

## **THE GREAT CHINESE DRYWALL DISASTER**

**By Sean Herman**

The number of victims is starting to grow towards historic proportions as more light is shed on one of our time's greatest construction disasters. Over the last several months, there have been numerous Chinese drywall complaints of new home buyers who have unexplained corroding of their HVAC coils and copper wires.

The Chinese drywall complaints are often coupled with a foul odor of rotten eggs, irritated eyes, respiratory problems, nose bleeds, and headaches that alleviate when you are away from home.

New Jersey homes that are likely affected by defective Chinese drywall are usually built between the years 2004 and 2007. It is reported that over 550 million pounds of Chinese drywall have been offloaded to U.S. Ports since 2006.

This equates to at least 60,000 average sized homes that are likely to be affected by defective Chinese drywall, many of which could be located in New Jersey. Some analysts place the estimated number of homes affected by defective Chinese drywall over 100,000, making it all more likely that this may become a disaster of colossal magnitude.

New Jersey, location of some of the largest ports in the country, expects several thousand New Jersey homes to be affected by the Chinese drywall disaster. The cause of this calamity occurred while Chinese drywall manufacturers sought entry of its products into the United States.

As the Chinese drywall was stored in barges for several months at a time, awaiting entrance, the products soaked in excessive levels of moisture from the sea.

When the Chinese drywall was installed into homes, the drywall would dry out and release toxic sulfuric fumes known as hydrogen sulfide.

Excessive exposure to hydrogen sulfide may cause extreme irritation and even unconsciousness, respiratory paralysis or asphyxiation.

The current extent of the Chinese drywall disaster is relatively unknown, as the number of complaints in New Jersey and throughout the nation grows with each passing day. Currently, defective Chinese drywall is reported to be installed in homes from New Jersey down to Florida, encompassing at least 17 other states.

If your New Jersey home has inexplicable signs of metallic corroding, rotten egg-like odor or respiratory irritation, then action shall be taken immediately. Please contact Lieberman & Blecher immediately to discuss your legal situation.

New Jersey, like every state, has a statute of limitations that applies to claims like defective Chinese drywall claims. If you wait too long in filing a claim, you may be barred from recovering any damages you may be entitled to. Therefore, Lieberman & Blecher suggests that anyone with a defective Chinese drywall claim contact a law firm.