



Leaky Building Samples

If you have specific problems with decay in a leaky building, contact Veritec before sending samples. If the results are likely to be used in court, it is important to state this when the sample is sent in. This ensures that proper chain of custody can be followed. You will need to send more than two samples.

To collect a sample:

- Cut a piece of timber from a dry or protected area if possible.
- Avoid cutting samples from an area that has knots or heartwood (ie. compressed growth rings which indicate the centre rings of a tree or areas with obvious high resin content.)
- Avoid cutting a sample from the end of a protruding piece of timber.

To label the sample:

- Keep label as short and clear as possible.
- Clearly state whether the sample is interior or exterior.
- State for what structural function the sample was used.
- Mention any labels that have been applied to the wood relating to treatment.

Know the rules:

- A 10% failure rate is accepted where treatment is applied. This means that one in ten samples that you send may be "legally" without any detectable chemical treatment.
- Some treatments are highly susceptible to leaching. Just because no treatment chemicals have been detected does not mean it has not been treated.
- Some treatments have an expected lifetime. If the timber has been in place more than 10 years, it is more than likely past its "use by" date.
- We cannot tell you that a sample has not been treated; we can only tell you that no treatment chemicals have been detected.

For more information, contact Kevin Hing at the New Zealand Timber Preservation Council Inc. (04 4735 200)

Send samples to: Veritec, c/o Scion, Private Bag 3020, Sala Street, Rotorua