



# TECHNICAL BULLETIN



## TRADITIONAL CREOSOTE

### WHAT IS CREOSOTE?

Traditional Creosote is a complex hydrocarbon-based wood preservative derived from the distillation of Coal Tar. The product imparts a mid to dark brown stain to many timbers as well as providing excellent protection from fungal growth and wood damaging insects and as such for many decades it has been the product of choice to preserve and stain exterior timber.

Since 2003 Creosote has been regulated by the EU preventing amateur use and from September 2013 became controlled by the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR, Regulation (EU) 528/2012). Creosote is now strictly controlled for professional (industrial and agricultural) uses only.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### 1. Why has the colour has changed or why is it not the colour I expected?

As Coal Tar is naturally occurring its colour and composition varies and as such, the distillate (Creosote) also varies. The colour intensity will be greatly affected by the timber. Highly absorbent wood e.g., weathered, or rough sawn will appear much darker whereas fresh or smooth wood e.g., planed will appear lighter.

**Remember!** Creosote should never be used for decorative wood staining applications.

#### 2. My container of Creosote contains sandy/waxy sludge, why is this?

Creosote is made up of a vast mixture of aromatic hydrocarbons. Some of these hydrocarbons solidify / crystallise at lower temperatures, typically below 18°C (for type/grade B). These crystals redissolve if the product is elevated to above 18°C for a period of time with some additional shaking/mixing. The quality or efficacy of the product is not affected if it solidifies and then re-liquifies. Never add other chemicals in attempt to prevent this characteristic.

**Active substance:** Creosote CAS: 8001-58-9; EC-No.: 232-287-5 (1000kg/1000kg). European Standard EN13991:2003 Grade B or C  
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