

Contents

Preface

iii

1. Wood and Wood Modification

1

1.1 Wood modification

1

What is wood modification?

2

Wood modification processes

3

1.2 Wood as a substrate for modification

5

The tree

5

The macrostructure of wood

10

The microstructure of wood

19

Wood cell-wall structure and ultrastructure

24

1.3 The chemical composition of wood

25

Brief introduction to covalent bonds

25

Chemical reactions of organic compounds

29

The chemistry of wood modification

37

1.4 The wood-water relationship

46

Determining moisture in wood

56

Wood modification and moisture

62

1.5 Wood biodegradation

62

Wood as a substrate for microorganisms

63

Biological degradation of wood by fungi

63

Biological degradation of wood by invertebrate organisms

72

Termites

73

1.6 Weathering of wood

79

Factors contributing to weathering

80

1.7 Stress-strain response of wood: Considerations in wood modification

87

Elastic behaviour of wood

89

Viscoelastic behaviour of wood

90

Mechano-sorption

94

Stress-strain relationship under longitudinal deformation

95

Stress-strain relationship under transverse compression

98

1.8 Conclusions on wood and wood modification

103

References

104

2. Chemical Modification Processes

115

2.1 Introduction

115

2.2 Acetylation

119

Material selection and preparation

119

The modification process

121

The modified product

127

Industrial use and application

132

2.3	The Compreg™ process	134
	Material selection and preparation	134
	The modification process	135
	The modified product	137
	Industrial use and application	139
2.4	Impreg	141
	Material selection and preparation	141
	The modification process	141
	The modified product	142
	Industrial use and application	142
	Comparison between Impreg™ and Compreg™	143
2.5	Furfurylated wood	143
	Material selection and preparation	145
	The modification process	145
	The modified product	149
	Industrial use and application	151
2.6	DMDHEU	152
	Material selection and preparation	153
	Modification process	153
	The modified product	157
	Industrial use and application	160
2.7	Silicates and silanes	162
	Material selection and preparation	163
	The modification process	163
	The modified product	165
	Industrial use and application	167
2.8	Chitosan	168
	Material selection and preparation	168
	The modification process	168
	The modified product	169
	Industrial use and application	170
2.9	Indurite™ and Lignia™	170
	Material selection and preparation	170
	The modifying process	170
	Product properties	171
	Industrial use and application	171
2.10	Oil and wax	172
	Material selection and preparation	173
	Modification process	173
	The modified product	176
	Industrial use and applications	176
2.11	Polyethylene glycol (PEG)	176
	Material selection and preparation	177
	The modification process	177
	Product properties	178
	Industrial use and application	179
2.12	Summary and outlook	179
	References	181

3. Thermally-based Modification Processes	196
3.1 Introduction	196
Thermal degradation of wood	197
3.2 Charring of wood surfaces	200
Material selection and preparation	201
Industrial charring processes	202
Properties of charred wood	202
Applications for charred wood	203
3.3 Water as a modification agent for wood	204
Chemistry of TBM treatment	206
3.4 Thermal modification processes	209
Material selection and preparation	209
Industrial thermal modification processes	212
Properties of thermally modified wood	220
Applications of thermally-modified timber	226
3.5 Wood ageing	227
Material selection and preparation	229
Industrial wood ageing processes	229
Properties of aged wood	230
Applications of aged wood	231
3.6 Self-bonding of veneer	231
Material selection and preparation	232
Industrial self-bonding processes	232
Properties of self-bonded veneer	235
Applications for self-bonded veneer	236
3.7 Frictional wood welding	237
Material selection and preparation	238
Industrial wood-welding processes	238
Properties of the frictional welded bond-line	243
Applications of welded wood	247
3.8 Wood densification	247
Permanent fixation of compressive deformation	251
Material selection and preparation	256
Industrial densification processes	257
Properties of densified wood	264
Applications of densified wood	271
3.9 Moulded tubes	271
Material selection and preparation	272
Industrial processes for shaped wood	272
Applications of moulded tubes	275
3.10 Summary and outlook	275
References	276
4. The Use of Microwaves, Plasma and Laser Light for Wood Modification	291
4.1 Introduction	291
Electromagnetic radiation	291
Plasma	293
Laser light	294

4.2	Wood modification with microwaves	295
	Material selection and preparation	295
	Wood modification with microwaves: processes, properties, applications	295
4.3	Wood modification with plasma	304
	Corona and plasma treatments: processes properties, applications	304
4.4	Wood modification with laser light	308
	Material selection and preparation	309
	Laser modification: processes, properties, applications	309
4.5	Conclusions on microwaves, plasma and laser-light modification	315
	References	316
5.	Other Modification Processes	322
5.1	Introduction	322
5.2	Biological treatment of wood	323
	Metabolites from wood-destroying organisms to protect wood	323
	Fungal incising	326
	Enzymatic treatment of wood	328
	Bacterial incising	329
	Treatment with natural extracts	330
	Conclusions regarding biological treatment	334
5.3	Biomimetics	334
	What is biomimetics?	335
	Biomimetics in architecture	335
	Biomimetics for wood treatment	336
	Biomimetics and water repellency	336
	Biomimetics and self-cleaning	340
	Other potential biomimetic wood modifications	341
5.4	Mineralisation of wood	341
	Mineralisation with silica compounds	342
	Mineralisation with nanomaterials	342
	Mineralisation with carbonates	343
5.5	Supercritical fluid treatments	343
	Supercritical fluid extraction and liquefaction processes for wood	345
	Use of supercritical fluids in wood preservation	346
	Other uses of supercritical fluids	347
	Overview of supercritical fluids	348
5.6	Ionic liquids in wood modification	348
	What is an ionic liquid?	348
	Ionic liquids and wood components	349
	Ionic liquids as wood preservatives	351
	Chemical modification of wood with ionic liquids	352
	Conclusions regarding ionic liquids	354
5.7	Opportunities for future wood modification	354
	Grafting of components to enable polymerisation	355
	Click chemistry	356
	Rhodium-catalysed reactions of hydroxyl groups	359
	Modification of chitosan	359
5.8	Conclusions on other methods	360
	References	360

6. Modified Wood Beyond Sustainability	370
6.1 Introduction	370
6.2 Environmental impact of wood modification processes	373
6.3 Modified wood in a circular economy	378
6.4 The use of modified wood in a healthy living environment	381
Environmental assessment of buildings	381
Modified wood as an element of restorative environmental design	382
Volatile organic emissions	384
6.5 Industry 4.0 in wood supply chain	387
6.6 Conclusions	389
References	390
Appendix	395
Index	423