

Penta & the Environment

The Facts

Penta poles have a **60-plus year track record** of environmental safety and proven performance. When used and disposed of properly, penta-treated utility poles are a wise environmental choice.

Penta-treated wood has a number of important environmental advantages:

Penta is **biodegradable**. Studies show that sunlight and bacteria break down trace amounts of penta that may enter the soil, water or air, unlike the metals that can leach into surrounding soil from other types of treated wood.

Penta's **low vapor pressure** and high absorption quality enables most of the chemical to stay inside the wood. In addition, penta's low water solubility means that any trace amounts of penta that may enter the soil near a pole will not travel very far.

Penta is **not a PBT**. According to recent data submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of penta's re-registration process, penta has a half-life of 14 to 63 days in soil and five to 34 days in water. In the atmosphere, penta's reported half-life ranges from a few hours to a few days depending on atmospheric conditions.

Treated wood poles **save roughly 32 million barrels of oil per year** in saved energy costs related to production, compared to alternative pole materials.

Penta's **in-service life span of more than 40 years** mitigates the need for frequent replacement, thereby helping preserve valuable forest resources.

Penta poles significantly **lessen the risk of electrocution** to linemen and wildlife because they are not as conductive as some other non-wood poles.

(over)

Penta is Thoroughly Tested

As a pesticide, the EPA requires penta to undergo regular in-depth testing and analysis. To develop the state-of-the-art data required for the EPA's most recent re-registration process, penta manufacturers spent millions of dollars developing numerous toxicological studies and risk assessments by leading experts in the fields of toxicology, environmental fate and occupational exposure. In every case, using highly conservative assumptions, the latest scientific data show that penta poles do not pose significant risks to people, wildlife, aquatic life, or the environment.



