

Chinese Drywall Fact Sheet

Background: Many families in Louisiana have expressed concerns about the health effects and potential toxicity from drywall manufactured in China. In response to these concerns, Senator Landrieu's office has prepared the following helpful consumer information about this issue.

Update on Federal and State Reponse

FAQs

What states are impacted?

State health departments of Florida, Louisiana and Virginia have reported active cases related to Chinese drywall.

Which federal agencies are involved?

The CDC is a **non-regulatory** agency in this area. Product safety and efficacy testing is under other Federal agencies, including the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The CPSC is the lead agency for this response effort.

CPSC telephone: (800) 638-2772

Web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov>

Are federal agencies working with the states?

- Federal and state agencies continue working together to learn about this product.
- Scientists do not yet know the effects of home ventilation.
- Current laboratory tests are expected to determine what chemicals are involved. However, **these tests will not provide information to help assess health effects.**

Which federal agency will study whether the drywall is toxic?

- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is a Federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR is coordinating with CPSC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and several state health departments to ensure a consistent approach to investigating any potential public health issues.
- ATSDR will provide technical assistance to states as requested in the review of sampling results, including possible follow-up of sampling approaches and analyses.

Health Concerns

Currently, there is not enough information to determine whether there are any public health implications related to having Chinese drywall in a home. However, those who suspect this product is affecting their health or that of family members should:

1. **Get fresh air outdoors.**
2. **Consult your doctor.**

For additional information, persons may contact the **Louisiana Office of Public Health:**

Telephone: (888) 293-7020

Website: <http://www.oph.dhh.louisiana.gov/>

You should work with the Louisiana Office of Public Health or your local housing authority for further guidance related to inspecting your home, sampling the drywall and obtaining information on responsible parties obligated to take action.

Additional Information

- Hazard Assessment of Copper Corrosion and Air-Conditioner Evaporator Coil Failures Possibly Associated with Imported Drywall:

Florida Department of Health: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/community/indoor-air/drywall.html>

- Information on the health effects from exposure to hydrogen sulfide and to carbon disulfide is available on the CDC Website at the following links:

Toxicological Profile for Hydrogen Sulfide: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/p114.html>

Toxicological Profile for Carbon Disulfide: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/p82.html>

If homeowners or families would like additional information, they can contact Senator Landrieu's New Orleans office at 504-589-2427.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov>