



# Warning: Hot Coffee! - Building Construction

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Alert to Fire Safety Professionals

No. HC-2010-1 March 31, 2010



**ALERT! Report to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission any fires that you suspect are associated with problem drywall.**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is investigating potential fire hazards that may be related to problem drywall. **They need your help!**

While CPSC is not aware of any corroborated fire incidents to date, they are asking fire safety professionals to be on the lookout for and to report to CPSC any fires that appear to be connected to problem drywall to aid in their investigation.

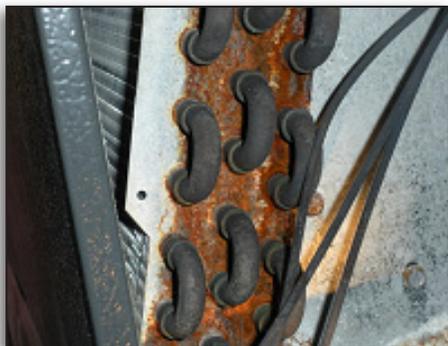
Corrosion (typically blackening) of air conditioning evaporator coils, electrical wiring, and other metal components is a common symptom of residences finished with problem drywall. Consumers raising concerns about drywall have typically identified a “rotten egg” smell within their house, several health symptoms while in the home, corrosion or blackening of metal items, and failures of electronic devices and appliances. Consumers have also reported frequent failures of the evaporator coils in central air conditioning units.



CPSC has launched an investigation of problem drywall.



The ground wire connected to the green screw is blackened from corrosion. This wire should be copper-colored.



The copper coils on this air conditioner unit are blackened from corrosion.



This copper water pipe is blackened.

For more information about CPSC's drywall investigation, visit the Drywall Information Center at [www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/index.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/index.html)

Report problem drywall-related fires to CPSC's Rik Khanna at [rkhanna@cpsc.gov](mailto:rkhanna@cpsc.gov) or 301-504-7546 or Andrew Trotta at [atrotta@cpsc.gov](mailto:atrotta@cpsc.gov) or 301-504-7578.



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