

TECHNICAL NOTES

FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

U. S. FOREST SERVICE

MADISON, WISCONSIN

No. D-8

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COATINGS THAT PREVENT END CHECKING

Wood, whether in the form of logs, lumber, timber, shaped blanks, or veneer, will split and check at the ends during seasoning, if drying is allowed to go on at a natural rate through the end grain. To retard the rate of drying from the ends, it is necessary to cover them with some protective coating.

The law of end coatings, in simple terms, is that the harder and greener the wood, the more effective must be the coating. In its experiments to determine the practicality of various coatings and end dips, the Forest Products Laboratory found the following to be true:

Paint is convenient to handle, but is of low effectiveness.

White lead is convenient to handle, and is of medium effectiveness.

Lorac, a commercial compound, is convenient to handle, and is of considerable effectiveness.

Rosin-lampblack is inconvenient to handle, but is of high effectiveness.

Rosin-lampblack is made according to the following formula:

Clear grade rosin	-	60 parts by weight
Lampblack	-	1 part by weight

The rosin should be melted but not allowed to boil or froth. The lampblack should then be thoroughly stirred in. The ends of the sticks should be dipped in this molten mixture to a distance of about 1/2 inch. When hard, the coating should be smooth, free from bubbles, shiny, and an eighth of an inch thick over the end.

If the stock is to be subjected to rough handling which might cause the coating to chip when cool, linseed oil may be added, in the proportion of 1 to 15 by weight, but this will have a tendency to make the coating excessively soft in the kiln at temperatures above 130°F.