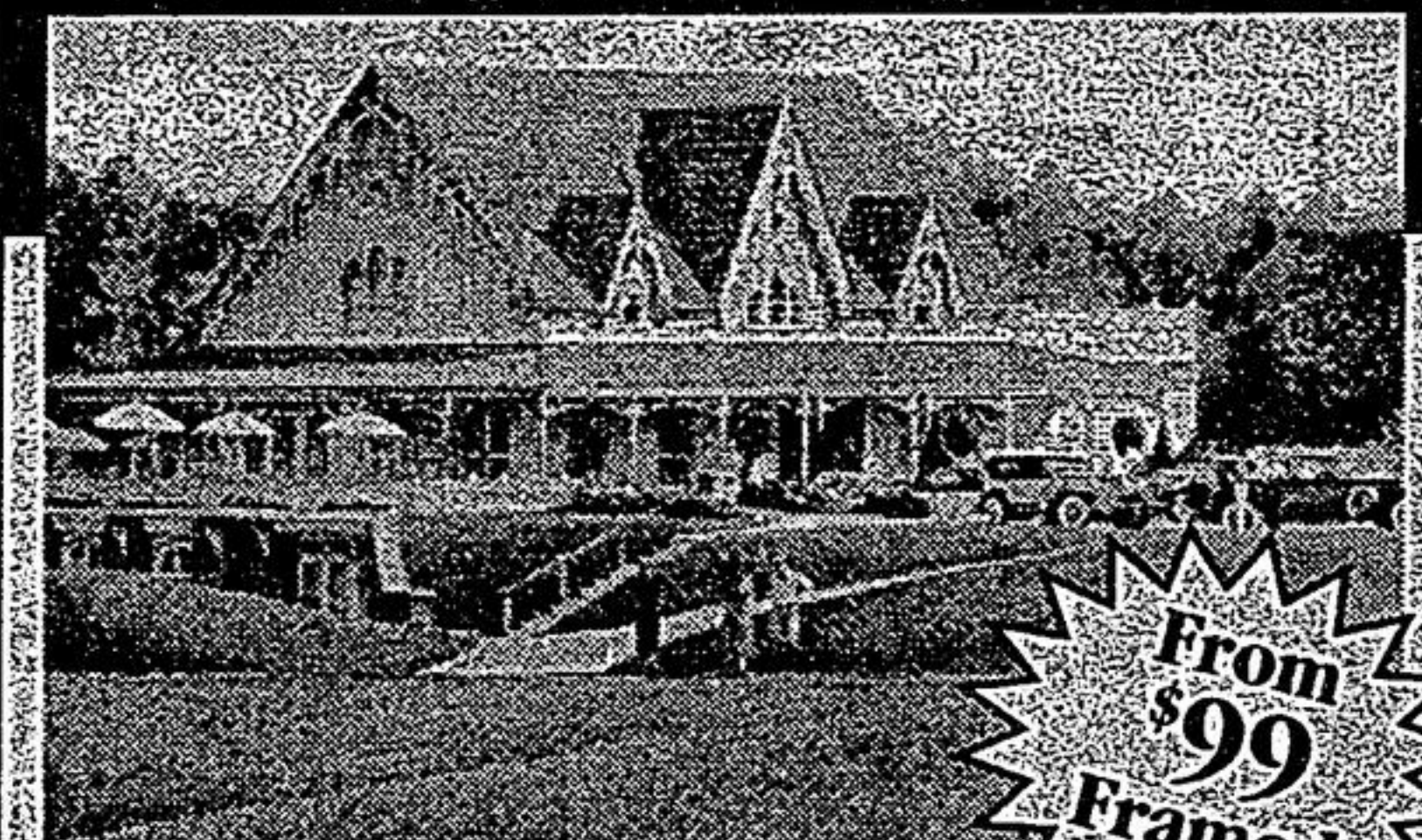
This preservative reacts with natural constituents of wood in an automatic chemical reaction called fixation.

Fixed preservative is bonded to the wood and is very leach-resistant.

It renders the wood unsuitable as a food source for termites and fungi, thereby ensuring wood's structural soundness and extending its useful service life.

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