

POSTSAVER® USA Continues To Increase Applications



Andy Pisulak and Barry Hoffman at Advanced Solutions LLC in Palmerton, Pa., accept delivery of the company's Postsaver application machinery.

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Postsaver® products are environmentally friendly. Not only does the system function as a barrier to prevent decay, it also functions as a barrier to keep any preservatives in.

Lebanon, Pa.—Since its recent introduction into the United States, Postsaver USA continues to provide its unique technology to lumber producers, treatment plants and distributors to many parts of the country. Recently, Postsaver USA expanded into the mid-Atlantic market by commissioning a new application facility in Palmerton, Pa. The plant is owned and operated by Advanced Solutions LLC.

Postsaver® is a patented invention. Scientific testing proves that Postsaver products will eliminate ground contact decay and significantly increase the service life of in-ground wood. It's not a product that's sold separately in stores, but it's an enhancement that lumber producers can offer to their customer base pre-installed via a patented heat application process.

Here's how it works. The product is composed of two layers—an inner layer composed of melted bitumen which adheres to the wood, and an outer layer composed of a tough UV stabilized polyethylene wrap which is heat shrunk to the bitumen under-layer. The product only covers the ground contact area, but it protects the post because it actually separates the wood from the elements that cause ground contact decay (product information, testing and technical papers are posted on the company's website: www.postsaverusa.com).

Postsaver® products are environmentally friendly. Not only does the system function as a barrier to prevent decay, it also functions as a barrier to keep any preservatives in. This benefit is a compliment to treated posts and poles because it helps to keep the wood's preservative chemicals more available at the ground line area where decay usually occurs. For those thinking green, the barrier will help to reduce the migration of preservative chemicals from leaving the treated wood and entering the soil.

This past summer, Postsaver USA was invited to Washington, D.C. to present the green properties of their barrier wrap technology before the 2006 United States Green Chemistry Conference. Moreover, Postsaver USA was recently evaluated and considered for the USEPA's Presidential Green Chemistry

Challenge Award (*Postsaver products will reduce the overall usage of chemicals to help minimize the introduction of harmful chemicals and biocides into the environment. Longer service life for in-ground wood products require fewer trees to be harvested*).

Postsaver® products can be easily applied to durable heartwood species like Cedar, Redwood or Cypress. The Postsaver enhancement will provide a significant increase to the post's service life. One can expect the wrapped post to perform as long as non-durable wood treated with preservatives for ground contact use. Now producers can offer a value added product to their customers and end user customers can enjoy the functional and aesthetic benefits of natural wood – for a very long time.

Postsaver USA is currently pursuing standardization within the American Wood Preservers' Assoc. (AWPA), the ASTM and International Code Council (ICC-ES) for building code compliance. Draft documents have been submitted and the company is proceeding through the approval process.

Barrier wrap technology has been around for more than 40 years, and Postsaver technology for almost a decade. Postsaver is unlike typical wood preservative groundline remedial treatment wraps because it does not contain additional toxic preservatives to supplement a preservative that may have already leached from wood in service. Instead, the Postsaver product is applied to new wood by use of a mechanical applicator prior to reaching the market.

This fall, Postsaver USA plans to intro-

duce their next generation of application machinery to the North American market. Ed Hicks, director of technical operations for Postsaver USA, states that the equipment offers our customers greater production capabilities and production efficiencies. Hicks also mentioned that their new technologies will allow applicators the flexibility to install wider and longer boot sizes.

John Makuvek, general manager of the company, said the Postsaver system offers an exciting new environment for

new treatment technologies and processes to evolve from. He said it is very possible that their barrier wrap technology will help pave the way for safer and more effective treatment methods in the near future.