CPSC, EPA, CDC/ATSDR, HUD PRESS STATEMENT ON DRYWALL AIR SAMPLING

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are working together with state partners to determine if homeowners with Chinese drywall in their homes face potential health or safety risks. Our top priority and shared goal is to protect the health and safety of families living in these homes. The federal government is working as fast as good science will allow to find answers to the questions and concerns expressed by many homeowners and to recommend possible solutions.

CPSC is leading the federal investigation and is working with other federal and state agencies to determine exactly what substances are in the drywall, what substances are emitting odors into the air and whether identified substances found in the air pose a safety or health hazard to families. This is a complicated investigation and the data must be evaluated before conclusions are made; nonetheless, the agencies and states involved share a sense of urgency in informing the public of their findings and developing safe and effective solutions.

The federal investigation is a multi-stage process to measure concentration levels of gases that may be associated with emissions from Chinese drywall. First, in support of CPSC, EPA has performed limited air sampling and monitoring in six homes in Florida and Louisiana. This effort assisted CPSC and state agencies in developing a protocol to conduct more wide-spread in-home air testing.

CPSC is testing the air in 50 homes in Florida, Louisiana, Virginia, Alabama and Mississippi. In each state, CPSC is gathering numerous samples from homes that contain drywall produced in China, and, for comparative purposes, from homes constructed with U.S.-made drywall in which no problems have been reported. Federal and state partners will evaluate the test results as part of assessing potential health or safety risks to building occupants.

Interested persons can obtain additional information by visiting CPSC's Drywall Information Center (www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/index.html) or CDC's Response to Imported Drywall page (www.cdc.gov/nceh/drywall).