



# DO-IT-YOURSELF WORKSHOP

## Tips For Building An Outdoor Wooden Structure

(NAPSA)—Do-it-yourselfers across the country are spending their free time on outdoor projects that improve the utility and value of outdoor living environments. If you are a do-it-yourselfer planning to build an outdoor wooden structure such as a playset, deck, picnic table, gazebo or fence that beautifies your yard and can be enjoyed by your family for years to come, there are some basic tips to follow.

Before beginning any outdoor building project, check local building codes. This will save you the trouble and cost of remodeling if your structure does not meet building codes.

Also, contact local utility companies to arrange for them to mark any underground water, sewer, gas, electric and telephone lines so that you do not accidentally strike one while digging a foundation for your structure.

Next, research your project. Obtain project plans that will help guide you as you build the structure. Plans are available from Web sites, books, magazines, lumber associations or home improvement retailers.

It is also important to use the correct building materials and tools for the structure. With its natural beauty, superior structural properties, resistance to decay and termites, ability to be painted or stained to match any color scheme and lower cost compared to other building materials, preserved wood is the preferred choice of many builders and homeowners.

A new generation of preserved wood protected with ACQ (alkaline copper quaternary) that does not contain arsenic or chromium is now widely available throughout the country. Marketed under the Preserve brand, ACQ-preserved wood offers builders and consumers a durable building material suitable for a wide variety of applications where protection against decay and termites is required. For additional protection against weathering, Preserve



**Outdoor structures made with preserved wood can beautify gardens and homes.**

Plus with built-in water repellent is also available in a variety of lumber sizes suitable for decking, hand rails and general construction applications.

Regardless of what materials are used to construct your deck or other outdoor structure, be sure the fasteners you choose are appropriate for outdoor use. Fasteners appropriate for use outdoors include hot-dipped galvanized or stainless steel fasteners. Decking screws and other fasteners are also available with protective coatings designed for long-term performance even when exposed to the weather.

Seal your wooden structure with either a sealant, which prevents wood from absorbing water and delays the weathering process, or a stain, which colors and seals the wood. Semitransparent sealants and stains work best on preserved wood. Inspect your structure once or twice a year and make repairs as soon as you spot damage. Proper maintenance will save you time and money.

Once you have completed the project, invite your family and friends over to enjoy your new outdoor environment. Properly constructed and maintained, your new outdoor project will provide years of enjoyment for you and your family.

For more information about project plans or preserved wood, visit [www.treatedwood.com](http://www.treatedwood.com).