

LEGAL NOTICE

You could get a payment for your damaged Forestex siding from a proposed class action settlement.

PARA UNA NOTIFICACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, LLAMAR O VISITAR NUESTRO WEBSITE

A settlement of a class action lawsuit may affect you if you own or owned a home or other building with Forestex hardboard siding in the western United States. The settlement will provide money for replacement and/or repairs of qualifying siding damage. If you're included, you may ask for a claim form to be sent to you, or object to or comment on any part of the settlement. The Superior Court of King County, Washington authorized this notice, and will have a hearing to decide whether to approve the settlement, so that the claims process can begin.

WHO'S INCLUDED?

Current, past and future owners of structures with Forestex hardboard siding are included. Specifically, "Class Members" are all persons who have owned or own property on which Forestex siding has been incorporated or installed in the states of **Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and Hawaii** since January 1, 1985. Forestex was made until 1997, from wood fiber, wax and resins, in both lap (board) and panel (sheet) styles, to look like conventional wood siding. Forestex siding has a stamp on the back with the number AHA 05. Get more information in a detailed notice at the website or toll free number below.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

A lawsuit claimed that Forestex rots, buckles, discolors, deteriorates, and causes structural damage when used on the outside of a building. Forestex's maker, Stimson Lumber Company, denies it did anything wrong. The Court did not decide who was right. If the settlement is approved, Class Members will get payments, and the lawsuit will be resolved. The terms of the settlement are at the website. Those who didn't exclude themselves when a previous notice was issued are legally

bound, and can't sue Stimson about the claims in this case.

WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The settlement will pay all qualified claims for siding damage. It will pay Class Members for specific kinds of damage such as certain thickness swelling, edge checking, buckling or warping, softness, wax bleed, delamination, and wetting. Payments will be based on a formula taking into account damage in relation to wall size, siding square footage, the age of the siding, and whether it was properly installed. The amount of payments will vary but could provide money to replace some or all of the siding on a wall or your entire home.

HOW DO YOU GET A PAYMENT?

If you have qualifying damage, ask for a claim form, and then fill it out and send it back to ask for a payment. Ask for a claim form at the website or by calling the toll free number below. Claim forms will be sent if, and as soon as, the Court approves the settlement.

YOUR OTHER RIGHTS.

The Court will hold a hearing in this case (*Gardner v. Stimson Lumber Co.*, No. 00-2-17633-3SEA) on **November 12, 2004**, to consider whether to approve the settlement and a request by the attorneys representing the Class for fees of \$12.85 million plus \$900,000 in expenses. These amounts will not reduce your payment. You may object to any part of the settlement by **November 5, 2004**. The detailed notice explains how. You may ask to appear at the hearing, through your own lawyer and at your own cost, but you don't have to. For more information, call 1-800-427-2763, visit www.forestexclaims.com, or write: Forestex Claims, P.O. Box 1371, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1371.

1-800-427-2763

www.forestexclaims.com