

Information from Owens Corning



Formaldehyde and Fiber Glass Building Insulation

In recent years there has been increased focus on indoor air quality and with that interest a concern with formaldehyde containing building products. The following information provides an understanding of the role that fiber glass insulation plays in indoor air quality in homes and buildings.

Background

Formaldehyde has many sources in the indoor environment. It is a basic component in various resins and glues. In addition, plywood, particleboard, carpets, draperies and upholstery fabric may contain formaldehyde and be sources of emissions in new buildings.

Is formaldehyde used in fiber glass building insulation?

Most of Owens Corning's fiber glass insulation products are manufactured with thermoset resin. The purpose of the resin is to hold the pack of fibers together during installation. The fibers and resin are then "heat cured" in curing ovens around 500 degrees F. This aggressive curing process drives off excess water and formaldehyde. Virtually all of the formaldehyde contained in the finished product becomes an integral part of the cured resin system. Owens Corning also makes insulation products, which do not include a thermoset resin.

Consumer Product Safety Commission Finding

In testing and evaluation of consumer products containing formaldehyde, the Consumer Products Safety Council concluded that, "fibrous glass insulation an ceiling tiles would have little impact on in-home formaldehyde levels."

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