

POSTSAVER®



All types of wood—including this cedar post—benefit from Postsaver's protections from in-ground enemies.

Postsaver® is a non-toxic, environmentally-friendly barrier for protecting both treated and untreated lumber in below-ground post applications. Here's how it works: The vulnerable area of the post is shrink-wrapped with a heavy-duty polyethylene boot coated on the inside with bitumen. The heat-shrinking process liquifies the bitumen and drives it into the wood. This provides a secondary moisture-resistant layer. The polyethylene outer layer provides the tough physical barrier. This all happens at licensed distribution and applications facilities (all of which are third-party monitored).

The result: Wood posts are protected from elements that cause ground-contact decay, since the Postsaver "boot" is impervious to wood-destroying organisms found in the soil. Plus, the boots provide an absolute barrier that minimizes the migration of preservatives into the environment, which helps the preservatives stay available to protect the critical ground line area where decay usually occurs. Bottom line: Consumers can expect to at least double the service life of their posts.

"When people take the time and expense to build a deck, fence, pole barn—or anything else that'll be anchored to the ground—they want to know that it's going to last. While wood treated with below-ground retention levels is one solution, the fact is that posts made from alternative materials—plastic, composites or steel—continue to take market share away from wood," explains General Manager John Makuvek. "This is true despite the fact that alternatives cost much more than traditional forest products. Postsaver gives wood the opportunity to get back in the game. Plus, it gives dealers the opportunity to earn healthy margins on an otherwise low-margin product, and provides them with an environmentally friendly product that fits the fast-growing 'green' marketplace."

Postsaver is intended for use with:

- **Pressure-treated posts.** Postsaver complements pressure-treated posts by providing an environmentally-friendly barrier around the wood that makes it impossible for chemicals to leach into the soil. Plus, the preservatives are available where decay usually occurs—at the critical ground line area. Makuvek says treaters like it because it allows them to use above-ground retention levels for below-ground applications.
- **Naturally durable wood.** Since Postsaver physically isolates timber from ground contact, it will significantly increase the life of naturally durable woods.
- **Cement.** While posts in cement appear solid and durable, the alkaline nature of cement can cause post deterioration. Postsaver's tough polyethylene boot provides a barrier between the cement and the post in even the harshest environments.



By extending several inches above ground, as shown in this picture, Postsaver helps protect lumber at the ground line, where decay is most common.

Unlike most products featured on this page each month, Postsaver isn't new. In fact, it is patented in 15 countries and has been sold for years in Europe. Makuvek tells LBM Journal that Postsaver is in the approval process with the ASTM Fence Committees, the ICC, and the AWP.

Currently available in western and mid-atlantic markets, Postsaver is in the process of expanding production and distribution throughout North America.

To learn more, visit www.PostsaverUSA.com or call 610.681.6451.

—Staff report