The Production of Contaminated Drywall Compared to American-Made Drywall as Determined by Materials Characterization

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One of the largest building materials problems ever experienced in the United States has been drywall reacting in houses, primarily located in the southeastern states. It is estimated that more than 60,000 homes, which were either built or remodeled during 2004–2007, have been affected by defective drywall imported from China during a construction boom after nine hurricanes hit Florida and the Gulf Coast states during 2004–2005, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has spent millions of dollars studying Chinese-made versus American-made drywall, determining a sulfur reaction causing copper erosion. This presentation will emphasize a materials characterization study by the author distinguishing between drywalls and the differences in production of American-made drywall versus contaminated drywall.