

Understanding The Standard Treated Pine (Garden Grade) Sleeper

The standard treated pine is usually produced from the core of the pine log. Consequently a large part of the sleeper contains untreatable heartwood. This is the reason why we describe the product as garden grade. For that reason we believe these products should not be used in structural applications.

Non Structural Retaining Walls

As sleepers go, we recognise the standard treated pine sleeper is probably the cheapest most readily available sleeper on the market. Accordingly, we are able to offer, with our supplier Ecowood, installation guide lines for the construction of non structural retaining walls.

We will issue these guidelines with every order when used in this application. However, the key points are;

- Keep the sleepers as dry as possible. Install a 200 UM plastic membrane where soil is backfilled against the sleeper wall. However, appropriate drainage will need to be installed to a storm water drain.
- Wherever possible do not break the treatment envelope, by cutting or boring the sleeper. If this is unavoidable, coat or reseal those newly exposed areas with an appropriate product like Eco seal.
- The standard treated pine sleeper has no structural rating.

Retaining Walls

The building regulations are quite specific, if a retaining wall is 1 metre in height or higher, a building permit is required and in all likelihood the building surveyor will insist on the wall being designed by a structural engineer.