

TECHNOLOGY OF BUILDING MATERIALS

GUM POLES:

GUM POLES ARE MANUFACTURED FROM BLUEGUM (ALSO KNOWN AS SILINGGA) TO ENSURE MINIMUM WEIGHT AND MAXIMUM STRENGTH.. ANY TREE GROWS FROM A THICKER TO A THINNER BASE AND THEREFORE POLES ARE CATEGORISED BY MEASURING THEM AT EACH END. THESE CATEGORIES ARE:

50mm – 75mm
75mm – 100mm
100mm – 125mm
125mm – 150mm
150mm – 175mm
175mm – 200mm

VARIOUS STANDARD SIZES ARE AVAILABLE:

LATHS 15–35mm

1.5m, 1.8m, 2.4m, 3.0m 3.6m

DROPPERS 35–50mm

1.5m, 1.8m, 2.4m, 3.0m 3.6m

CLASS 2 50–79mm

0.9m, 1.2m, 1.5m, 1.8m, 2.1m, 2.4m, 2.7m, 3.0m, 3.6m

CLASS 3 80–99mm

0.9m, 1.2m, 1.5m, 1.8m, 2.1m, 2.4m, 2.7m, 3.0m, 3.6m

CLASS 4 100–119mm

0.9m, 1.2m, 1.5m, 1.8m, 2.1m, 2.4m, 2.7m, 3.0m, 3.6m, 4.2m, 4.8m, 5.4m, 6.0m

CLASS 5 120–139mm

0.9m, 1.2m, 1.5m, 1.8m, 2.1m, 2.4m, 2.7m, 3.0m, 3.6m, 4.2m, 4.8m, 5.4m, 6.0m

CLASS 6 140–159mm

0.9m, 1.2m, 1.5m, 1.8m, 2.1m, 2.4m, 2.7m, 3.0m, 3.6m, 4.2m, 4.8m, 5.4m, 6.0m

CLASS 7 160–179mm

2.4m, 2.7m, 3.0m, 3.6m, 4.2m, 4.8m, 5.4m, 6.0m

CLASS 8 180–200mm

2.4m, 2.7m, 3.0m, 3.6m, 4.2m, 4.8m, 5.4m, 6.0m

80–99mm AND 100–119mm POLES CAN BE SHARPENED TO ALLOW FOR EASIER PLANTING AND ALL POLE SIZES CAN BE SPLIT.

SANS 457 SPECIFICATIONS APPLY TO ALL TAPERED POLES.
SABS 1288 CERTIFICATE APPLIES TO ALL CYLINDRICAL POLES



ALL POLES ARE TO BE CCA TREATED AND SABS APPROVED. CCA STANDS FOR 'copper, chrome and arsenic' – WHICH IS WHAT THE TREATMENT MIXTURE CONSISTS OF. THE COMPOUNDS, COPPER AND CHROME WITHIN THE MIXTURE MAKE THE POLES WEATHER RESISTANT AND THE ARSENIC GUARANTEES THAT NO DAMAGE WILL BE CAUSED BY TIMBER EATING INSECTS.

ALL POLES SHOULD BE TREATED TO A LEVEL H4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN WOOD PRESERVERS ASSOCIATION, H4 TREATED POLES ARE MORE THAT ADEQUATE TO BE USED FOR HIGH HAZARD – GROUND CONTACT NEEDS. THESE POLES ARE IDEAL FOR DECKING, BRIDGES, LANDSCAPING AND AGRICULTURAL POSTS. DIFFERENT LEVELS OF TREATMENT CAN BE APPLIED, BASED UPON THE FUNCTION OR USE OF THE POLES.

GUM POLES CAN ALSO BE ISSUED WITH AN ANTI – SPLIT PLATE AT EACH END TO ENSURE THE TIMBER FROM CRACKING.

LATHS:

LATHS ARE THIN GUM POLES MAINLY USED FOR HORIZONTAL CONSTRUCTION OR THE INTRODUCTION OF SCREENS. THE SHORTER THE LATH, THE LESS TAPER FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. WHEN SPACING LATHS NEXT TO EACH OTHER, APPROXIMATELY 30 LATHS ARE USED PER RUNNING METER.

SPLIT POLES:

WET OF SAW IMPLIES THAT THE LOG HAS BEEN CUT INTO PLANKS OF THE NEEDED DIMENSIONS, HOWEVER THE PLANK HAS NOT BEEN DRIED OR PLANED. THE SAW USED IN CUTTING THE LOG LEAVES A ROUGH SURFACE ON THE PLANKS.

B-GRADE:

LIKE WET OF SAW PLANKS, B-GRADE TIMBER HAVE NOT BEEN DRIED OR PLANED BUT THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GRADE A WET OF SAW AND B-GRADE IS THAT THE LATTER STILL HAS PIECES OF BARK ON IT. THUS, TYPE B IS CHEAPER AND GIVES A MORE RUSTIC FEELING. ALSO KNOWN AS "SPLITPLES".

PROPERTY	DETAIL	CRGD.	CCA	NOTES
Efficiency	Fast, Termite Wood & Marine borers	Good	Good	
Permanence (operative wood)	Leaching	Slight	None	
	Evaporation	Slight	None	
Perforation		Good	Good	
Strength		None	Slight	
Dimensions		None	Slight	
Formability		Slight	None	
Corrosiveness		None	Slight	CCA treated timber may be damaged by fungi, bacteria and insects. CCA treated timber should be left for min. 7 days before string metal fasteners or fittings. Expect some water absorption and swelling. Expect some water loss and shrinkage. Expect some water loss and shrinkage. Expect some water loss and shrinkage. Expect some water loss and shrinkage.
Effect on wood properties	Paranality	Poor	Good	
	Quantity	Poor	Good	
	Colour	Dark	Light	
	Odour	Strong	None	
	Charmness	Very	Good	
Tendency		High	High	Once CCA has completely reacted with the wood constituents, it is completely safe to use and handle.
Water repellency		Good	None	The addition of the wax additive improves the water repellency of CCA treated timber. CCA increases water repellency.

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