



Misinformation about Chinese drywall issue

National Gypsum has observed misinformation in the media from plaintiff's attorneys and other sources surrounding the current Chinese wallboard issue. This is adding to the frustration and confusion of homeowners, suppliers, contractors, and commercial project owners. Here are the facts about National Gypsum, its processes, and its products:

- Gypsum is a safe, inert mineral. There are many uses for gypsum but the primary one is for wallboard because of gypsum's fire-resistant properties. Gypsum is even used in food and beverages. The average person will eat approximately 28 pounds of gypsum in his or her lifetime.
- National Gypsum manufactures wallboard exclusively in the United States where it has produced wallboard for over 80 years without any of the problems associated with imported Chinese wallboard.
- National Gypsum has never imported Chinese wallboard, never purchased raw materials from China, never purchased and rebranded Chinese wallboard, and never distributed it.
- The natural gypsum rock National Gypsum uses in its wallboard production comes from mines and quarries in Halifax, Nova Scotia (largest gypsum quarry in the world); Shoals, IN; Harper and Rotan, TX; Tawas, MI; Sun City; KS; Winkleman, AZ, and Fort Dodge, IA. The company uses rock from the Baja region of Mexico for its California plants.
- The company also uses byproduct gypsum, sometimes called synthetic gypsum. Byproduct gypsum is produced when coal-fired power plants "scrub" stack emissions. The stack emissions are fed through a limestone slurry. The resulting byproduct of this process is calcium sulfate which is the chemical name for gypsum and is chemically identical to gypsum rock and actually has a higher purity level.
- Some people confuse byproduct gypsum with fly ash. Fly ash from a power plant is used principally in cement products. It is NOT used to produce wallboard. The fly ash production process and the byproduct gypsum process are different and separate operations. National Gypsum DOES NOT add fly ash to its wallboard.
- National Gypsum uses byproduct gypsum from power plants. These plants and National Gypsum test the byproduct gypsum to ensure compliance with predetermined specifications for byproduct gypsum.

- The use of byproduct gypsum to produce wallboard is not a new process. It was first used in Japan and Europe approximately 30 years ago.
- At two of its plants, National Gypsum purchases a small amount of gypsum made from recycled wallboard. This is produced from excess wallboard leftover from new projects. GRI in Cambridge, MA provides this product for the company's Portsmouth, NH plant. Disposal Management Systems near Chicago, IL supplies a small amount of material to our Waukegan, IL plant. National Gypsum does NOT use recycled gypsum obtained from third parties at its Florida plants.
- The gypsum from recycled wallboard is tested by the processors and National Gypsum to ensure compliance with predetermined specifications for the product.
- National Gypsum wallboard can be identified before construction by end tapes which package two sheets together. The National Gypsum name, the plant where the board was produced, as well as the date and time each sheet of wallboard was produced is printed on the back.
- A home may contain wallboard from more than one manufacturer. A wallboard installation contractor will call a supplier for delivery of a particular size and quantity of wallboard. It is typical for the supplier to send what is available from the warehouse, meeting those requirements.
- Pulling back insulation in the attic and identifying the manufacturer on the back of the board will ensure which product was used in the ceiling ONLY. High-strength ceiling board will most likely be from a U.S. manufacturer. The walls in the home may be made of a different type of board from different manufacturers.

National Gypsum has been working with various groups to provide information on its drywall products and processes. Homeowners, suppliers, project owners, and contractors may call 1-800-NATIONAL.

Contact Info:

Nancy Spurlock
Director, Corporate Communications
704/365-7556
nhspurlock@nationalgypsum.com