

Tanalith® T treated  
structural timber &  
wood products

Guidelines for  
safe handling and  
application





## ◆ So what do I need to do to handle the timber safely?

In most end use situations the Tanalith® T treatment will be dry and handling precautions are similar to those for normal untreated timber. However in some cases, particularly in the production or treatment sites it may be necessary to handle the treated timber products before the treatment has dried. In these cases additional personal protection steps may be required.

"The blue dye colour (if used) may rub off on hands and clothes during handling, when the timber is freshly treated. The dye is non-toxic but the nuisance value can be reduced by using gloves and other personal hygiene measures given here."



◆ For dry timber, **wear cotton or light leather gloves** for protection against splinters, cuts and abrasions during general handling. If the timber is still damp from the treatment, **solvent or oil resistant gloves** are recommended. In all cases cuts and abrasions should be protected from sawdust while machining

or sawing treated timber.

◆ **Wear an impervious work apron** to protect clothing if working with freshly treated boards.

◆ Keep air borne wood dust levels below Worksafe recommended levels.

◆ **Wear an organic vapour filter mask** (activated carbon) when sawing, sanding or machining Tanalith® T treated timber immediately after treatment. The Tanalith® T preservative has a low volatile content but machining process can generate airborne dusts and residues. Use mechanical air extraction if necessary.



Suitable nuisance level organic vapour filter mask products (with or without exhalation valves) are available from Wilson or 3M distributors.

◆ **Wear safety glasses** or goggles when using power tools on the treated timber to protect the eyes from flying particles and any airborne residues.



◆ Change out of any clothing that becomes contaminated with the preservative fluid. **Wash** any preservative contaminated clothes **or safety equipment separately** before reuse.

◆ **Wash hands** after handling treated timber and before meals breaks or smoking. Keep the work area clean and keep your hands, arms and face free of sawdust



◆ Rags and absorbent materials that have been used to clean up Tanalith® T treatment fluid may have a risk of spontaneous combustion. Where possible avoid use of organic materials (cotton, saw dust) for this purpose and dispose of used absorbent immediately after use.

## ◆ Forklift handling and transport strapping

The Tanalith® T treatment may initially cause timber packs to slide during forklift handling or transport.

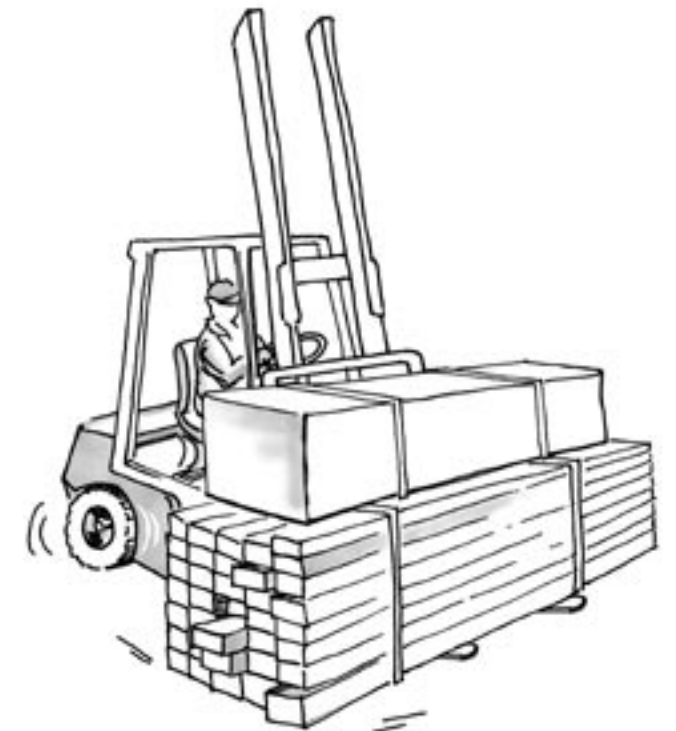
When transferring freshly treated packs by forklift, avoid sudden braking or changes of direction. For road or rail transport of freshly treated packs ensure that they are well strapped or braced so that the packs do not slide during transit.

## ◆ General recommendations

The Tanalith® T preservative is toxic to insects, which is its purpose in order to protect the wood products from termites. Under normal circumstances in the end use situation, the treated timber is safe for people, plants and animals although care should be taken with specific occupational situations as detailed here. In rare cases some people may experience temporary skin irritation when handling the material. Skin irritation is more likely when the timber wet after the treatment.

If you experience any undesirable effects when working with the product, such as headache, dizziness, skin or eye irritation, cease work and consult your supervisor or an occupational safety advisor.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are available from your supplier or Arch Wood Protection for further information.



## What is Tanalith® T?

Tanalith® T is an oil based wood preservative that is used to protect structural timber and certain engineered wood products against termite attack. The treatment is applied by a dipping or closed autoclave immersion to the finished packs of timber or wood products.

The Tanalith® T treatment system has been designed to offer a number of efficiencies and advantages for sawmill and treatment plant operators so that termite resistant building timber and wood products are cheaper and easier to manufacture. Worker exposure and hazard assessment studies have concluded that the treatment fluid and the treated timber represent minimal risk to workers and users.

However, as with handling any treated wood product, certain precautions and personal protection measures are recommended in order to minimise any potential risks or source of exposure.

## How would I identify Tanalith® T treated timber or wood products?

Tanalith® T treated timber and wood products under various brand names are produced by a number of leading timber and wood product suppliers such as;

Framesure® Blue™	- Carter Holt Harvey
Hyne T2™	- Hyne Timber
Trueblue T2™	- Auspine
Wespine Blue	- Wespine Industries
Termi-blue	- AKD

Tanalith® T treatment is also provided by a number of independent timber treaters around Australia.

Most producers and treaters incorporate a blue marker dye in the treatment. However there are some other treatments that use a similar blue marker dye, and some Tanalith® T users do not incorporate a dye. Confirmation should be sought by referring to the treatment brand details that should be on each piece of treated wood product at the time of supply. Tanalith® T has been allocated the unique preservative number 74 under Australian Standards. See AS1604.1 for further details.

## What is in the Tanalith® T treatment?

The Tanalith® T treatment fluid is composed of a mixture of high flash point solvent oil and linseed oil. The attributes of the oil mixture provide certain key characteristics such as low odour and surface dryness. The active constituent that provides protection against termites is the synthetic pyrethroid permethrin. See the Material Safety Data Sheet for further information.

## Product Storage and Disposal

Tanalith® T treated timber and wood products should be stored in a well ventilated, under cover area. The off-cuts and sawdust from the treated timber are not hazardous waste. For normal domestic and trade users, dispose of waste through normal waste collection and disposal services. Testing has shown that burning of Tanalith® T treated wood does not produce any detectable hazardous fumes or residues. However as a general rule treated timber off-cuts are not recommended to be used as domestic heating or cooking fuel. Treated timber off-cuts and waste are not recommended to be supplied for mulching or animal bedding.

## Mastic Bonding

Arch Wood Protection recommends that stud adhesives not be applied to Tanalith® T treated timber while it has an oily residue. Tanalith® T treated timber should be exposed to air and sunlight if possible, for 14 days to allow adequate cross linking and curing of the drying oil prior to application of stud adhesive.

## Nails and Fixings

Tanalith® T is non-corrosive to steel and other metals. Normal bright steel nails and plates are suitable for normal interior construction. Nail holding, plate adhesion and joint strength is not significantly affected once the treatment is dry.

## Painting

In most cases Tanalith® T treated structural timbers are not exposed in the final structure and not painted. However if painting is required it is necessary to allow for additional drying time similar to mastic bonding. Use of a shellac based or other suitable sealant undercoat is recommended to prevent the blue colourant bleeding through the paint. Normal good quality acrylic paints should be suitable once these steps have been taken. Always follow the paint manufacturers recommendations.

## For further information contact:

Your Tanalith® T treated timber and wood products supplier, or;

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