



THE JOURNAL OF LIGHT CONSTRUCTION

A Builderburg Group Publication

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The Journal of Light Construction (ISSN-1056-828X; USPS-001-659) is published monthly by Builderburg Partners, Ltd., 1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20005. Periodicals-Class Postage paid at Richmond, VT, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Journal of Light Construction*, 932 West Main Street, Richmond, VT 05477. Copyright 1999 by Builderburg Partners, Ltd. All rights reserved.



JLC's

Letters

Fire Separation Assembly Not a Firewall

To the Editor:

Regarding the June '99 item on "Firewall Details" (*On the House*): According to the BOCA National Building Code, the intent of a firewall, or party wall, is to create separate buildings. To accomplish this, a firewall must be of noncombustible construction, on an independent footing and foundation, and structurally independent to afford collapse on either side.

Perhaps the author was referring to a "fire separation assembly," which separates hazards from people but does not create separate buildings. If that is the case, the article and illustrations are correct.

Kelly Reynolds, President
Kelly P. Reynolds & Associates
Chicago, Ill.

Thank you for the clarification; the intent of the article was to illustrate construction of a "fire separation assembly," such as a common wall in a townhouse.

— The Editors

What Happened to Retention Numbers?

To the Editor:

At first I read the article on preserved wood (*Notebook*, 4/99) with amusement, which turned to irritation, and finally to alarm. My concern is that none of the "use categories" set forth any treatment standards for chemicals, penetration, or retention. What kind of standards are being proposed that don't cover these

items? What is a typical application that covers the whole nation? I assure you the needs in Vermont and Hawaii are totally different.

May I be rude and suggest the *Journal* do some investigation on the new "super simple" classification, and make sure your subscribers keep out of trouble?

Elmer Botsai, FAIA
Honolulu, Hawaii

The American Wood Preservers Association's (AWPA) new "use category" system does not eliminate access to basic information on the depth and volume of preservative penetration. According to AWPA's John Hall, each piece of treated wood should have a treater's stamp or end tag that provides the information, and it is also listed in the appendices of all AWPA standards. Standard C-15 covers treated wood products used in residential and commercial construction and is available for \$12 (www.awpa.com; 800/699-9277).

— The Editors

Sidewinder Blade Guard Problem

To the Editor:

I enjoyed your article on sidewinders (6/99), but was dismayed by the positive position taken toward the Bosch saw. I recently purchased its slightly more simplified version (model #1658) and quickly discovered that the leading edge of the blade guard is of a configuration that frequently stops the saw at the beginning of a cut, or causes it to lift off the board being cut. Secondly, the thinness of its edge can, if I'm cutting a series of grooves in the top of a

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board, cause it to jam in one of them.

My complaints to their representatives went politely unheeded. I tried making modifications, but to no avail, and eventually purchased the new Milwaukee saw, a great tool.

Since this episode, I've observed the blade guards of most of Bosch's competitors, and they all exhibit some careful design and construction intended to deal with these issues. This all seems very fundamental, and I wonder, if it is true they are unaware of this problem, just how they test and refine their designs to allow such an oversight.

Robert Beauchamp
Eugene, Ore.

Marvin Speaks Out on Lawsuit

To the Editor:

The article, "Marvin Court Case Against PPG Dismissed" (*Notebook*, 6/99) tells the story of a lawsuit. The real story is about how our company has been fighting for our customers.

Due to legal technicalities seized upon by PPG, we have not yet had our day in court to tell about the failure of PPG's PILT wood preservative to perform as promised to us. We consider PPG's actions to have been fraudulent and contrary to their warranties and representations.

The failure of the preservative led to premature rot in some of our products. As a result, because of our basic business ethic to stand behind our products, we have replaced products or provided discounts to our affected customers. We expected that PPG would do the same.

Although the windows in question were outside of the standard warranty period, Marvin did not back away from a legitimate customer concern. Every claim has been investigated and, to date, we have spent tens of millions of

dollars on our repair and replacement program, with no contribution by PPG.

Our approach has been consistent — to provide quality and value to builders and homeowners. One verdict is clear: Marvin remains willing to help consumers when no one else will.

Susan I. Marvin, President
Marvin Windows
Warroad, Minn.

Subscriber for Life

To the Editor:

I found a copy of your magazine at a used bookstore a couple of years ago, and have been a subscriber ever since. Your articles are well written and well supported by illustrations and photos. But I have to say that the cover of the June issue made me a subscriber for life. I've been involved in construction or woodworking for over 20 years, usually the only woman on any job I worked. Your cover illustrates, without fanfare or qualification, that skilled tradeswomen are out there working in construction and loving it.

For many of us it's been a long fight for acceptance. Though some of your readers may never appreciate the value of that photo, it will forever stay with me. For women interested in the trades, Oregon Tradeswomen Network at www.tradeswomen.net is ready to help.

Kathryn Merritt
Portland, Ore.

KEEP 'EM COMING! Letters must be signed and include the writer's address. *The Journal of Light Construction* reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, and clarity. Mail letters to *JLC*, 932 West Main St., Richmond, VT 05477; or e-mail to jlc@bginet.com.



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