

Consumer Notice



Mountain Pine Beetle and Blue Stain in Wood

The Mountain Pine Beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae*, is a small insect, less than a centimetre long, which lives most of its life under the bark of pine trees, including lodgepole, ponderosa, western white, and has been known to attack jack pine.

The Mountain Pine Beetle has killed and infected hundreds of thousands of hectares and cubic meters of forest throughout British Columbia and Alberta, and threatens pine trees across Canada's boreal forests.

In an effort to control the spread of the beetle governments have instructed industry to salvage target dead and infected pine forests. Consumers will begin to see more beetle killed wood products in stores across Canada. Beetle killed wood materials have a noticeable blue stain.

What is Blue Stain in Wood Products?

The Mountain Pine Beetle carries a blue stain fungi which enters the tree along with the beetle. In fact it is the fungi that actually kills the tree by literally choking the tree, clogging and preventing the movement of water and nutrients within the sapwood or the outer section of the tree.

Consumers may mistake the blue/grey stain for mold or old and inferior wood. In fact, the bluestain is harmless other than effecting the color of the wood. Wood properties such as strength, paintability, and adhesion capabilities are not affected. Almost all construction grade wood products such as dimension lumber, oriented strandboard, joists, and plywood sold in retail and wholesale stores have been processed using very high temperatures which effectively kill the blue stain fungus. There is no threat of blue stain fungus spreading to other wood products in construction.



Information on Building with Wood, Mountain Pine Beetle or Blue Stain Fungus call (780) 489-5900