

CHINESE DRYWALL IN FLORIDA

The Problem

As many people now know, Chinese drywall has been discovered in certain buildings and residences in Florida, particularly in multi-unit structures such as condominiums and apartment buildings. While nobody knows yet what all the negative side effects of Chinese drywall may be, some known effects include the smell of rotting eggs, respiratory problems, nose bleeds, headaches, irritated eyes, allergy symptoms, corrosion to wiring, plumbing, and other metal objects in the home and building.

The Cause

Chinese drywall is defective because it emits a sulfur compound. The reason behind this dangerous emission is that a waste material from Chinese power plants, a substance known as fly ash, was used in the manufacturing of Chinese drywall.

The use of Chinese drywall in Florida homes and buildings occurred between 2004 and 2006, during the housing boom. At the center of the drywall problems in Florida is Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin Co. Ltd of China, a subsidiary of German-based manufacturer Knauf, though there are reports of other companies that may be equally responsible. It is estimated that 10 million square feet of defective Chinese drywall was used in Florida homes.

Course of Action

If you are a resident of a structure with defective Chinese drywall, then you and your belongings have likely been exposed to some undetermined level of this sulfuric emission. As a result, you may be experiencing, or you may experience in the future, some of the negative side effects stated above. The young and elderly, as well as people with asthma or chemical sensitivities, are among those at greatest risk of health problems associated with the Chinese drywall.

If you own a unit in such a building, then you are the subject of economic damages since the unit in its defective state does not have same value it would otherwise. Either way, you should seek legal representation because you may be entitled to relief.

Some builders are seeking to mitigate losses by relocating residents. Also, there are insurance policies in place to assist in redressing resident and homeowner damages, and there is even talk of state and federal government intervention.

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