Colchester Balefill Rules and Regulations

As of April 1, 2024

- Pressure- treated material must be kept separate from other wood and construction materials as it will go to a separate location for processing.
- Pressure - treated material can not contain any large metals attached to it. Nails, screws, joist hangers and gang nails in decking are fine. **NO** large or thick metal objects can be attached as material will be put through a wood grinder as part of the new process.
- Pressure-treated material will be charged at the garbage rate with a tip fee of $113 per tonne as it will need to be separated, ground up and sent for disposal in the Municipal Solid Waste Landfill.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Call our Solid Waste Helpline
902-895-4777

How to identify treated wood?

Creosote Timber is usually brown, tan, or black, tarry-coated beams and lumber. It may leak tar when warm. Creosote timber will often have an oily smell when new or if the wood is cut.

Pressure treated wood is typically green or brown in colour and may have small slits where the preseratives was injected into the wood during the manufacuring process.

It should be assumed that wood from the construction, renovation, or demolition of wharves, fences, decks and retaining walls, along with old telephone poles and railway ties, is treated wood.

Provincial Treated Wood Disposal Ban

Colchester
be centred here.

Burning of treated wood is NOT PERMITTED

What is treated wood?

Treated wood is wood that is chemically treated during manufacturing so that it will resist decay. During a factory treatment process, creosote, pentachlorophenol, or other chemical preservatives are injected into the wood. Treated wood does not include wood treated at home, like stained or painted wood.

Where is treated wood used in construction/demolition?

Treated wood is commonly used outside for things like telephone poles, railway ties, wharves, fences, decks, and retaining walls.

Is treated wood safe to use?

Treated wood is safe to use in outside construction applications. It is designed to keep the preservatives in the wood while it is in use.

New treated wood contains tags that identify the preservative, the amount of preservatives retained in the wood, manufacturer, suitability for in ground or above ground applications, and consumer safety information on safe use.

Consumer safety information would also be available through the retailer.

Treated wood should be disposed according to the requirements of your jurisdiction.

Why is treated wood banned from disposal at Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris disposal sites?

Treated wood is banned from disposal at C&D sites by the Province of Nova Scotia to help prevent contamination of groundwater and surface water because:

- Disposal cells can have large volumes of treated wood. A typical deck on a home requires about 1 tonne of treated wood, while a disposal facility can receive 100s of tonnes of treated wood each year.
- Over time, as treated wood decays, the chemicals that are used to preserve the wood can be released.
- Municipal solid waste landfill cells are built to prevent leakage and to detect contaminated water leakage. Contaminated water is collected and is treated before discharge into the environment. C&D debris disposal cells are not built to this same standard.

Does the disposal ban apply to new treated wood only?

No. The disposal ban applies to both new and old treated wood waste from construction or demolition activities.

When does the disposal ban become effective?

This is effective July 5, 2023.
Provincial enforcement of the disposal ban will commence July 5, 2024.

How do I dispose of treated wood?

It is recommended that you keep treated wood separate during a construction, renovation, or demolition project. This makes it easier to manage and may reduce your disposal costs.
If treated wood is in good condition, think about reusing it.
If you have to dispose of treated wood, it's a good idea to check with the disposal facility before you bring it to them. C&D debris disposal sites can still accept treated wood for shipment to landfill. However, they may require you to separate out the treated wood from the other wood and C&D debris