

PACBOR® Lumber and Plywood

American Wood Protection Association (“AWPA”) Summary Information

PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY. IF YOU ARE SPECIFYING PRODUCTS, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU GO DIRECTLY TO THE MOST CURRENT AWPA BOOK OF STANDARDS FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION.

PACBOR® is a brand name of wood treated with inorganic boron (also referred to as borates, Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate (“DOT”) or SBX). Listings in the AWPA Book of Standards (“AWPA BOS”) typically refer to it as “SBX”. SBX is specified at two retentions, either for general use, or at a higher retention for use in areas where Formosan Termites may be present (for instance, Hawaii or some areas of Louisiana).

AWPA Borate Standards -- Simplified			
The American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) standards specify two different retentions for borate-treated wood. The lower retention is .25 pounds per cubic foot of DOT (Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate) or .17 pounds per cubic foot of SBX (inorganic boron, the active ingredient in DOT). In areas where Formosan termites may be a threat, AWPA standard recommend a higher retention of .42 pcf of DOT or .28 pcf of SBX. The chart below clarifies these standards:			
	DOT (Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate)	SBX (Inorganic Boron, the active ingredient in DOT, also referred to as B₂O₃)	Please note that .25 pcf of DOT is the same retention as .17 pcf of SBX or B ₂ O ₃ , it is just another way of expressing the information. Likewise, .42 pcf of DOT is the same retention as .28 pcf of SBX or B ₂ O ₃ .
Standard Retention	.25 pcf	.17 pcf	
Formosan Termite extra protection retention	.42 pcf	.28 pcf	

Other important information about borates:

1. Borates may only be used in Use Category 1 (Interior/Dry) or Use Category 2 (Interior Damp). Borates are not approved for use in exterior applications, either above ground or with ground contact. This is because the borates tend to diffuse over time when in contact with moisture for prolonged periods of time.
2. Borates are manufactured with water as a carrier for the preservative. The AWPA BOS lists borates under its P5 standard, the standard for waterborne preservatives.
3. Why choose borate-treated wood? Borates have low mammalian toxicity, are economical and have a long history of effectively treating the difficult to treat west coast species of Hem-fir and Douglas fir. They are perhaps the best choice for interior framing lumber and are used almost exclusively for this purpose in Hawaii, where wood destroying termites are a problem. In the west coast, PACBOR® treated wood is the first choice for use as sill plate in the construction of new homes. Many builders and homeowners are also choosing to use PACBOR® treated wood for the framing wood for added protection against wood destroying insects and decay fungi.