

Eastern Parallam® PSL Frequently Asked Questions

Parallam® PSL manufactured at Weyerhaeuser’s Buckhannon, WV plant has been enhanced with an in-line, topically applied proprietary technology (sealant) developed by Weyerhaeuser to improve the weatherability of Eastern Parallam® PSL beams and columns during normal yarding and jobsite conditions. This Technical Bulletin answers frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding this product.

What enhancement has been made?

A patent pending proprietary surface modification technology (sealant) is uniformly sprayed on to the narrow edge and wide face of Parallam® PSL at the Buckhannon manufacturing facility during the manufacturing process. The technology chemically modifies the outside wood surface to improve weatherability and decrease the rate of water absorption. In conjunction with Weyerhaeuser’s existing end sealant technology, this enhancement further improves weatherability performance.

How do we know the improvement is effective?

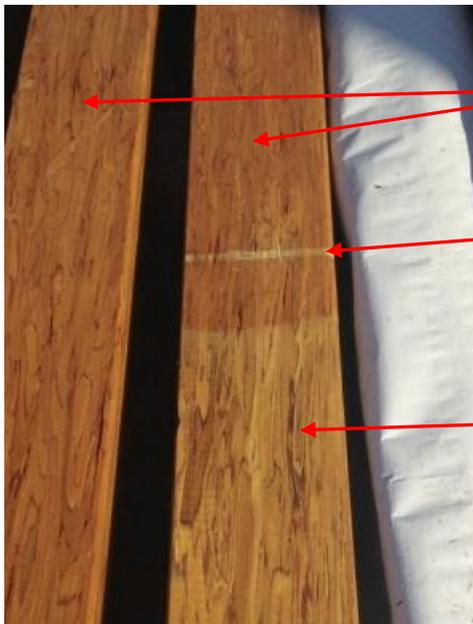
Weyerhaeuser has performed extensive laboratory and field testing with favorable results in all instances. We have found that dimensional changes will be minimal when product with sealant is properly stored and the end seal is maintained. Additionally, we have found that the sealant also retards ultra violet (UV) weathering.

Is Eastern Parallam® PSL colorfast?

To some extent. The sealant delays discoloration (graying), maintaining appearance longer. The image to the right is Eastern Parallam® PSL with no exposure.



The brown wood tone of Eastern Parallam® PSL resists UV degradation, however, some color variation may occur. As the material is exposed, some “tanning” of the surface will occur. The photo below illustrates these color variations. It is also important to note that over time, testing has shown the exposed surfaces will tan to a fairly consistent color.



Portions of bundle that has become exposed (i.e., peeled-back or unsecured bundle wrap) during storage.

Unit banding locations. Material not exposed.

Material not exposed.

How do we know Eastern Parallam® PSL will stand up to adverse jobsite conditions?

Exposed field tests were conducted at various eastern US locations. At each location, product was left outside and uncovered for 60 days with all sites reporting favorable performance after a range of typical adverse weather conditions.

Is end seal still suggested for beam and column cuts?

Yes, absolutely. The sealant and end seal work together to improve weatherability. Studies show that the combined effect of the surface sealant and end sealer are required to achieve the maximum level of dimensional stability at the ends of the member.

Is Eastern Parallam® PSL waterproof?

No. The sealant technology retards the water absorption rate and the associated thickness swell that occurs when following recommended handling practices during normal yarding and jobsite conditions and is intended for dry-use applications only. Buckhannon Parallam® PSL must still be properly stored, stickered, and handled in accordance with Weyerhaeuser literature.

Can Parallam® PSL be used in exterior applications?

No. The product is intended for dry-use applications only and is not a preservative treatment. The sealant is a surface treatment that reduces the rate of water absorption and associated thickness swell during normal yarding and jobsite conditions. It is not intended to provide long term protection in an exposed environment. Parallam® Plus PSL with preservative protection is available for exterior, wet-use applications. See specifier's guide for *Parallam® Plus PSL Beams, Headers and Columns*, [TJ-7102](#), for additional information.

Can Eastern Parallam® PSL be stained, painted or finished?

Yes. As with any Parallam® PSL product, Weyerhaeuser recommends sanding the surface prior to apply painting or staining. Always test apply the finish in an inconspicuous location to verify that the paint or stain and the application procedure has the desired effect.

Will the design properties of Eastern Parallam® PSL be different?

No. There is no reduction to design properties.

Are any special precautions necessary when handling Eastern Parallam® PSL?

No. Like all wood products, gloves are recommended when handling the product to prevent splinters.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Weyerhaeuser representative.

Parallam® PSL is intended for dry use applications.