Advancements in color-treated lumber provide new options

Homeowners are eagerly looking for new building products that provide more value, less maintenance, and less impact on the environment. With decking, it seems the only new advancements dealers and builders are talking about concern synthetic decks. Although composite and PVC decking have gained market share in recent years, pressure treated wood decking still carries the lion’s share of the market because it’s inexpensive, easy to work with, and can be found at any lumberyard.

Of course, pressure treated decking suppliers still have plenty of reason to boast. With the advent of an environmentally preferred treating chemical in micronized copper azole (MCA), treated lumber decking is viewed by many as the most cost effective, eco-friendly and easy-to-install option. MCA-treated lumber provides a light, natural look, unlike other treatments and treatments of the past that displayed a greenish hue.

And now, newly formulated color-infused pressure treated lumber is on the cusp of becoming mainstream; it provides a unique low-cost choice for dealers and builders, and a great way to add margin to the bottom line. What’s more, it gives homeowners another option when choosing their deck material. Best of all, it doesn’t require a topical stain to enhance the woods appearance.

However, color-treated wood is not new. Osmose, a leader in wood preservative technologies, has been providing color-treating solutions for years. In fact, Universal Forest Products has been producing colored wood fencing for nearly a decade. And today’s pigmented colorant system is far superior and much more reliable than the older dye-based formulation.

ProWood Dura Color pressure treated lumber helps fill the gap between everyday treated wood decking, cedar or redwood decking, and high-end synthetic decking. Color-treating technology has helped lumber decking make significant strides just in the last two years. It’s a better look for a treated lumber deck.

The Dura Color treating process provides a rich cedar-tone or redwood-tone appearance that doesn’t fade to gray, unlike cedar or redwood. In fact, it’s guaranteed to retain its color.

In addition to new color-treating options and environmental certifications, new water-repellant stabilizer additives are helping MCA-treated wood decking resist the effects of weathering.

More than just decking, color-treated lumber allows dealers and pros to increase margin in virtually any dimensional lumber and with finished goods like fencing and pergolas.

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Patent for MicroShades
Osmose has been issued a patent by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office for its MicroShades micronized color technology for treated wood products.

The new patent involves a method using micronized iron oxide color pigments for treated wood, and complements other patents Osmose has received for its MicroPro wood preservation technology.