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Sent: Friday, May 13, 2005 9:19 PM
Subject: Study released on effectiveness of sealants in preventing leaching of arsenic from CCA-treated wood

Posted to News Briefs - EPA's latest developments For Release: (Washington, D.C. - May 11, 2005). EPA and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) (http://www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html) are currently conducting a two-year study (August 2003-August 2005) of the **effectiveness of sealants in preventing leaching of arsenic from CCA-treated wood**. They have announced the release of INTERIM results of the sealant studies.

Studies Provide Public With Updated Information on CCA-Treated Playground and Decks

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EPA and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) are providing updated information on the effectiveness of sealants and stains in reducing potential exposure to arsenic from chromated copper arsenate (CCA)-treated wood used in residential settings. For homeowners and others who want to reduce their potential arsenic exposure from their decks or other CCA-treated wood structures, **new studies show that use, at least once a year, of an oil-or water-based, penetrating sealant or stain can reduce arsenic migrating from the treated wood**. The data show that oil- or water-based sealants or stains that can penetrate wood surfaces are preferable to products such as paint, because paints and other film-formers can chip or flake, requiring scraping or sanding for removal, which can increase exposure to arsenic. Consumers should consider the required preparation steps (e.g., sanding, power washing, etc.) before selecting a product to minimize potential exposure to arsenic, both for initial application and re-coating.

This information is based on **first-year results** from two-year studies initiated by CPSC and EPA in 2003 to determine which stains, sealants and paints are most effective in reducing potential arsenic exposure from existing CCA-treated structures. EPA tested the performance of 12 coatings on older wood and CPSC tested eight coatings (seven were the same as the EPA group) on new (as of August 2003) CCA-treated wood. CCA was a pesticide treatment commonly used in the past to prevent deck and playground wood from rotting and insect damage. **Effective Dec. 31, 2003, the use of CCA to treat virtually all wood intended for residential use was eliminated.** More information for consumers and the sealant studies are available on EPA's Web site: http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/reregistration/cca/#sealants and on CPSC's Web site: http://www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html .

Recent related releases:

1.
2. Questions and Answers: CCA-Treated Wood Sealant Studies (Interim Results), May 11, 2005; http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/reregistration/cca/sealant_qa.htm
3. Sealant Study (Interim Data Report) Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Coatings in Reducing Dislodgeable Arsenic, Chromium, and Copper from CCA Treated Wood (May 9, 2005) (12.6 MB, PDF, 186 pages); http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/reregistration/cca/sealant_study.pdf
4. Wipe Comparison Report: Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Coatings in Reducing Dislodgeable Arsenic, Chromium, and Copper from CCA Treated Wood (May 9, 2005) (979 KB, PDF, 42 pages); http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/reregistration/cca/wipe_comparison.pdf.

Background on the Issues with CCA:

1. Voluntary Cancellation of Virtually All Residential Uses of CCA-treated Wood; http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/postings/cca.pdf. 4/1/03.

2. Preliminary Worker Risk Assessment for Wood Preservatives Containing Arsenic and/or Chromium;http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/postings/arsenicalchromaterisk.pdf. 3/23/04.

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