

# CHECKING

## IN SOUTHERN YELLOW PINE TREATED LUMBER

Checks in treated lumber are defined as a separation of the wood normally occurring across or through the rings of annual growth and usually are the result of seasoning. As the outer surface dries at a faster rate than the inside, the resulting shrinkage creates the separations. When lumber is placed in an environment that would tend to lower the moisture content of the piece, seasoning checks are the outward signs of additional drying. Lumber in an exposed environment will be in a constant state of drying to the equilibrium moisture content of the environment. Continued wetting and swelling, coupled with the subsequent drying and shrinking only exacerbates this condition.



Checks are a normal condition of all treated wood products. Although an aesthetic issue, checks rarely diminish service life of properly treated lumber products. Maintenance plays a vital role and all exposed treated wood products should be subject to a regimen of stain/sealant applications to help control the amount of moisture that the lumber will absorb.

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