

Using Residential Pressure Treated Lumber in Raised Garden Beds

There is scientific consensus that treated lumber with alkaline copper quat (ACQ) or copper azole (CAB or CAC) is safe to use for garden beds as long as it treated for residential use.

Available evidence suggests that the preservative components in ACQ, CAB, and CAC pressure-treated wood do not render food grown in garden beds unsafe for consumption.

For those who have concerns, Viance recommends lining the interior walls only of garden beds constructed of ACQ, CA-B, or CAC pressure-treated wood with heavy plastic sheeting before the addition of soil. There have been no justified claims that today's treated lumber for residential applications causes any negative effects from leaching into the soil.

Sources:

<https://plantcaretoday.com/pressure-treated-lumber-for-a-vegetable-garden.html>

<https://www.finegardening.com/article/are-pressure-treated-woods-safe-in-garden-beds>

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/raised-bed-lumber-pressure-treated-safe>

<https://pubag.nal.usda.gov/catalog/649886>

<https://extension.psu.edu/environmental-soil-issues-garden-use-of-treated-lumber>

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/treated-wood-in-the-landscape/>

<https://www.woodpreservation.ca/.../Bulletin-Treated-Wood-In-Raised-Bed-Gardening...>

https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOP_Treated_Lumber_Draft_Guidance.pdf

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/national-list>

