

Wood Poles – How Long Should They Last?

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Wood poles are an ever-present symbol of our modern age, serving as the backbone of the North American electrical system. In use for more than a century, understanding how long poles should last in service depends on many factors, including the specification, the quality of treatment, the conditions to which the pole is exposed, and how well the pole is maintained during use. By focusing on these and other factors, the answer to the question of how long poles last: as long as you want it and far longer than you ever thought.

About Butch

Butch Bernhardt is the Senior Program Manager for the Western Wood Preservers Institute and the North American Wood Pole Council. His responsibilities include product education, technical publications, standards, distance learning and digital design tools for preserved wood products, including utility poles.

Butch has extensive experience in wood promotion, providing product support, user education and international market development for more than three decades in positions with WWPI, Western Wood Products Association, Softwood Export Council and Western Red Cedar Lumber Association. He holds a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University and is the third generation in his family to work in the wood products industry.