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June 2003 — FEATURES

Mold

The Wrong Kind of Home Growth

Mold solutions that save builders money.

By Kim Singletary and Sara Markert



With the constant threat of litigation and escalating insurance prices, homebuilders must do everything they can to prevent and remediate mold in the homes they build. The following companies provide innovative products and services designed to aid builders in

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PRODUCTS

EnviroCare

A home is vulnerable to mold from the framing stage. "Most mold found in a home began in this stage," says John Barry, chief technology officer of EnviroCare, a company that manufactures a coating to treat wood during framing. An inexpensive alternative to tearing down walls — at about \$200 to \$400 for a 2,000 square-foot home — EnviroCare's antimicrobial coating can be applied in one hour and dries within an hour, with no impact on construction. The applicator wears typical painting equipment and the water-based coating is guaranteed to last for the life of the home.

For more information, visit www.envirocarecorp.com

Potlatch

Potlatch has an entire collection of specialty building products dedicated to healthy and environmentally safe homebuilding. These products are found in the OXBoard™ series. OXTerminator™ OSB is one product designed to resist mold. OXTerminator has repeatedly outperformed expectations in short and long term tests completed in laboratory and real world environments. The product has been successfully tested in the most adverse mold inducing conditions, including the dampness of Hawaii. What distinguishes it from other OSBs is its unique copper complex coating, which offers a greater protection against mold than zinc borate-treated OSB. The new copper treatment, approved by the EPA, protects OXTerminator wood panels from termite damage, fungal rot and decay, and is highly resistant to surface mold growth. OXTerminator OSB features a 25-year warranty against structural damage caused by fungal rot.

For more information on Potlatch products, visit www.potlatchcorp.com.

SERVICES

Pacific Gold Coast Construction Inc.

General contractors specializing in mold prevention and remediation, Pacific Gold Coast helps builders treat drywall, floors and wood studs to prevent mold growth and regrowth. For six years the company has successfully used Aegis Microbe Shield to prevent regrowth in homes that have been damaged by mold. The company also offers treatment with anti-fungicidal encapsulants that stop mold before it starts in areas with plumbing.

"All the developers we've worked for also appreciate the fact that we keep a very low profile — using unlabeled trucks and regular work clothes," says John Lausevic, COO for Pacific Gold Coast.

For more information, call toll free 877/ 601-2537.

MoldDog™

Detecting mold in homes is a costly and destructive process, usually involving tearing down walls. Five years ago the insurance industry was looking for another alternative. After spending more than 15 years training dogs to detect everything from bombs to termites, Bill Whitstine, master dog trainer, believed he could create the solution. Using his own unique training process, Whitstine has since personally trained 25 dogs to detect mold in homes.

"In less than 20 minutes a dog can go through a 2,500 square-foot home and find all the mold with a 90 percent accuracy rate," Whitstine says. Builders, inspectors, remediation companies and realtors are purchasing Whitstine's highly trained canines for \$12,500 a piece — a sum more than made up for in savings of time and labor and expenses.

For more information, please visit www.mold-dog.com.

Mold Removal Systems

Formed in response to a desire to offer a wide scope of mold services with a focus on technology, Mold Removal Systems offers a way of getting at mold that fungicides miss. "There are two stages for mold, growing and reproducing," says Nancy Kramer, vice president of Mold Removal Systems. "When you try to kill mold it reproduces and no fungicide in the world addresses airborne spores. Our technology does." Using mold removal systems by BioZone Systems, including the popular duct installed purifiers, the company can analyze any situation and present a total solution.

For more information call 877/ 203-2054.

Flannery Inc.

Flannery Inc., a leader in specialty drywall moldings and plaster trims, has invented a product that eliminates mold completely. Mold Guard is inexpensive, cost-effective, and functional. It is a drainage system inside walls that captures moisture and dissolves it well before it can begin the formative stages of mold growth. The design includes small vent slots that drain water and provide an air passage to assist drying. Mold Guard allows water to drain out of the cavity while allowing air to enter and begin the drying process.

For more information on Flannery products visit www.flannerytrim.com.

Fortifiber

For over 60 years, The Fortifiber Building Systems Group has specialized in manufacturing new methods and products that help protect builders and owners from water intrusion and moisture that can damage residential and commercial buildings. Fortifiber's total moisture control system includes Jumbo Tex, a weather-resistant barrier that works behind stucco, fiber cement, brick, wood and vinyl siding; flexible flashing systems used to protect buildings from water intrusion through windows, doors,

and other openings; and underslab vapor retarders that help reduce moisture intrusion from water vapor migration through concrete slabs.

For more information on Fortifiber products, visit www.fortifiber.com.

ABATEC

ABATEC provides mold remediation and consulting to building industry professionals.

"We pride ourselves on strict adherence to EPA, Cal-OSHA, SCAQMD, and, where applicable, City of Los Angeles regulations. Certified Mold Remediation Specialists conduct our microbial surveys and supervise remediation," says Dennis Hanna, president of ABATEC.

"We study problem projects, work with construction professionals to diagnose the cause, develop common sense solutions, and perform the remediation in a safe and time-efficient manner," Hanna says.

For more information on ABATEC services visit www.abatec.com

Precision Environmental

The environmental contracting specialists at Precision Environmental have come up with an innovative method to remediate mold. "Precision is known for our unique and patented process of using environmental heat for the disinfection of organic contaminations," says James Andersen, vice president of marketing for Precision Environmental.

One of their new processes, PrecisionHEATGUARD™, offers builders the full spectrum of remediation benefits in one simple step. "PrecisionHEATGUARD not only has all of the benefits of PrecisionHEAT™, i.e. drying, killing mold, fungi, insects, oxidizing VOCs, but it also leaves a residual barrier that is insecticidal, fungicidal and is also a fire retardant," Andersen says. "This process can be applied to any new construction framing, remodels, or any exposed wood members."

For more information on Precision Environmental, visit www.precisionenv.com.

Quickflash

Quickflash specializes in plumbing and electrical flashing panels that prevent moisture intrusion, which cause mold damage. Quickflash's high-grade polyethylene plastic flashing panels are affixed to the outside of the house and protect exterior electrical protrusions, preventing mold growth. Quickflash panels are simple to install, requiring no tools or other materials, not even caulk. A few builders using Quickflash on all their homes include KB Home Nevada, Woodside Homes in Phoenix and DR Horton in San Diego.

For more information visit www.quickflashproducts.com.

Honeywell

"The value of fresh air ventilation is often underestimated in improving indoor air quality," says Tim Kensok, director of indoor air quality products for Honeywell. Honeywell recommends an integrated strategy of source control, filtration and ventilation to effectively reduce contaminant levels. In a well ventilated home the air is recycled every three to four hours, versus once or twice a day in a tightly constructed house with no mechanical ventilation."

To facilitate proper indoor air quality, Honeywell offers a variety of products, including a Whole House Humidifier that uses patented technology to determine and maintain the right level of indoor humidity. Other products include a Whole House Ventilation System that efficiently supplies fresh air to the home, an Ultraviolet Air Treatment system that helps prevent mold from growing on air conditioning coils, and a High Efficiency Filtration system that captures a high percentage of microscopic particles passing through the filter.

For more information on these products visit www.honeywell.com/yourhome.

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