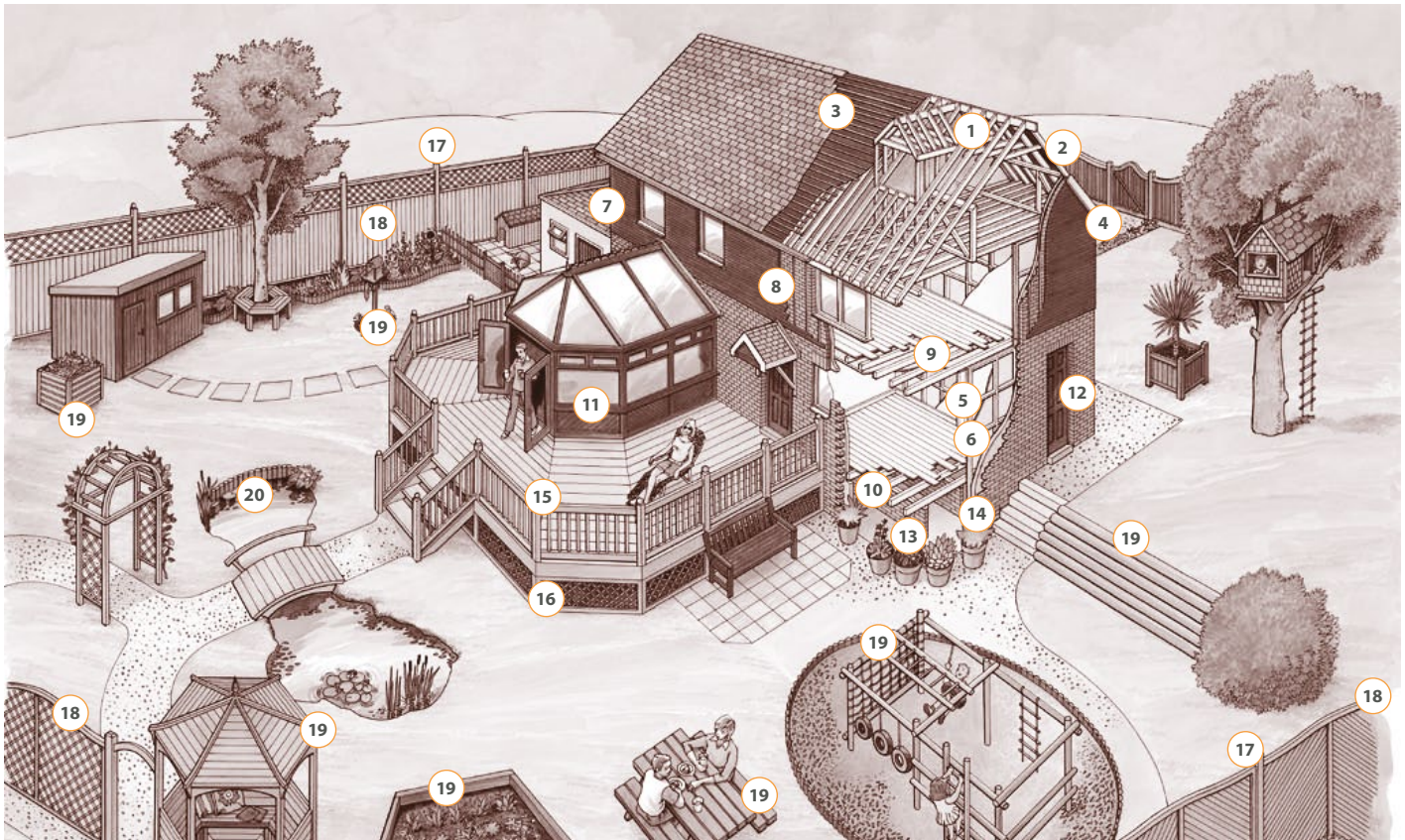


What's the right treatment Use Class for the job?



Key

	Application	Class
1	Roof timbers (dry)	1
2	Roof timbers (risk of wetting)	2
3	Tiling battens	2
4	Barge boards, fascias, soffits	3c
5	Timber frame components (except sole plates)	2
6	Frame sheathing (plywoods)	2
7	External cladding	3
8	Battens for external cladding	2
9	First floor joists	1
10	Ground floor joists	2
11	External joinery	3c
12	External doors	3c
13	Sole plates above dpc	2
14	Sole plates below dpc	4
15	Decking (out of ground contact)	3
16	Decking (in ground contact)	4
17	Fence posts	4
18	Fence panels	3
19	Garden products	3-4
20	Garden products (in water contact)	4

Ask your supplier for evidence that the timber has been treated appropriately for its end use.

Use Class 4

Ask your supplier whether the timber has been treated appropriately for its end use.

Timbers destined for Use Class 4 situations will be permanently exposed to wetting in either ground or fresh water contact.

For optimum durability it is important to ensure the correct specification has been used. Make sure you ask for timber treated to Use Class 4.



Treatment processes and preservative chemicals

The chemicals used in wood preservatives comply with current EU regulations. They contain specifically targeted biocides that are designed to present a minimum hazard to the wider environment. There are two main types of pre-treatment processes, both carried out by timber suppliers, merchants or joinery companies, in enclosed and strictly controlled industrial vessels.

Vacuum, high-pressure treatment

Suitable for the full range of end uses, but particularly for external applications. Both in and out of ground contact, it provides a 15 to 60-year service life. The preservative is forced deep into the cellular structure of the timber, which generally has a green tint. Additives can give either a rich brown colour, usually for fencing and landscaping timbers, or extra water repellency for decorative external timbers, such as decking and cladding timbers.

Double vacuum, low-pressure treatment

Used for building and joinery timbers in Use Classes 1, 2 and 3c to deliver a 30 to 60-year service life. Treatment provides an effective 'envelope' protection around the timber and leaves the colour virtually unchanged. A colour indicator, as well as water-repellency, can be added to the treatment if required.

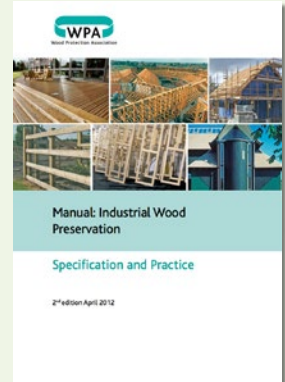


Further information and advice

See other Timber Trade Topic sheets and information on www.woodcampus.co.uk:

- Cladding
- Decking
- In the Garden

Find more information at www.wood-protection.org including a free download of the WPA manual *Industrial Wood Protection*.



Sustainable timber

Timber is the most sustainable mainstream building product. It is naturally renewable. Over 90% of timber used in UK construction comes from Europe, where more trees are grown than harvested (*source: TTF Statistical Review 2016*).

Softwood and temperate hardwood forests in Scandinavia, Europe, Canada and North America are stable or growing. Growing forests act as carbon sinks; wood products act as carbon stores.

Ask for PEFC or FSC Chain of Custody certification.

See Wood Campus RIBA CPD module *Procuring Sustainable Timber* for more on timber certification and sustainability and government requirements.



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This Topic sheet provides general advice only and is not specific to the requirements of a particular building project. It is the builder's responsibility to check compliance with building regulations and standards. Care has been taken to ensure the information is accurate and up-to-date. However, neither Wood Campus, nor any of its collaborators, can be held responsible for any mistakes or omissions.