



CLEAN WATER ACTION

February 2002

Arsenic-Treated Wood Campaign

Since May 2001, Clean Water Action (CWA) has been actively working to end the use of Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) - a compound used to treat wood for outdoor use.

Campaign highlights include:

- Led a national grassroots consumer awareness campaign and mobilized over 20,000 citizens to send letters to Home Depot and Lowe's corporate headquarters and stores in Denver and Houston.
- In Colorado, public outreach connected CWA with a contractor with acute arsenic poisoning. He offered to become a nationwide advocate against CCA and spoke at our November 2001 press conference in Denver.
- CWA Colorado has spearheaded a proposed Denver City Council Ordinance to prohibit purchases of CCA-treated wood.
- CWA Massachusetts, through the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, has called for a state ban and led efforts to seal CCA structures in four schools for the Haverhill School Department in September 2001.
- Published articles on the CCA wood issue in state newsletters.
- Endorsed the May 22, 2001 petition drafted by the Healthy Building Network (HBN) and Environmental Working Group (EWG) to the Consumer Product Safety Commission calling for a review of CCA products and an immediate ban on its use in playground equipment.
- Conducted sampling of wood on retail shelves in CO, DC, MA, MI, MN, PA and TX to supply data for *The Poisonwood Rivals* report written by EWG and HBN.
- Nationwide releases of *The Poisonwood Rivals* including events in Houston and Denver.
- Joined Beyond Pesticides sign-on letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on December 21, 2001.

NATIONAL OFFICE

4455 Connecticut Avenue NW • Suite A300 • Washington, DC 20008-2328

(202) 895-0420 • fax: (202) 895-0438 • email: CWA@CleanWater.org • www.CleanWaterAction.org