Timber Treatment Services

There is a huge market in DIY timber treatment products, including preservatives, and that's because there are so many timber problems that need treating. If you have rotting timbers in your home, especially if they are supporting timbers like roof trusses and beams then this is a very important subject. Neglect or ignorance of timber problems can have a massive impact on a property's value and be much more expensive to put right if left to deteriorate further.

Knowing how to identify and treat problems with timber at the offset is always the best solution. From dry rot to wet rot, woodworm and damp, there is almost always a timber treatment that will be effective.

Woodworm

Woodworm can be a serious problem and generally affects the internal timber structures of older buildings. If left untreated, serious cases of woodworm infestation can cause the collapse of roof structures. The problems arise from the burrowing of the woodworm larvae, which then weakens the wood's natural rigid strength. It can be undetected for years, especially in the loft areas, so regular inspections are advised.

Wood treatment contractors and specialists are trained to detect the signs of woodworm in all areas of a property and even in the furniture. Valuable antique furniture can very often lose much of its value if woodworm is present. If in any doubt always consult a timber treatment expert.

Dry Rot

Many people might assume that dry rot in timber means replacement, but depending on the degree of the problem, there could be another solution. If the timber is literally crumbling all the way through then replacement is the only option but if the damage is superficial then repair is a real possibility. An expert opinion is recommended, especially if the dry rot has affected timbers, which have a supporting role to play in a property's structure.

Dry rot is caused by a fungus that thrives on damp, untreated timber. As the fungus takes a hold the timber becomes dry and loses its strength. It will them begin to turn powdery and crumble. Poorly ventilated areas with a moist atmosphere, such as lofts, are ideal situations for the fungus to develop. A timber preservation specialist can advise on the best possible treatment.

Wet Rot

Untreated timber is subject to wet rot in the home when exposed to continuously damp and unventilated situations. Untreated timber used for outdoor construction, window and door frames can be equally at risk. Once again it is a fungal infection that causes the damage and in severe cases the fungi can be seen growing on the wood in the form of toadstools or brackets as they are sometimes known. The

affected wood will feel wet to the touch and can quite often be seen oozing water. Wet rot is a serious problem but can be treated successfully if noticed early.

In the home wet rot may be caused as a result of a continuous leaking water pipe, allowing water to drip onto timber supports or floor boards. Also, a leaking roof could allow water to enter the loft area and affect supporting joists. In extreme cases, timber affected with wet rot will need to be replaced but it is always advisable to consult a specialist for expert advice.

Timber Resin Repairs

Replacing structural timber in a property can be very expensive and very disruptive. For example, if the roof structures of a house are unsafe due to rot or woodworm, then the whole roof will have to be removed to allow for replacement timbers to be installed. The alternative to a complete renewal is a timber resin repair. This involves cutting away all the damaged wood and creating connector slots within the undamaged wood. Steel ‘splices’ are then inserted into position and the slots are filled with a very strong epoxy resin.

Timber resin repairs are now an acceptable option to a complete renewal because the process costs much less and the work can be carried out very quickly. However, there are cases when even timber resin repairs are not suitable due to the amount of decay present in the timber. As this work can only really be carried out successfully by a professional timber treatment expert, a survey and specialist advice is highly recommended.

Repairing Carrier Beams

Carrier beams are the horizontal timbers that support other beams or joists, which support a floor. They are load bearing timbers and must be capable of providing support at all times. It is very important then that these beams are in top condition, but like all timbers they can succumb to the ravages of time and decay. Repairing carrier beams is a specialist job and involves the use of steel splices and resin.

In some cases the repair of carrier beams can be undertaken with the use of epoxy resin only, and much depends on the position of the beam relative to the overall floor area. However, generally the insertion of steel rods will inevitably be needed to ensure sufficient support in the long term. For expert advice about the repair of carrier beams consult a timber treatment specialist contractor.

Repairing Damaged Joist Ends

Repairing damaged joists ends is again a specialist job, requiring the expertise of an experienced wood treatment technician. In the first instance an inspection should be carried out by a structural surveyor or timber treatment professional to determine the extent of the damage. For most domestic properties, repairing damaged joist ends can be successfully undertaken by simply removing the damaged end part of the timber and replacing with joist end repair plates.

The steel plates used for this type of repair are galvanised and pre-drilled allowing the plates to be bolted onto the remaining timber once the ends have been removed. An alternative to end repair plates is the steel splice and epoxy resin option, where a new timber end is connected to the existing joist. The best method for repairing damaged joist ends can be determined with an inspection by a timber treatment specialist.

Strengthening Beams

Timber beams may not always need to be replaced or even necessarily repaired but simply strengthened. This measure is usually precautionary, especially if the timbers are old and perhaps showing initial signs of decay. The whole length of a beam can be strengthened by cutting a slot right across the whole length of the beam and them laying in a tensile steel rod or bar. The slot is then filled with a strong epoxy resin and allowed to harden.

Strengthening beams in this way offers insurance for the future and is a preventative option, which will certainly cost less to perform than a full replacement later on. The use of steel and resin in the timber treatment trade has become quite commonplace in recent times and is seen as a real alternative to expensive and highly disruptive replacement work. Beam strengthening is best carried out by a professional timber treatment contractor or company.

Damp & Timber Reports

A damp and timber report will invariably reveal the true state of the property and could ultimately affect its market value. In some cases it might be an essential element in the property's saleability. Quite often mortgage lenders will insist on seeing a damp and timber report before agreeing to lend.

Providing an accurate damp and timber report will be the responsibility of a qualified surveyor, who will undertake a thorough inspection of all the building's timber structures including joists, roof trusses and floorboards. Every wall in the property will also be tested for damp penetration. Any signs of condensation or existing damp problems are documented within damp and timber reports so it could be a good idea to get an inspection from a damp and timber specialist beforehand.