

# BOOKS

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DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL WOOD PRESERVATIVES: EFFICACY, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND HEALTH ISSUES. ACS Symposium Series 982. Edited by Tor P. Schultz, Holger Hilitz, Michael H. Freeman, Barry Goodell, and Darrel D. Nicholas. Oxford University Press. ISBN13: 978-0-8412-3951-7. ISBN10: 0-8412-3951-7

This collection of papers contains a useful overview of wood preservation. It is the second in this ACS series. The first, *Wood Deterioration and Preservation: Advances in our changing world*, focused on recent research in the field. This second volume is more general and more practical in its coverage of the subject.

It begins with a comprehensive summary of how wood is degraded in service, highlighted by a good chapter on weathering from Phil Evans. Some current issues in the testing of the durability of wood products are then touched upon, including a helpful chapter on the testing of wood plastic composites by Glenn Larkin and Peter Laks. There is a special section on mold, which seems slightly out of proportion in this book but which is justified by the recent emphasis by the public on mold issues. Wood preservative systems are then reviewed at some length. There is a comprehensive summary of current and emerging chemical treatments. There is also a section on nonbiocidal treatments, which includes Holger Miltz's nice overview of heat-

treatment. One of the most useful sections in the book is the discussion of the registration and standardization of preservatives. The final section on trends in wood preservation in various parts of the world provides a fitting conclusion to this book. Mike Barnes's contribution on trends in North America is nicely written and includes some history of wood preservation.

This compilation will make a nice reference book. It covers the spectrum of issues related to commercial wood preservation and includes summaries of issues that are difficult to find elsewhere (eg relating to registration and approval). The reader will gain a good sense of the current methods for wood protection and issues of concern for the future.

There are some weaknesses. The title, especially the subtitle, is not an accurate description of the contents. The book would be more correctly described as an overview of wood preservation that includes discussion of wood deterioration, wood preservative methods and their development, and future trends in wood protection. There is also some overlap among the chapters, which presumably is difficult to avoid in this type of collection. However, the biggest problem is the poor copy editing. Spel Cehcker! The many errors distracted this reviewer from what is otherwise a fine collection of papers from many of the top people working in wood preservation science and technology today.