POLYETHYLENE SHIELD FOR WOOD POSTS/POLES 2003 Nova Award Nomination 33

POST PROTECTOR

As Sales Manager for a Pennsylvania based "Post Frame" or "Pole" Building Company, I recognized that many consumers, architects and engineers are concerned with the life expectancy of pressure treated wooden posts below grade.

In Post Frame Construction, rather than a typical continuous foundation, 8' O.C. pressure treated posts are placed on footings 42" below grade. Each post hole is then backfilled with soil or concrete. The posts act as the foundation for these buildings and represent the muscle for the balance of the framework. Though "pressure treated" poles are utilized, the fact remains, they are wood and wood decays. Culprits such as moisture, varied soil types, insects, concrete backfill, animal waste and varied post quality to name a few.

Post Frame Construction is attractive for its speed, design flexibility and value. This construction type has come "off the farm" and now restaurants, offices, automobile showrooms, warehouses, etc. are going post frame. The only issue holding many back from using post frame is the "post life concern."

Made from a specialty virgin polyethylene which possesses characteristics perfectly suited for the application. The material has hundreds of years if geo-application life expectancy. Flexible, pliable and quite strong it is able to effectively guard against all elements that cause post decay.

A 5' length sleeve which encapsules the post. An 1/8" wall thickness throughout and (4) raised designated lag locations - one on each face at varied heights. Post Protector Protector simply slides over the post prior to its insertion into the ground. Four 3" X V2" stainless steel lags and washers are provided. Installed, the lag head and washers torque compresses the pliable sidewall, sealing that location and joining Post Protector to the post.

Post Protector is commonly 3'6" below grade and extends 18" above the grade to the inside of the building. It acts as a post location expansion joint for your concrete floor. A series of horizontal and vertical channels allow the post to breathe and any moisture to escape. Post Protector also allows for concrete backfilling with no ill effects. Concrete against a typical treated post will promote decay long term. Post Protector welcomes concrete backfill and by doing so achieves 12,000 + lbs. of uplift protection per post.

Environmentally, Post Protector eliminates the risk of the chemical treatment CCA (Chromated Copper Arsenate) from leaching into ground water and soil.

Real Estate appraisal values can be positively affected. Appraisers do not value post frame buildings strongly because of the posts questioned integrity as the building ages. Post Protector removes that question. Many view Post Protectors as offering continuous foundation performance at a fraction of the cost.

The Post Protector concept originated 8 years ago. It has been offered as an option to its Pennsylvania building division for 3 years and debuted nationally February 2001.

Currently Post Protector is growing swiftly in the Northeast. Farmers, ranchers, equestrians and general post frame consumers are excited about the benefits. With the widespread acceptance, Post Protector should become a standard throughout the post frame world.

POST PROTECTOR

