



PROTECTAHOME LTD

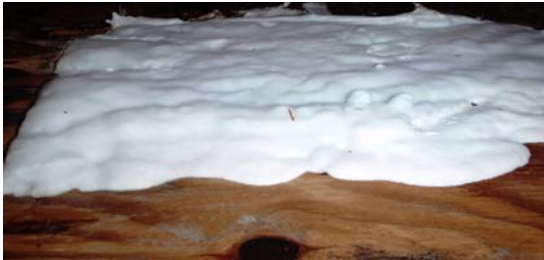
BUILDING PRESERVATION FACT SHEET

Targeting problems with the best solutions

Established 1980

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROTS

BROWN ROT



Typically, brown rots cause the wood to crack in a cuboidal manner and the wood will appear to be a slightly darker colour than normal. The individual cubes vary in size but are clearly visible. Dependant on the type of brown rot that is present, the timber can vary from brittle and light in colour, to dark with the surface of timber presenting a veneering effect before the cuboidal cracking becomes apparent below.

WHITE ROT



Timbers attacked by white rots appear different to those attacked by brown. The wood takes on a 'fibrous' appearance, can appear to be lighter in appearance and can also look slightly bleached. White rots tend to occur mostly in hardwoods and there will be no cuboidal cracking present. The most serious form of fungal decay found in buildings will be a brown rot, which can be divided into two separate types; dry and wet rot.

DRY ROT



Where there is a fruiting body or sporophore of the dry rot fungus, a red dust will appear; these are the spores of the fungus. These spores are microscopic and there will be millions of spores present during a virulent attack of dry rot fungus. Dry rot spores can be found in most buildings although no germination will take place as long as conditions within the building remain dry. Other types of brown rots commonly encountered within buildings are known as the wet rots.

WET ROT



The most common form of wet rot is the cellar fungus (*Coniophora puteana*). This is associated with timbers in constant contact with damp conditions; such as lintels, skirting boards and floor joist ends. Cuboidal cracking is smaller than with dry rot fungus and adopts a darker appearance. The mycelium of the cellar fungus is fern shaped and will vary from dark brown to black. There are many types of wet rot they are not regarded as dangerous to the building as dry rot.

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