



Figure 1. Major regional differences in potential for deterioration of wood poles used in contact with the ground are shown in Figure 1. In certain modified environments such as banks along irrigation canals or irrigated residential or agricultural lands, a higher degree of protection might be needed than would be required in the local natural environment. It must also be recognized that within individual regions, certain natural environments such as river valleys or coastlines may present greater potential for wood pole deterioration than the region as a whole. Refer to Section 1.4.1 above for further discussion of ground contact decay hazards.

The Decay Hazard Map for Utility Poles is found in American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) Standard U1-22, Commodity Specification D.

It is important for specifiers to realize that decay hazards vary significantly across various regions in the U.S. The map should be used for general guidance only, as local conditions may differ from the larger regions of the map. Regions of lower decay may, but not always, permit direct embedment of untreated naturally durable wood products, whereas higher decay hazard regions may be unsuitable for direct embedment. The specifier should determine the actual decay hazard in the specific location where naturally durable wood products will be installed before deciding to embed these products directly in the ground.

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