Log Rot 101 – Causes, Treatments, and Preventions

Nature has developed a very efficient recycling system for trees that die in the forest.

We are fighting these natural elements trying to preserve wood and logs used in building homes and other structures. **For logs and wood to rot all of the following elements must be present:**

1. Decay Fungi – There are many types and they are present everywhere.

2. Food source for the fungi – wood, logs, timbers, etc.

3. Moisture – Decay fungi can only do it's thing (cause rot) when wood is damp.

4. Oxygen – The most abundant element in nature.

5. Moderate Temperatures – Mountainous forested areas are the perfect environment.

To prevent or control rot, the only options we have are to **keep the wood dry and or control the decay fungi** with the use of wood preservatives.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS DRY ROT! The term "dry rot" is a misnomer and very misleading. **Dry wood (below 20% moisture level) will not rot. Wood with existing rot will not rot any further if the wood is dried out and kept dry.**

Sometimes due to design elements in the home it becomes very difficult to keep the wood dry. In these areas the proper use of **wood preservatives**, usually **borates**, can help prevent or control rot.

The first and most important thing in preventing or dealing with rot issues in homes and other structures is to **identify what factors may contribute to rot** and make a plan to mitigate those factors.

It is far less expensive to prevent rot than it is to repair or replace rotted logs