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LifePine Rustic shakes on Club Cottage Development, Kiawah Island, SC.

Since September of 1991 when ROOFER Magazine published an article on Treated Southern Yellow Pine Shakes, popularity of the product has increased significantly. Today, pine shakes have distribution in 32 of the 50 states and have been exported abroad.

Its largest successes have been in the South and along the East coast where the benefits of the product offer the most significant improvements over other alternatives such as cedar. However, treated Southern Yellow Pine shakes are in service from Malibu, California to Booth Bay Harbor, Maine, and the product has performed beyond expectations.

Even though the product was first introduced by the Texas Forest Service in the mid 1970's and has experienced tremendous success in the Southeast, in some regions, it is still considered a new product. This perception is mainly due to the limited market exposure in Northern and Western states.

However, the product's reputation of quality and performance along with a quickly expanding market, is rapidly changing this point of view. Much of the success can be attributed to roofing contractors involved in a program created by the manufacturers to certify and recommend installers. Through this program the consumer is assured of the highest quality installations and accurate information on the product. With the ever increasing search by homeowners, architects and builders for alternatives to traditional cedar shakes, roofers have seen the benefits of being able to offer a real wood product that has proven itself over the last 20 years.

In a 1994 study conducted by Clemson University, professor John H. Syme said, "Expect the demand for Southern Yellow Pine shakes to increase as a substitute for cedar shakes due to the limited availability of suitable western red cedar and the better durability of treated southern pine products." He expanded by including that "Test results indicated that when the Southern Yellow Pine

shake is pressure treated with CCA to a .40 retention, its useful life may exceed 50 years. In contrast, the service life of cedar roofing is only an expected 7 to 12 years for most of the Southern United States. Treated Southern Yellow Pine shakes have been approved by all three major model building codes: SBCCI, UBC, BOCA."

The study concluded that the product "resists checking, cracking and cupping, which are common problems with most cedar roofs. Unlike cedar shakes and simulated wood products that split or crack easily, treated pine can be installed with air-powered nailers that

Tybee Island Pavilion built for the 96' Olympics.

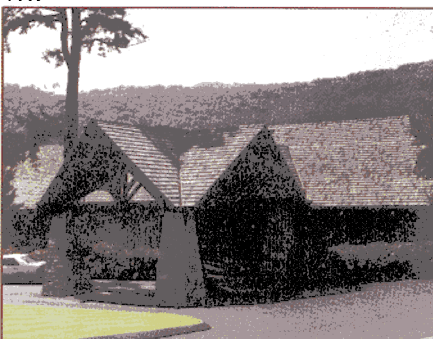


can cut installation time in half." The respondents of a survey conducted in the Clemson Study said they used the product because of its durability and the 50 year warranty, and in their words, "we're also pleased that the installation process of pine shakes produces little waste, as compared to cedar shakes."

There are a number of additional benefits treated Southern Yellow Pine shakes have to offer over other wood roofing products and simulated "look alikes". Unlike its cedar counterpart, Southern Yellow Pine shakes have 100% penetration of the CCA preservative and the treatment is permanent. This is a very important feature of Southern Yellow Pine and is the reason it is the only species used for CCA treated telephone poles, dock pilings, exterior decking and bridge timbers.

The CCA does not leach out of pine because it is chemically attached to the wood in the pressure treating process. Other types of wood such as lodge pole pine, white cedar and red cedar do not get full penetration because of the closed cell structure of the species. As a result, the treated Southern Yellow Pine shake is the only product approved and listed as a treatable species in the standards written by the American Wood Preservers Association (AWPA) who is the governing council over all treated wood products.

The effectiveness of the CCA treatment in Southern Yellow Pine allows the manufacturers to offer a 50-Year Limited Warranty regardless of weather and climatic conditions. Since weather conditions vary greatly among different Grandfather Mountain Country Club, Boone, NC, installed 1997



LifePine Ultra shake in Vero Beach, FL

regions of the country, this is the most important feature. It also allows the warranty to be valid without any requirements of scheduled cleaning and retreating.

Richard D. Besser, Managing Partner of Tamar/LifePine Mfg., who is one of the largest producers of treated pine shakes said, "Our 50-Year Limited Warranty against rot, fungal decay and termites is one of the ways the industry stands behind what we produce. The warranty has unlimited transferability, which keeps it in force for the full 50 year term and adds value to a home upon resale. It is probably why we have experienced growth in sales of around 100% per year."

In addition to the warranty, the product has other added benefits related to the CCA treatment. The CCA chemical is a copper based preservative that will inhibit the growth of moss and mold. Even in areas where the shakes

Sarasota, FL residence with the Ultrashake on a staggered pattern.



get little or no exposure to the sun, the fungal attack which degrades both the look and performance of wood and simulated shakes will not grow. As a result, periodic cleaning is not needed. It also allows the product to age uniformly to a driftwood gray on all sides of the structure, as opposed to turning black on the northern exposures.

For the homeowner, the benefits are numerous. Pine shakes have an R-Value almost twice that of cedar, over 3 times that of fiberglass, and 7 times that of fiber-cement "look alikes". It is 66% less flammable than cedar and more than twice as strong. A Southern Pine shake roof that is 15 years old can be walked on without damage. The strength of the pine allows it to be extremely resistant to hail and wind damage. Southern Yellow Pine shakes have been on roofs at "ground zero" in many of the latest hurricanes including Andrew, Opal, Erin,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Rustic shakes on Harbor Club Development, Lake Oconee, GA.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Bertha and Frederick sustaining little or no damage.

At Seascape Resort in Destin Florida, over 3000 squares were in place when Opal hit land in 1995. In a letter to Tamark/LifePine Mfg., Jerry Mathias, HOA Manager, stated, "We sustained a considerable amount of damage to the cedar roofs in Seascape, however the pine roofs sustained very little damage." In the same storm, Ft. Walton Okaloosa Community College had over 2500 squares in place and sustained no damage at all. On top of all this, the product requires no maintenance at all to the keep the warranty in force.

For the installer there are other benefits. The product is relatively square, so no "on the roof edging" is necessary. They are random width, but they do not vary as much as cedar. The average width is less than cedar, which means there are more pieces per square. Although some roofers have complained about this feature, the benefit of the narrower width is that it greatly increases the stability of the product.

The greater strength of pine also means it is harder to nail. However, it also allows air nailers to be used without cracking the shakes. It is a positive feature if air guns are used, and a negative if it is hand nailed. Overall, the installation procedure and time for pine is similar to cedar, but the installation time can be less with proper equipment and some experience.

The cost of a Southern Pine shake roof is very similar to the cost of cedar,



Seascape Golf Club, Destin, FL-over 6400 squares of LifePine Rustic shakes.

and usually less than the composite simulations. Depending on the geographic area and freight costs, pine is usually a little less than cedar shakes of equal thickness and quality. There are two prevalent product lines available in the Southern Yellow Pine industry. The Rustic grade varies in thickness from 5/8" to 1" and is closer to the look of a hand-split medium cedar shake.

The Ultrashake is thicker on the average and cut is about 15/16" thick. It provides a "neater" look because of the uniformity and is a hybrid between a heavy cedar shake and the taper-sawn shingle. It is priced similarly to the heavy cedar product. Some money can be saved in the installation, as compared to cedar, because the pine does not need nail strips or an underlayment to promote air ventilation. The CCA treatment against rot negates the need to keep the product dry.

There are a number of areas where the Southern Yellow Pine shakes have become very popular. Steve Yoder with Heely-Brown Co. Distributing in Atlanta, said "We have had a great deal of success with the pine product in both roofing and siding, especially with old cedar replacements. We probably have somewhere between 50% to 60% of the total wood shake market in the Atlanta area with the LifePine product."

In all, the future looks very bright for this newer breed of wood shakes. Over the past two decades, it has proven its ability to perform in the Southeast, which is thought to be the harshest environment in the US for any wood product. The pine shake market has expanded into many other areas in the country, and the product has been equally well received. The long-term outlook is boosted by the fact that, unlike old growth cedar forests, pine trees grow quickly and are a renewable resource in the Southeastern US. How long will it take for the Southern Yellow Pine shake to become the new "standard" in the wood roofing industry? As they say in the South, "Well, just wait around a little while and you'll see." RM

Ken Rule is the general sales manager for Tamark Manufacturing, LLC, manufacturers of LifePine Products.



Beach front building before Hurricane Opal.



After Opal's pounding surf and wind-no damage.

