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## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

### Selecting Treated Wood For Use Under Naturally Durable Wood Decking

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It is a common practice to use pressure-treated softwoods like Southern Yellow Pine for the structural components in deck construction. Considering the extended service life of Naturally Durable Hardwoods like Ipe, it is best practice to minimally use softwoods treated for ground contact, such as AWPAs U1 UC4A (MCA or C-AC) 0.15 PCF retention or equal.

Structural service life can be extended even further by using treatments for saltwater applications such as AWPAs UC5B .23 PCF MCA retention or AWPAs UC4B CCA 0.60 PCF retention or equal. For applications with proximity to salt water, CCA is recommended for all structural members. Framing and support members submerged in saltwater regularly should be treated with UC5B 2.5 PCF CCA.

In addition to using ground contact or critical structural components for framing, it is good practice to use joist tape to cap the joist with at least a 3/4" overlap on each side of the joist. Adding the joist tape should extend the length of service of framing members by delaying rot and water intrusion.