

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Chinese Drywall Can Threaten Health And Property

(NAPSA)—A particular kind of building material may pose a threat to the health of homeowners and to property values. Those threats have led some homeowners to seek legal recourse.

Between 2004 and 2007, a housing boom in certain areas of



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the country, coupled with a shortage of American-made drywall due to high demand, led to the importation of Chinese drywall. Some estimates say as many as 100,000 American homes contain foreign drywall.

Experts say Chinese drywall can cause damage to homes and other property by emitting fumes that can corrode electronic components.

Health officials are most concerned about the negative effects Chinese drywall can have on sensitive populations including pregnant women, infants and young children, the elderly, people with asthma or other illnesses as well as individuals with chemical sensitivities.

Irritant-type symptoms, such as trouble breathing and nosebleeds, have been reported. Some homeowners have reported that their pets have become seriously ill or died after the Chinese drywall was installed.

The following are some of the warning signs that your home or

property may be affected by Chinese drywall:

- Drywall is stamped with the words Made in China, Knauf or other possible brands on the back;
- The smell of sulfur or rotten eggs;
- Electrical problems or copper wiring that has corroded or turned black;
- Copper plumbing that has corroded and turned black.

If you believe there is Chinese drywall in your home, a good first step is to call an environmental testing agency to legally verify that you have Chinese drywall. The problems with Chinese drywall have also triggered many individual and class-action lawsuits. Some builders have also sued Chinese drywall manufacturers for failing to control the quality of their product and failing to notify customers it was defective.

In response to the hazards with Chinese drywall, the law firm of Baron & Budd has assembled a Chinese drywall litigation team to help affected homeowners.

Said Russell Budd, senior partner with the firm, "We're looking forward to helping people seek legal remedies for issues created by the drywall."

Founded in 1977, the firm is nationally recognized for handling tough cases where individuals have been harmed by corporate wrongdoing. To learn more, visit the Web site at Baronandbudd.com.