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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### **Select proper hardware when building with treated lumber**

(ST. PAUL) – With warmer weather on the way, Minnesota construction code officials are cautioning people about the need to properly select hardware for decks and other projects that utilize treated lumber.

“According to the lumber and hardware industries, the newer chemicals being used to treat wood approved for outdoor use may be considerably more corrosive to metal than wood previously treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA),” said Tom Joachim, State Building Official in the Department of Administration. “Builders, suppliers, homeowners and others need to be aware that there are specific recommendations by the manufacturers of these products for nails, fasteners, hangers and other hardware that comes into contact with the wood. In addition, metal surfaces such as flashing, windows and doors, which may be in contact with treated wood products, need to be carefully selected because of the potential for corrosion,” Joachim added.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in early 2002 announced a voluntary decision by the lumber industry for transitioning to arsenic-free products. The most common treatments today are alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ), copper azole and sodium borate. The transition addresses virtually all residential uses of treated wood, including play structures, decks, lawn furniture, landscaping, fencing and boardwalks.

The Building Codes and Standards Division web site ([www.buildingcodes.admin.state.mn.us](http://www.buildingcodes.admin.state.mn.us)) includes a resource web link contact list and an updated brochure outlining guidelines for deck planning. The information is also accessible from the Department of Administration web site, [www.admin.state.mn.us](http://www.admin.state.mn.us). The Minnesota State Building Code references the American Wood Preservers Association ([www.awpa.com](http://www.awpa.com)), which has published information about the issue and includes links on its web site to several wood products companies.

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