



## AWPA Use Category System

The American Wood-Preservers' Association, which establishes the standards for preservatives and treated wood, is introducing a new Use Category system, based on the service conditions for wood rather than on wood commodities. It is designed to reduce confusion among specifiers and consumers. Most building codes reference AWPA standards, so the Use Category system will replace the Commodity standards in codes. Following is a summary of AWPA Use Categories. Shown in yellow are ongoing uses for CCA-treated wood.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Examples</i>
UC1	Interior, not in contact with ground or foundation	Interior furniture, millwork
UC2	Interior, subject to dampness	Interior beams, flooring, sill plate
UC3A	Exterior, above ground, coated	Plywood siding
UC3B	Exterior, above ground, may be finished	Highway bridge railing
UC4A	Exterior, ground or freshwater contact in areas with low risk	Fence posts, deck posts, poles
UC4B	Exterior, ground or freshwater contact, severe environments, high potential for deterioration	Utility poles, building poles, Permanent Wood Foundations
UC4C	Exterior, ground or freshwater contact, very severe conditions or very critical structural components	Freshwater piling, foundation piling, utility poles in semi-tropical or tropical environments
UC5A	Saltwater exposure – north of San Francisco and New Jersey	Piling, bulkheads
UC5B	Saltwater exposure – south of San Francisco on West coast, New Jersey through Georgia on East coast	Piling, bulkheads
UC5C	Saltwater exposure – south of Georgia, Gulf Coast	Piling, bulkheads
UCFA	Fire protection, weather-shielded	Framing
UCFB	Fire protection, exterior	Siding, shakes, stairways



Big enough to do the job, small enough to care.