



Chemically Treated Wood Waste Disposal

On August 31, 2021, Assembly Bill (AB) 332 regarding management standards for chemically treated wood waste was signed into law (California Health and Safety Code § 25230 – 25230.18), and became effective immediately as an urgency statute. AB 332 authorized certain treated wood waste that is hazardous only because of a preservative present in or on the wood to be managed under alternative management standards instead of requiring it to be manifested and managed as hazardous waste. The alternative management standards are intended to ease the regulatory burden for the storage, transport, handling, and disposal of chemically treated wood waste, while still ensuring the protection of public health and the environment. This includes treated wood waste used in agricultural operations (e.g., treated wood stakes, vineyard end posts, etc.).

Growers are reminded that chemically treated wooden stakes and end posts contain compounds known to be toxic or carcinogenic that can be released into the air and soil if not handled properly. Due to the significant public health risk, chemically treated wooden stakes and end posts **may not be burned or chipped at any time** and growers are advised of the following:

- When removing vineyards, remove all chemically treated wood from the agricultural location before piling the remaining material for chipping. Although redwood stakes generally have not tested positive for toxics, they are still subject to inspection. All other types of wood are highly suspect and must be removed unless tested and found to be non-toxic.
- Treated wood waste may not be chipped or burned. The grinding, chipping, or burning of treated wood can emit toxic compounds into the air and can cause serious health effects if inhaled. Using the treated wood chips for mulch can also introduce toxic compounds into the soil and groundwater.
- Do not sell or offer chemically treated wood waste for use as firewood. Doing so is a violation of state law and District rule 4901 – *Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters* § 5.6.
- The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), which is the responsible agency for overseeing the alternative management standards for treated wood waste, has developed resources for the disposal of treated wood waste, such as a list of landfills allowed to accept treated wood waste and materials to further explain the requirements. The District recommends reviewing DTSC's materials due to the numerous requirements regarding handling, storage, labelling, notification, training and disposal of treated wood waste (see links below):
 - [DTSC Treated Wood Waste Webpage](#)
 - [DTSC Treated Wood Waste Fact Sheet](#)
 - [List of Landfills Accepting Treated Wood Waste](#)

If you have any questions, please call the District's Ag Burn office at 1-800-665-2876 between 6:00 AM and 11:00 AM, Monday-Friday.