



## TREATED TIMBER & PLYWOOD CODE OF PRACTICE

### DEFINITION

VACSOL® Azure treated timber is timber which has been impregnated with VACSOL® Azure organic solvent based wood preservative under controlled conditions in a double vacuum/low pressure timber impregnation plant (VAC-VAC® plant).

Appropriate timber products are building timbers and building units, exterior joinery and cladding.

Principal substrates are softwood timbers, plywoods and certain hardwoods.

### VACSOL® WOOD PRESERVATIVES

VACSOL® Azure wood preservatives are a range of formulations which use white spirit or petroleum distillate as the solvent. The formulations of VACSOL® Azure consist of varying mixtures of fungicides, insecticides, with or without water repellents. Some formulations have dyes and pigments added to them to aid in identification of treated timber. Each product has a unique product code and HSE number.

### APPEARANCE

After application of clear VACSOL® Azure products by the VAC-VAC® process the appearance of timber is virtually unchanged. Certain VAC-VAC® processors however, use a VACSOL® Azure product containing a dye or pigment to facilitate identification of treatment.

### CONFIRMATION OF TREATMENT

It is recommended that the customer always checks with the processor as to the type of VACSOL® Azure product which has been used (identified by product code) and whether there is any colour addition to the VACSOL® Azure product. It should also be appreciated that the treatment process parameters used are varied to match the biological hazard to which the timber will be subjected in service e.g. swimming pool roofs or where protection from termites is required. Customers are recommended to obtain a Certificate of Treatment covering their order.

VACSOL® Azure treated timber must only be used above the dpc level and/or above ground contact. Exterior joinery should be subsequently protected with a maintained surface coating. In termite areas VACSOL® Azure treated timber should only be used above the termite shield.

### PREPARATION OF TIMBER BEFORE TREATMENT

1. The timber must be clean, free from bark and any surface coatings etc.
2. The moisture content of the timber must not be in excess of 28% and the timber must be protected from the rain. Moisture content, prior to treatment generally should be as the 'in-service' moisture content.
3. It must be in its fully machined form with all joints, notches, etc already made. Fabricated components may also be treated.

### STORAGE AND ON-SITE PROTECTION

1. The bulk of VACSOL® Azure treated material is supplied from stock. In other cases the timber may be received direct from the treatment plant. It may be oily to the touch and may smell of solvent. The solvent will continue to evaporate and this fact should be taken into account.
2. The area should be well ventilated and the treated material protected from the weather.
3. Flat items such as doors and sheets of plywood should be separated and either stickered horizontally or stacked more or less vertically with air space between them. This will promote the evaporation of the solvent.



## S T O R A G E A N D O N - S I T E P R O T E C T I O N

4. Building components stored on a building site should be clear of the ground and stacked and protected so that they are not distorted or saturated by rainwater.
5. If VACSOL® Azure treated timber is to be used in food storage areas, steps should be taken to ensure that all the solvent has evaporated prior to installation and that the treated timber does not come into direct contact with food stuffs.

## P O S T - T R E A T M E N T M A C H I N I N G

1. Some cross cutting on site is unavoidable. This may expose untreated timber and it is imperative that crosscuts, notches and bored holes be liberally swabbed with VACSELE® or other approved end grain preservative.
2. Rip sawing, grooving, planing and heavy sanding are not permitted unless the timber is returned for re-treatment.

## G L U I N G

1. PRE-TREATMENT  
Assemblies which are to be VACSOL® Azure treated may be glued satisfactorily with any standard wood glue - with the exception of Casein - provided the adhesive is fully cured. The active ingredients have no harmful effects on the cured adhesive and the solvent itself does not cause swelling of the wood.

At all times the glue manufacturer's instructions should be followed.

2. POST-TREATMENT  
Building timber components and exterior joinery are not normally glued on site, but if the occasion should arise (and with joinery components which are assembled after treatment) any standard wood glue - with the exception of Casein - may be used.

Advice should be sought from Arch Timber Protection where impact adhesives are to be used or highly stressed glue joints are to be made (e.g. glue laminated beams) using VACSOL® Azure treated timber.

If the use of formaldehyde type adhesive is being considered with WR grades of VACSOL® Azure treated timber we would recommend contacting the glue manufacturer for any additional information they may wish to provide.

## P U T T I E S , M A S T I C S & S E A L A N T S

1. Reference should be made to BS6262, Code of Practice for glazing for buildings.
2. The choice of putties, mastics and sealants is dictated by the characteristics of the primer/basecoat used. It is not influenced by the fact that the timber has been VACSOL® Azure treated.
3. Where any doubt exists advice should be sought from the manufacturer of the putty, mastic or sealant in the first instance and then from Arch Timber Protection.

## S U R F A C E C O A T I N G S

1. Under certain conditions the use of a dye containing VACSOL® Azure wood preservative can present over-painting difficulties and the customer is recommended to carry out trials before commencing decoration.

Over absorbent timber may adversely affect decoration.

2. The following notes apply to common painting practice. Where a factory applied finishing system is envisaged the advice of Arch Timber Protection and the coating manufacturer should be sought.

3. PAINTING

- i) Windows

VACSOL® Azure treated windows are over-paintable with most industrial joinery primers and basecoats provided a minimum of 48 hours air drying time is allowed after treatment (see paragraph on over-absorbency). For this air drying time the timber should be open stacked and in a well ventilated area.



## S U R F A C E C O A T I N G S

- a) Where acrylic primers are to be used it is advisable to carry out a simple test to establish compatibility.
- b) When using aluminium leafing primers longer periods of drying may be necessary after VACSOL® Azure treatment due to the sealing characteristics of this type of paint.
- c) A further 12-14 days should elapse before the undercoat and gloss finishes are applied, allowing normal drying time before applying final undercoat and gloss finishes.

### ii) Doors

In the case of treated doors, it is recommended that the 48 hour drying period should be taken from the time the packs of doors are separated, regardless of the period of time after treatment, as treated doors, close piled, do not dry readily in a stack. A further 12-14 days should elapse before applying final undercoat and gloss finishes.

### iii) Plywood

The time allowed between treatment and priming depends upon drying conditions, the types and thickness of plywood used and the amount of preservative absorbed during treatment.

Before applying a priming coat it is recommended that at least 72 hours be allowed from the time sheets of treated plywood are separated for drying under favourable conditions and that a further 12-14 days elapse before final undercoat and gloss finishes are applied.

## 4. STAINING

The first coat of the decorative stain of the non rigid film type can be applied to VACSOL® Azure treated timber provided a minimum of 48 hours has elapsed during which the timber has been open stacked and well ventilated. A period of 12-14 days should elapse prior to applying subsequent coats.

The above notes 3 ii) and 3 iii) also apply for staining doors and plywood.

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## METAL FIXINGS & FITTINGS

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VACSOL® Azure treatment has no corrosive effect on nails, screws, bolts, toothed plates, etc. and no deviation from normal practice is called for.

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## FLOOR COVERINGS

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Where latex or synthetic backed floor coverings, etc. are to be laid on VACSOL® Azure treated timber it is essential that all the solvent has evaporated from the timber. Failure to do so could damage the floor covering.

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## BITUMINOUS, PLASTIC OR PAPER BASED PRODUCTS

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Any organic solvent treated timber may cause problems when placed in direct contact with these materials if the treated timber is installed too soon after treatment or if the treatment process used has resulted in a very high retention of VACSOL® Azure wood preservative. Care should be taken to ensure that adequate solvent evaporation has taken place before installation.

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## PLASTERBOARD/ ABSORBENT COMPOSITE BOARD MATERIALS

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Care should be taken to ensure adequate solvent evaporation has taken place prior to the fixing of porous materials, otherwise the substrate may absorb excess VACSOL® Azure solution.



## REPLACEMENT TIMBERS

Where VACSOL® Azure treated timber is being installed during remedial work e.g. flooring, it is essential that adequate ventilation is given to enable the solvent vapours to dissipate. Consideration should also be given to adequate ventilation when the property is to be occupied during the replacement work.

## MISUSE OF VACSOL® TREATED TIMBER

DO NOT USE VACSOL® AZURE TREATED TIMBER IN THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

1. Below dpc and/or in ground contact.
2. In termite areas below the termite shield.
3. In direct contact with foodstuffs.
4. In an exterior situation without a protective coating.

## OVER ABSORBENCY

Occasionally, a parcel of timber will contain some pieces which have an abnormally permeable sapwood. These are easily recognised after treatment and such pieces should be placed on one side for prolonged drying before overpainting/staining or the fixing of porous materials which may absorb the excess solution and adversely affect subsequent decoration.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

Reference should be made to the Consumer Information Sheet for VACSOL® Azure treated timber and plywood. This is available from the Arch Timber Protection Advisory Service.

## DISPOSAL

**Disposal of waste VACSOL® Azure treated timber and sawdust.**

1. DO NOT USE for fuel in barbecues, cooking stoves or grates.
2. DO NOT USE for animal litter or bedding.
3. DISPOSE OF BY BURNING in a suitable incinerator which must be positioned to enable adequate dispersal of smoke and fumes and must not itself constitute a fire risk.
4. Small quantities can be burned in the open, care being taken not to inhale smoke from the burning wood.
5. Dispose of the ash by burial or by a competent Waste Disposal organisation.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

VACSOL® Azure Treated Timber Consumer Information Sheet.

For further information please contact the Arch Timber Protection Advisory Service at the address below.

### ARCH TIMBER PROTECTION

Wheldon Road, Castleford, West Yorkshire, WF10 2JT.  
Tel: (01977) 714000 Fax: (01977) 714001  
E-Mail: [advice@archchemicals.com](mailto:advice@archchemicals.com) [www.archtp.com](http://www.archtp.com)

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY TELEPHONE (01865) 407333 (24 hours).

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Responsible Care