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Synthetic vs. Natural Latex Allergic Reaction Potential

Consumers are sometimes confused by the wide variety of health and safety concerns raised by various media and consumer advocate groups.

California Products Corporation shares the concern of these groups to produce safe products. One concern that can be addressed is the notion that "Latex/Water based" coatings cause allergic reactions. The National Paint and Coatings Association has addressed these concerns. The difference between "natural" and "synthetic" latex is real and substantial. Synthetic Latex products have not been shown to be a source of allergic reactions. That press release is attached.

The products manufactured by California Products Corporation are formulated using synthetic latex resins. Based on our experience and the scientific evidence our Latex/Water based coatings for recreational surfaces do not cause allergic reactions.

If you have further questions, contact the undersigned at #1-800-225-1141, ext. 223.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald B. Child", written in a cursive style.

Ronald B. Child, VP
Compliance & Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

444-48



STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL PAINT & COATINGS ASSOCIATION

Latex Paint Does Not Pose a Threat to Those Who Suffer from Latex Allergies

The National Paint & Coatings Association (NPCA) would like consumers to know that the type of latex found in latex paints is not the same type of latex found in products that trigger latex allergies. In a recent report aired on ABC television's "20/20" on March 14, 1997, noted that commonly-used products containing latex have caused allergic reactions — sometimes severe — in approximately one to six percent of the population. These allergic reactions have most commonly been associated with surgical gloves and other natural latex products worn close to the skin.

The key distinction for latex in paint is that it is generally synthetic (polymerized from various monomeric materials, principally vinyl acetate and various acrylates) and dispersed in water. By contrast, the latex used in other products is usually naturally derived from rubber tree sap and contains, among others, hydrocarbon polymers and proteins. In particular, the protein component of natural latex is regarded as the likely cause of allergic reactions.

Because of these and other differences, consumers need not be concerned about using latex paint and developing the allergic reactions that have been associated with natural latex.

For more information, NPCA can be reached by phone, fax, e-mail or regular mail:

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