



The Process of Pressure-Treated Lumber, c. 1978

As the demand for treated lumber grew, Menards constructed a lumber manufacturing plant across from its original store in the early 1970s. By 1978, the building had significantly expanded and housed four large, horizontal cylinders, making it possible to treat and dry lumber. The pressure treatment process began as the wood was placed in one of the 60-foot long and 6-foot wide cylinders. Once the wood was secured inside the cylinder, the chamber would be flooded with preservative chemicals and pressurized air.