



1300 SUMNER AVE. • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115-2851
 (216) 241-7333 • FAX (216) 241-0105
 E-Mail: cffa@chemicalfabricsandfilm.com
 URL: www.chemicalfabricsandfilm.com

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Susan Young
 CFFA
 (216) 241-7333

Barbara Paynter
 Edward Howard & Co.
 (216) 781-2400

Q & A and Booklet Address Concerns about Mold and Wallcoverings

Chemical Fabrics & Film Association and Wallcoverings Association co-produce collateral

CLEVELAND, Ohio, July 17, 2003 – The Chemical Fabrics & Film Association (CFFA) now has available a brochure and companion publication to address recent and growing concerns about mold growth in building interiors. The publications are targeted to interior designers, architects and others who specify wallcoverings for commercial interiors.

In partnership with the Wallcoverings Association (WA), CFFA addresses the proper use of commercial, or contract, wallcovering in commercial environments. The organization emphasizes that mold growth is not caused by the presence of commercial wallcoverings; in virtually all cases, mold growth is a consequence of excessive trapped moisture. While not all mold is harmful, CFFA provides an overview of the most effective strategies for preventing growth of the fungi, including finding and stopping the source(s) of excessive moisture; designing and building structures properly to prevent favorable conditions for growth; selecting finishes and materials to prevent mold; and using good practices and proper surface preparation.

“CFFA members agree that it is essential to educate and inform design professionals about the prevention and detection of mold, wall surface treatment and product selection, and the proper process for wallcovering installation,” said Erica Root Cikanek, chair of the Decorative Products Division of CFFA and product general manager for the Decorative Products Division of OMNOVA Solutions, Inc., a manufacturer of contract wallcoverings. “We are pleased to provide much-needed tools to educate designers about these issues as they relate to wallcovering products.”

Entitled “Commercial Wallcoverings, Always an Excellent Decorating Choice,” the eight-panel brochure answers frequently asked questions regarding mold and mildew, beginning with definitions of mold and concluding with strategies for preventing growth. It can be downloaded as a PDF file from the CFFA Web site (www.chemicalfabricsandfilm.com) or ordered at no charge by calling CFFA at 216-241-7333.

The brochure’s companion publication, “Mold: Cause, Effect and Response,” is an in-depth review of a variety of scientific, technical and medical resources that answers questions and educates readers about the complex and often controversial issues surrounding mold growth in homes and buildings. It is intended to provide readers with an understanding of the state of the science so they can be better equipped to prevent mold problems and handle mold complaints when they do occur. Copies of the publication can be ordered on the CFFA Web site or by calling CFFA.

The Chemical Fabrics & Film Association is an international trade association representing manufacturers of polymer-based fabric and film products used in the medical, building and construction, automotive and many other industries. CFFA provides education on the benefits and uses of chemical fabrics and film and supports technical research and standards development within the industry. The organization was founded in 1927 and is based in Cleveland.

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