

Frequently Asked Questions about Fire Retardant Treated Wood

What is fire retardant treated lumber and plywood?

Fire Retardant Treated Wood is lumber or plywood that has been pressure treated with chemicals to reduce flame spread and smoke development when exposed to fire. Defined by code, FRTW must meet specific building code standards (such as ICC AC66). When purchasing, check that the wood has a valid certification—like an ICC-ESR, UL Listing, or Intertek CCRR—confirming it meets the requirements of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC).

Where is fire retardant treated wood (FRTW) typically required?

FRTW is required in multi-family, commercial, institutional, and other Type I, II, or III construction where local building codes mandate fire retardant materials - especially for roof sheathing, wall assemblies, and partitions.

Does fire retardant treatment affect structural strength?

Properly treated FRTW retains its structural properties for design loads, but span ratings or load adjustments may apply depending on the manufacturer's testing. For strength adjustment factors, it is recommended to refer to the ESR or similar documents.

How does FRTW differ from pressure treated (PT) wood for decay resistance?

Fire retardant treatment is for fire resistance, not for decay or insect resistance. Pressure treated wood is treated for rot, decay and termite attack, not fire. The two are not interchangeable.

Does fire retardant treated wood (FRTW) require special fasteners?

In most cases, standard fasteners are acceptable. However, always follow manufacturer guidelines, especially in corrosive environments.

How is fire retardant treated wood (FRTW) identified on the jobsite?

Each piece is stamped or labeled with information including the treating company, flame spread rating, and code compliance details.

How long does the fire protection last?

When properly installed and maintained in the correct environment (interior or exterior-rated as specified), the fire retardant properties are permanent and last the lifetime of the structure.

FROM THE MAKERS OF



IF IT DOESN'T HAVE THIS YELLA TAG, YOU DON'T WANT IT.

What are the main applications for fire retardant treat lumber vs. fire retardant treated plywood?

FRT lumber: studs, blocking, roof framing members, trusses (where allowed). FRT plywood: roof sheathing, wall sheathing, decking, and soffits.

What is the difference between interior and exterior fire retardant treated wood (FRTW)?

Interior FRTW is designed for dry, protected environments. Exterior FRTW is formulated to withstand moisture and humidity without losing fire retardant performance.

What happens if fire retardant treated wood (FRTW) gets wet during construction?

Temporary wetting usually does not affect the performance of FRTW, but extended saturation should be avoided. Exterior-rated FRTW is recommended for moisture-prone environments.

How should fire retardant treated wood (FRTW) be stored on site?

Keep FRTW covered, off the ground, and dry until installation. Avoid prolonged moisture exposure for interior FRTW products.

FROM THE MAKERS OF



IF IT DOESN'T HAVE THIS YELLA TAG, YOU DON'T WANT IT.