

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 guide.

Update on Federal and State Reponse

EPA Test Results

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a report on May 19, 2009, detailing its testing of four U.S. drywall samples and two Chinese drywall samples. These tests found that Chinese-made drywall contained sulfur that was not in U.S. drywall, strontium at levels 10 times as high as in U.S. drywall, and two other organic compounds generally found in acrylic paint that were not detected in the U.S. product. These initial tests are helpful to distinguish possible problem substances in Chinese-made drywall that are not in U.S.-made drywall. The EPA has said more testing is needed, including air sampling in affected houses, to determine whether the drywall is in fact the cause of corroded wiring and appliances, and the reported health problems.

FAQs

What states are impacted?

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has received more than 180 incident reports from residents in 13 states and the District of Columbia, including Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Virginia, Wisconsin, Ohio, Missouri, California, Washington, Wyoming, Arizona and Tennessee.

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

NEW Fact sheet on imported drywall: <http://www.cpsc.gov/drywall.pdf>

Are federal agencies working with the states?

- Federal and state agencies continue working together to learn about this product.
- The CPSC, CDC and the Florida and Louisiana Departments of Health have formed a federal/state working group.
- Scientists do not yet know the effects of home ventilation.

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.

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/phs114.html>

Toxicological Profile for Carbon Disulfide: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/phs82.html>

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