

PERMA • LOG

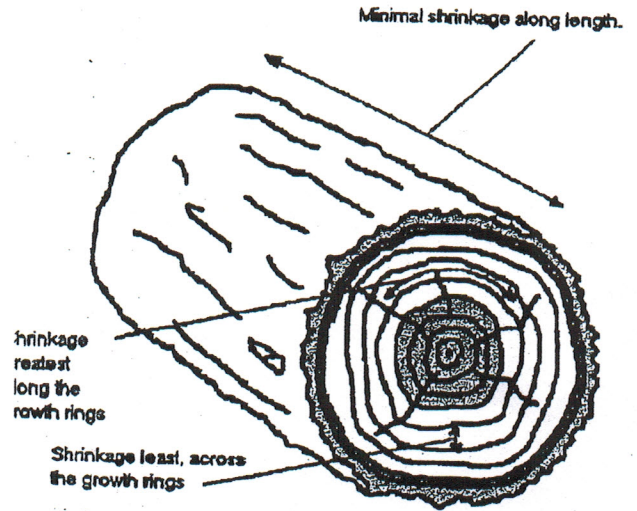
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“Why are my treated posts splitting”. (the correct term is “Checking”)

The short answer is. **“They are drying out.”**

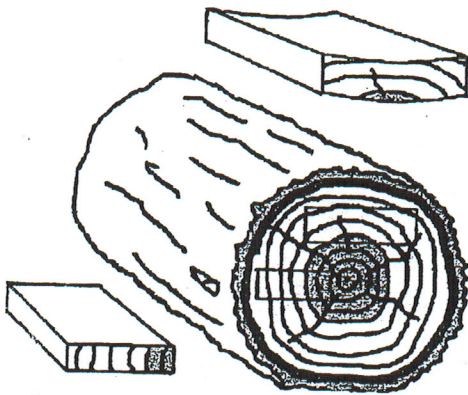
All timber contains moisture, both as the sap that the tree used to feed itself and as a component of the cellulose structure of the wood itself. As part of the treatment process some of this moisture was removed so it could be replaced with water that carries the wood preservative. The treatment process adds about 450 ltrs of liquid per cubic meter of timber. Typically in Slash Pine (*Pinus Elliottii*) there is a greater weight of water in the post than there is wood. This water will not stay in the log and tries to equal the moisture in the surrounding air, this is called, Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC).

Whenever timber dries, it shrinks. The greatest shrinkage occurs tangentially, there being very little other movement.



If these posts had been milled as a sawlog, this shrinkage would have been apparent as minor defects in the finished product. The most obvious being “cupping” where timber is cut with long growth rings (backsawn). Most of these issues can be minimised in the kiln drying process or the defect can be machined out if the timber is dressed into boards.

This is not possible with a roundwood product where the log, except for being peeled, is virtually left in tact. The growth rings are shortening as the log tries to shrink in on itself. By it's very nature this process builds up stresses in the timber that can only be relieved by the wood checking. In some posts this occurs as several small checks however in some instances there may be one or two larger checks.



Remember, however, that there is no loss of wood mass and timber actually increases in strength as it dries. The drying process takes about 3 months, and as a rule, the checking evident after this time is as severe as it will get. The timber will continue however, to take up and give off moisture, according to the seasons. There may in fact, be times when the checking is actually less evident. Perma-Log strongly recommends that a water-repellent finish be applied to all treated timber to retard this movement of moisture and so minimise the checking.

Your posts have been preservative treated to AS 1604 against the requirements of both the Timber Utilisation and Marketing Act Qld (TUMA) and the Timber Marketing Act NSW (TMA).

They will also have a brand burnt into one end 437 - 01 (or 90) - H4.

437 signifies that they were treated by a registered treatment plant, in this case Perma-Log at Narangba Qld.

01, or 90 indicates that the preservative used was either CCA (01) or ACQ (90).

H4 means that the post has been treated to Hazard Class 4 (In ground contact), as per AS 1604

It is our hope that this leaflet gives you some idea of what is happening to your posts and assures you that they are still fit for the purpose for which you purchased them.

If you have any further questions please contact Perma-Log on **0738830411**. Or your stockist.

