TABLE 1.8 Types of Common Wood Preservatives

Preservative	Type	Character
Creosote	Oil	Restricted use only
Pentachlorophenol (penta)	Oil	Teratogenic properties, restricted use only
Chromated copper arsenate (CCA)	Water	Pressure treatment only, contains arsenic and chromium
Ammoniacal copper quaternary compound (ACQ)	Water	Pressure treatment only, does not use toxics, arsenic, and chromium

Disposing of treated wood presents a difficulty; it is, after all, treated to resist decomposition. Ideally waste wood is recycled, but it should not be composted. Some states prohibit burning treated wood. If treated wood is to be used, the best option for the environment is ammoniacal copper quaternary (ACQ) compound; however, some consideration should be given to specifying rot-resistant species from native trees or recycled plastic lumber.

Measuring Sustainability

Sustainability concerns go beyond the selection of materials. The layout of a site, the types and character of ground cover, and the management of the various landscape functions—all are critical issues that have implications in site design. First, what is the role of site development in contributing to these effects, and how might those effects best be mitigated? Next, given that some of the implications will influence the use and function of a site, how can these changes be accounted for in planning and design?

Site planning, design, and development are moving toward including sustainability as a matter of practice. As it has been in the past, it is the planner and designer's responsibility to find the synthesis of all the issues and interests and then educate the parties involved as to the value of considering sustainability in the plan and design. To include issues of sustainability, the planner and designer should become students of those subjects, giving them as much attention as they give any other site planning subject.