

Understanding the role of formaldehyde in insulation.

There's a lot of talk about indoor air quality and the materials that can affect it. One of the substances sometimes referenced in these discussions is formaldehyde, a common chemical used in many consumer products found within the home, such as furniture and bedding; as well as common building materials including plywood, shingles, cabinets, flooring and countertops.

PRODUCTS CONTAINING FORMALDEHYDE:

Home Construction

- Sheathing and cladding
- Floors

Home Interior

- Countertops
- Cabinets and cabinet doors
- Carpeting
- Furniture
- Bedding
- Paints and varnishes



WHAT IS FORMALDEHYDE?

Formaldehyde is a colorless gas or liquid often used to make adhesives and binders. The substance is used in fiber glass insulation to help glue or "bind" the glass fibers together. The binder gives the insulation its shape and the ability to recover from a highly compressed package, allowing it to completely fill cavities and remain in place during the life of the building.

FORMALDEHYDE IN INSULATION DOES NOT POSE ANY HEALTH RISKS.

Trace amounts of formaldehyde in fiber glass insulation do not present health or indoor air quality issues. It's been shown that even formaldehyde-free insulation sometimes contains trace amounts of formaldehyde, although less than traditional fiber glass insulation. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the North American Insulation

Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) have all stated that trace amounts of formaldehyde in fiber glass and mineral wool insulation is not a concern to human health or the environment.

GREENGUARD® CERTIFICATION MATTERS MOST.

CertainTeed fiber glass insulation products are GREENGUARD Certified for superior indoor air quality. This means CertainTeed insulation products have been tested by an independent third party (the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute) to confirm that emissions of formaldehyde, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and other pollutants are below established standards. As a result, CertainTeed insulation can be specified and used with confidence.



FACT: FORMALDEHYDE-FREE PRODUCTS DO NOT PERFORM BETTER THAN TRADITIONAL INSULATION PRODUCTS.


The only difference between formaldehyde-free and other insulation is the binder. Both types of insulation meet local and national building codes and surpass performance standards established by the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) for thermal and acoustic performance, as well as other properties.



The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System does not require insulation products to be formaldehyde-free for certification of a green building project.



For more on CertainTeed GREENGUARD Certified products, visit www.certainteed.com. For more on the LEED rating system and certification process, contact your LEED professional, or visit www.usgbc.org/LEED. For more on GREENGUARD, visit www.greenguard.org.

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