

Reducing Mold in the Supply Channel: Proper Storage and Handling Practices for Lumber

Weyerhaeuser is an industry leader in the use of mold resistant coatings for wood products. Solutions like Weyerhaeuser Framer Series® Lumber and Pro Series™ Lumber which are protected with an anti-mold and anti-sapstain agent significantly reduce the occurrence of mold throughout the supply chain, especially when paired with good inventory practices in the yard and on the jobsite.



Untreated lumber (at left) exposed to moisture can become a costly problem. Lumber protected with an effective anti-mold and anti-sapstain solution (at right) combined with good inventory control practices addresses this problem.

Mold is a simple microscopic organism that can grow on building materials including gypsum board, wallpaper, insulation, carpet and wood products. The key factors for mold growth are oxygen, temperatures exceeding 40° F, and moisture content above 19%. Since little can be done to impact oxygen or temperature levels, protecting wood from moisture is critical to preventing mold growth.

Partnering for Prevention

Wood protected with anti-mold agents significantly retard mold growth when compared to un-treated products. However, when moisture conditions exceed 19% for an extended period of time, mold can take root. What you can do:

- Keep bundles in a well drained area.
- Protect bundles from direct moisture exposure by placing them under wrap, tarp or other vapor-permeable material, preferably under a covered structure
- Inspect wrap or covering regularly for holes and gaps

- During transit to the jobsite, ensure products stay wrapped or covered.
- Do not store wood products in direct contact with the ground.
- On the jobsite, do not open bundles until time of installation and rewrap unused partial bundles.
- Minimize jobsite moisture exposure.

Water and Moisture Exposure

Protecting wood products from exposure to moisture requires vigilance and teamwork by all parties in the supply chain. If lumber becomes wet or shows signs of mold, clean thoroughly and eliminate the moisture source. Allow framing material to dry below 19% moisture content before installation.

By using lumber from Weyerhaeuser with anti-mold and anti-sapstain protection, and by following good inventory practices, you can keep wood products clean, bright and free of mold.

