

*Preservation
Pamphlet #4*

For More Information:

www.abatron.com

<http://blog.waterdamagedefense.com/rotten-wood/>

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/45-wooden-porches.htm>

PROPER WOOD RESTORATION



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Cause of Wood Rot

Wood rot is common in all old homes and structures, especially on window sills and exterior trim.

It is caused by moisture; Montana receives both rain and snow. The lingering moisture can produce an environment where fungi can thrive and destroy wood.

Identify the Source

It is important to discover the cause of lingering moisture and remove it to prevent rot from reoccurring. Once the cause has been located, determine the steps necessary to fix it such as rain gutters or plastic or metal covers.



Wood Fillers

A common solution for wood decay is using wood filler. Wood filler is a paste-like product that is used to repair holes in wood and create a smooth surface.

Epoxy vs. Polyester

The distinguishing factor in wood filler types is the chemical makeup. The most effective wood fillers are of a two-part epoxy mix, whereas the inexpensive wood fillers are polyester resin based.

Epoxy resins are superior to polyester resins due to many factors. They:

- kill fungi and stop the rotting process
- contain stronger adhesion properties
- carry a lower shrinkage rate
- have higher tensile strength

Liquid-Epoxy Wood Hardeners

Liquid epoxy is a wood hardener that sinks into the pores of the wood, hardening it and creating a water resistant surface. It restores the wood, making it strong as well as protecting it from the weather. This can also be used as a primer for the wood filler.

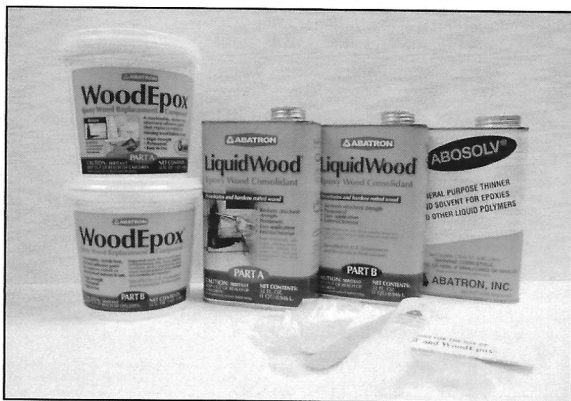
Epoxy-Based Wood Fillers

Wood filler is the structural putty used to fill holes in rotted wood. Good wood fillers can be shaped and molded to fill rounded surfaces and gingerbread details on a home.

Most wood fillers can also be sawn, sanded, nailed, screwed, and stained. This feature in epoxy based wood filler is more dependable than polyester based wood filler.

Recommended Product

Epoxy products that are used widely by historic preservation professionals and serious do-it-yourselfers is WoodEpoxy and LiquidWood by Abatron. This can be purchased online at abatron.com or amazon.com. It can also be found at Kenyon Noble in Bozeman.



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