

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Wrapping Up Potential Mold Problems

(NAPSA)—If you have a dry, mold-free house, that could be because it was “wrapped” up before it was finished being built or remodeled.

Concern about mold growth in homes has become a serious issue, which explains the growing popularity of a technique called “housewrapping.” It literally involves wrapping the outside walls of a home with specially designed wrap during the framing stage of construction. The housewrap is a secondary weather-resistant barrier that is added insurance because it helps protect walls from being penetrated by dampness. Moisture is, of course, the major cause of mold.

Why all the concern about mold? One reason is that it can cause thousands of dollars of damage: Some molds can lead to frame rot, for instance, and literally digest the underlying structure of a house. More important, mold can represent a health risk to those living in or visiting a home. The most common problems associated with exposure to mold and fungi include nasal and sinus congestion, wheezing, skin and eye irritation and upper respiratory infections.

Fortunately, there are ways to protect your home. These tips are offered:

- **Wrap It Up**—When building or remodeling, use a housewrap such as WeatherTrek EVD. It directs any water or moisture that gets past the exterior siding of a



There are a number of ways homeowners can protect their houses—and families—from mold.

home down and away from the wall because of its unique drainage space and surface pattern.

- **Be Water Aware**—Fix the source of water problems or leaks as soon as you discover them.
- **Dry Down**—Clean and dry any building materials or furnishings within 24 to 48 hours of their becoming damp.
- **Dehumidify**—Reduce indoor humidity by venting bathrooms, dryers and other moisture-generating sources to the outside.

Homeowners can get a free “how-to” booklet called the “WeatherTrek Moisture Management Construction Guide.” It includes construction and remodeling information for do-it-yourselfers, remodelers, builders and architects. For a copy, call 1-877-832-0333.