

# Builder's MATE



FREE TO ALL BUILDERS

Issue 8A November 2004

## Treated timber

Are you using the right stuff in the right place?



In addition to the end markings, colour is used to further identify H1.2 and H3.1 treatments. The H1.2 shown here is blue, H4 requires no colour but added markings on the face or edge.

Timber used to grow on trees but now we're not so sure. In the past year it has got harder to keep up with what's available and what's required.

Here are the things that every piece of treated timber (except packets made up of different small amounts) must have clearly marked on them:

- treatment plant number – tells you what plant treated the timber
- preservative type code number – tells you what chemical has been used
- hazard class – tells you what the timber can be used for
- the WOODmark® trademark is optional but confirms the treatment has been carried out under the quality assurance standards of the New Zealand Timber Preservation Council.

### Recognise the markings

The preservative code and hazard class are important: it's up to you to recognise the markings and understand where they can be used.

Be warned, this can be confusing – there are many types of chemical treatment available. NZS 3640 gives all the treatment types but you're probably better off concentrating on the treatment levels and usage.

Because end brands are usually cut off in the frame and truss factory, there is an additional requirement of colour for H1.2 framing and H3.1 which must be either coloured or marked on a face or edge at 1500 mm centres. The marking must be a permanent ink mark, an impressed

*Continued on p2*

## Industry News

### On top of the world

Skellerup Industries Ltd have entered the pitched roof market in New Zealand by recently acquiring the exclusive New Zealand distributorship for CertainTeed Asphalt Roofing systems. CertainTeed products have been imported into New Zealand since 1984 and have been installed in homes nationwide. Skellerup CertainTeed Shingles are BRANZ-appraised.

### Building Act seminars

Parts of the new Building Act 2004 come into force on 30 November 2004. The Act gives more definition as to who can do what in the industry and gives more strength to the Code Compliance Certificate (CCC). It also outlines the areas of construction that can only be carried out or supervised by licensed building practitioners. It is an important piece of legislation that should be understood by all builders. Look out for BRANZ seminars on the subject being held throughout New Zealand early in the New Year.

## HAMMER 'N' NAILS



*Inside: Win a heavy-duty roller bench mitre saw stand worth \$1000!*

These three stacks of timber are all H1.2. One is blue (faded), one is pink and one has clear face markings identifying it.



mark, a burnt mark or a plastic tag. Items that don't need marking are fence battens, mouldings and timber smaller than 1250 mm<sup>2</sup> in cross-section (eg: no bigger than a 25 mm x 50 mm batten, this includes cavity battens). Bundled fence palings, pickets and battens must be packet-branded.

### Finding the brand

Here's where you'll find the brands:

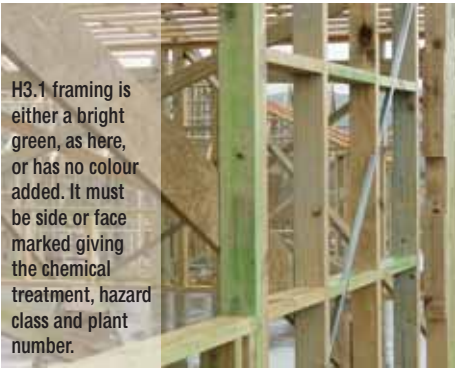
- sawn or machined timber: on one end or 150 mm from an end on the broad face, or along the stick at 1500 mm centres, or packet-branded
- house piles: one-third of the way along the length of the timber, from and facing the top
- posts: one end of each piece.

The typical uses guidelines given below are general only. Refer to NZS 3602 for specific usage.

Kiln-dried untreated timber, H1.1, H3.1 and H3.2 have no added colour tint requirement, although the CCA treatment to H3.2 will turn it green because of the copper content in the treatment. When H3.1 is tinted, it is bright green. The blue of H1.2 is often pale and almost green in appearance. Take the time to check the markings, it is important. If timber has no colour and no edge branding then it is either untreated or treated against insect attack only.

### Safety apparatus

Lastly, remember to wear gloves, goggles and a mask when you are using treated timber outside. Inside, you may need a carbon-filtered respirator to protect you from fumes when using timber treated with a solvent-based preservative.



Treatment levels	Protection against	Typical use	Colour
H1.1	Insects	Interior wall framing and finishing timbers	No added colour
H1.2*	Insects, fungal decay	Exterior wall framing and parapets in all but low-risk, single-storey masonry veneer buildings Enclosed framing within skillion roofs Subfloor framing	Boron (water-based treatment): pink LOSP (solvent-based): blue
H3.1	Insects, fungal decay	Enclosed framing within flat roofs Framing for enclosed decks and balconies Framing within enclosed balustrades Some framing supporting decks and balconies	Either green tint added, or no colour, but branded on face or edge
H3.2	Insects, fungal decay	As H3.1 but also exposed structural members (lintels, beams, rafters, etc) Unroofed decking and external stairs, handrails and balustrades	None added – natural green copper colour
H4	Borers, fungal decay	Fence posts Landscape timbers	None added – natural green copper colour
H5	Borers, fungal decay	House piles Poles crib walling	None added – natural green copper colour

\* Accredited proprietary timbers may have different colours and markings.

(Based on Table 3.1 from NZS 3640)

*Need a hand? If you've got a building problem that needs fixing, get on the blower to Eddie Bruce at BRANZ advisory helpline!*  
**Builders call 0800 80 80 85 Home owners call 0900 5 90 90**  
(0900 calls cost \$ 1.99 per minute plus GST)

**Next issue Concrete slabs – preparation is the key!**  
Builder's Mate out January 1, 2005. Don't miss it!

# Lead the way

Tangled and twisted leads are a pain to work with. Learn to store yours correctly and you'll save on time and the frustration of having to untangle them next time around.

Your loops should never be made around your elbow, that's the way of the DIYer. Instead, take an arm's length of cord and gather it towards you.



As you bring the loops together give the lead a slight twist between your thumb and forefinger. This will ensure each loop hangs straight.



A second twist may be necessary as you collect the loops together.



Make long, straight loops of even length. This will prevent the lead tangling when it's pulled out for use.



To finish, wind a couple of loops around the body of the coil and tuck the end through the top. Your lead is now ready to hang or store.





# Watch that bottom line



Plaster cladding to polystyrene block is one instance where the cladding may end up below ground

What happens along the bottom of walls is a concern of all cladding systems. Plaster on polystyrene block is one cladding that can end up below ground.

For most claddings, some clearance is required between the bottom of the cladding and the finished ground level outside the building.

It is important that any plaster coating is not continued directly into the ground. There must be a break in the plaster and it should be considered as a protective coating only below the break. The required Building Code ground clearances between the ground and the bottom edge of the plaster cladding must be adhered to e.g. 175 mm to unpaved ground.

## Absorbing moisture

A cladding that falls into this category is the plaster finish to:

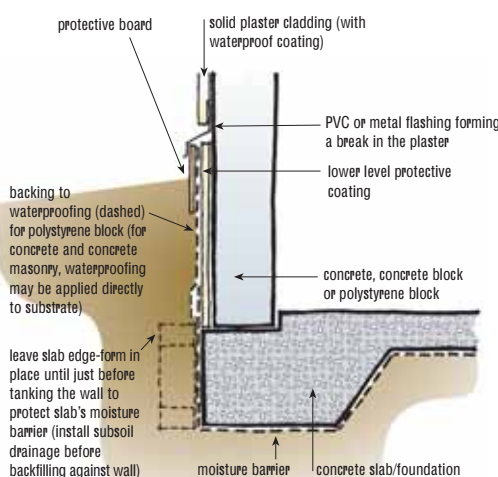
- structural polystyrene block
- concrete masonry or pre-cast concrete.

The worrying thing about solid plaster being taken below ground is that the plaster will absorb moisture

from the ground. This moisture will then be drawn up through the material by capillary action and adversely affect building materials that should be kept dry.

## Install a flashing

To avoid moisture from rising, a break or flashing needs to be installed into the plaster, as shown below, and all material below ground must be effectively tanked to keep the substrate materials dry.



Flashed detail where solid plaster cladding is taken below finished ground level.



## Dribblings from the old Beezer

I recently observed a scenario that made me think: some pre-nailed frames delivered to a job were disgraceful. The on-site team were full of scorn for those who had put them together. But they did nothing about it, deciding instead to use the frames and avoid delays.

It would have been more beneficial to the industry if the frames had been rejected. The builder should have demanded they be remade and any time delays compensated for. The framers, to protect what was left of their reputation, would then have made the job a priority, and putting it right could have helped save their standing.

Instead, the framers were not given the opportunity to examine their work, find out where their quality control had failed them, or put the matter right – all of which would have improved their standards and resulted in better products being delivered to the industry.

Accepting the frames without going back to the source has only allowed such poor practices to continue. No arsars have been kicked – and they should have been.

Des Molloy, BRANZ technical writer

## Product information

### On the level



A nifty little tool from CR Kennedy (NZ) Ltd is this RoboTool RoboVector that gives you level, plumb and square reference points. Features

include an automatic levelling mechanism, an out-of-level sensor and accessories that let you mount the RotoVector on different surfaces, including metal studs, wooden beams and tripods. RRP is \$499. For stockists call (09) 276 3271.



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visit [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz) to find out more.

# win! a roller bench mitre saw stand worth \$1000!



Just what you need to make working with a mitre saw that much easier. Fully adjustable and made of aluminium and steel for light weight and strength. Can be adjusted to fit most brands of mitre saws. Adjustable support wings with built-in stops. Folds quickly and easily for transporting. (Mitre saw not included.)



*What is the name of this tool and what is it used for?*

Terms and conditions: Entry is open to all New Zealand residents, except employees and immediate families of BRANZ Ltd., BRANZ Inc, BRANZ Pty and the product manufacturer. The competition will close at 9am on Friday, December 10 2004. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. BRANZ may, from time to time, send you information about our products. You can contact us at any time if you do not wish to receive this information.

We've got together with The Tool Shed to offer this free to the person who can tell us the name of the mystery tool and what it's used for. Send your answer – don't forget to tell us where you picked up your copy of Builder's Mate – on the back on an envelope and post it (you don't need a stamp) before December 10 to Builder's Mate, Mystery Tool competition, FREEPOST BRANZ, Private Bag 50908, Porirua City.

The winner's name will be the first correct entry drawn at 9am on Friday, December 10. Details will be posted on BRANZ website ([www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)) and in the next edition of Builder's Mate, due out on January 1 – don't miss it!

## Winners all!



Winner of the Bosch angle grinder offered in BM6 is George Skimming from Wellington, pictured, with The Tool Shed's Terry Robson (left) and the Old Geezer from BRANZ (right). George correctly identified our mystery tool as a veneer saw.

S Winterton from Melrose, Wellington is the winner of our BM7 competition. The prize is a DeWalt radio and charger. Our mystery tool was a floor board saw.

## Blokes on the job



**Errol Wallis**, happy in a cherrypicker with all the safety gear attached

**Favourite tool** 9 1/4 inch Makita skilly. It has needed only one set of brushes in 28 years - and a new cord (oops!)

**Favourite tip** 1. Always use a sharp blade; 2. Never let your employer down; 3. Don't over-work concrete.



**Mike Foothead**, building in Porirua

**Favourite tool** his Hitachi combination slide saw with a laser marker which gives absolute accuracy and is great for finishing work.

**Favourite tip** Never hand over the keys to the client until the payment is in your hand. A co-worker chipped in with 'choose your workers well because you'll spend more time with them than your wife.'



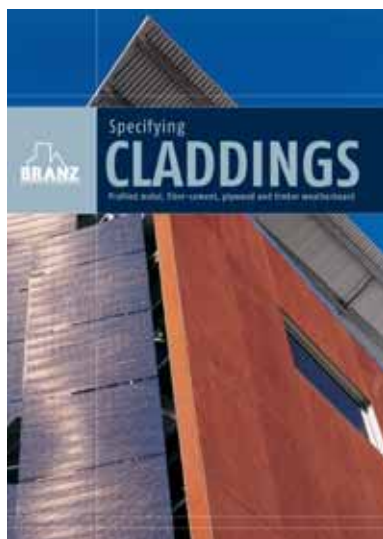
**Nga Tou**, building a reservoir in Khandallah

**Favourite tool** Estwing hammer because, he says, you can't build anything without a good hammer.

Know a bloke on the job? Send us his picture, plus details of his favourite tool and tip and you could win \$50 worth of BRANZ publications.

## Specifying Claddings

DUE OUT NOV



The LATEST information from BRANZ on what you need to know about effectively specifying claddings.

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