

Tunncliffe's

Tunncliffe Timber Company Limited

Tan®E Treated Timber Safe Handling Guidelines

Tan®E treated exterior timber joinery and bee woodware products manufactured by Tunncliffe Timber Company are a range of preservative treated timber products incorporating Tanalith® E preservative from Lonza Wood Protection. The treatment level is meeting Hazard Classification H3.2 (above ground) according to NZS 3640:2003.

Tan®E preservative is a more environmental friendly alternative for the commonly known CCA preservative. Tunncliffe's specify Tan®E as it does not contain chromium and arsenic, which makes the timber more bee friendly.

Shavings and off-cuts are less problematic to dispose of yet we need to bear in mind that we are dealing with a chemical preservative, which needs to be handled responsibly.

Depending on circumstances handling any material can present us with certain hazards. These guidelines are intended to assist users of Tunncliffe's Tan®E treated products handle and use them safely and to dispose of wastes and off-cuts in a proper manner.

Guidelines:

- Avoid inhalation of wood dust during any operation where airborne residues may be generated such as high speed machining, cutting and sanding. Use a dust mask or air extraction system to minimize the levels of airborne wood dust.
- Keep the work area clean and do not allow wood dust and residues to accumulate.
- Brush sawdust off skin and clothes.
- When using power saws or machining, wear safety glasses or goggles to protect the eyes from flying particles.
- Wash hands after working with the products and before eating, drinking and smoking.
- Dispose of off-cuts, waste pieces and shavings with appropriate waste disposal services.
- Do not burn Tan®E treated shavings, wastes, off-cuts and redundant pieces for home heating or cooking fuel, or as a means of disposal. Tan®E treated timber can be burned in industrial incinerators with appropriate resource consent. It is recommended not to use the shavings or sawdust as animal litter or for composting.

Questions and Answers

What treatment is used in Tan®E?

The preservative used to protect Tan®E treated products incorporates ingredients and constituents that present low risk to humans, animals and the general environment while providing robust H3.2 level treatment to the timber. These constituents are;

- Copper (in the form of basic copper carbonate)
- Tebuconazole (a fungicide commonly used to protect seeds and crops)

Typical content of these ingredients is up to about 0.5% by mass in the wood in total. At the levels present in Tan®E treated products, none of these ingredients are expected to pose any significant risk to users and owners or the environment where used as recommended.

For further information about Tanalith® E preservative itself, see:
www.lonzawoodprotection.com/apac/tanalith-family/

Is Tan®E safe for treatment of bee hive boxes?

The Tan®E treated timber components are used to construct the outer bee hive box, and not the frames that are in contact with the honey cells. Our experience with beekeepers in New Zealand for over 10 years has not shown any adverse effects as a result of using Tan®E treated timber beehive boxes.

How do I dispose of waste and off-cuts?

Tan®E treated wastes and off-cuts are not hazardous or proscribed waste. However proper and responsible disposal of these materials is **strongly recommended**. For most residential and small trade situations, Tan®E treated waste and redundant pieces can be handled through normal municipal waste collection and disposal services.

Why is it recommended not to use Tan®E treated shavings and sawdust for animal litter or compost?

While Tan®E treated shavings and dust are not expected to present any significant risks in these situations; such residues may be indistinguishable from other wastes and residues that may contain potentially harmful or proscribed ingredients. Hence it is preferable to only use wood shavings and residues that are known not to come from untreated wood for such uses.

For further information on Tan®E treated exterior timber joinery and bee woodware products see: www.tunncliffe.co.nz

This information is provided in good faith for general guidance in handling Tan® E treated products from Tunncliffe Timber Company and is believed to be accurate and represent good industry practice. However no warranty is made, either express or implied, as to the suitability of these recommendations for any particular circumstance or the results to be obtained from the use of such information. Any user must make their own determination and satisfy themselves that the information and recommendations given by Tunncliffe's herein or its affiliates are (i) suitable for intended process and purpose and (ii) in compliance with environmental, health and safety regulations. Tunncliffe reserves the right to delete, amend or add to any of the details or recommendations contained in this document at any time in light of additional information and experience.

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