

Legal Notice

If you bought a ChoiceDek brand Deck after December 31, 2003, you may be eligible for benefits from a class action settlement.

Para una notificación en Español, visite www.AERT.com/class_action_settlement.asp o llame 1-877-220-6624.

A nationwide settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit in which the plaintiffs allege that ChoiceDek composite decking material manufactured between January 1, 2004 and October 1, 2006 is susceptible to mold and mildew discoloration in the form of small spots across the surface of deck.

If you are included in the settlement, you may send in a claim form to request certain benefits, or you can object to the settlement, or you can exclude yourself from it. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington authorized this notice, and will have a hearing to decide whether to approve the settlement. Get a detailed notice at www.AERT.com/class_action_settlement.asp or by calling 1-877-220-6624.

Who is Included?

To be in the Class, you must own a deck constructed of ChoiceDek decking or railing product, and your deck must fall within one of the following two categories: (1) the ChoiceDek decking material was purchased between January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2008, or (2) the ChoiceDek decking material was purchased after December 31, 2007, but you can prove it was manufactured between January 1, 2004 and October 1, 2006. If you fall into the second category, you can find more information on how to determine the manufacturing date by reviewing the detailed notices available at www.AERT.com/class_action_settlement.asp or by calling 1-877-220-6624.

How Do You Ask For Benefits?

If you are in the class, you may receive benefits only if you fill out a claim form. The purpose of the claim form is to determine whether you meet the criteria for the settlement benefits, including whether or not your deck is affected by alleged mold and mildew spotting. If you do meet the criteria, you will be eligible for settlement benefits. The claim form is available online, or you can request a copy be sent to you by calling 1-877-220-6624. The claim form must be postmarked no later than 6 months after the settlement approval becomes final and unappealable. Please periodically check the website, where the final deadline will be posted once it is known. You can also call the toll free number.

What Does the Settlement Provide?

If you meet the criteria for settlement benefits, the manufacturer of ChoiceDek, Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies, Inc. (AERT), will provide a free deck cleaning and application of a mold inhibitor. If spotting returns within 18 months, you may be eligible for additional benefits depending on the severity of the spotting, as described in detail in the Class Notice and the Settlement Agreement, which are both available at the website. These benefits may include additional cleanings, refunds, replacement material, coupons for discounted cleanings, and/or credit vouchers for use at Lowe's Home Improvement stores.

What Are Your Other Rights?

If you fall within the class definition, you may remain in the class by doing nothing, and you will automatically be considered a member of the class. As a member of the class, you will be bound by the release and judgment in the lawsuit.

If you do not want to be part of and legally bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself by December 15, 2008. If you do not timely exclude yourself from the class, you may not be able to assert legal claims relating to your ChoiceDek deck in the future. However, this lawsuit will not bar claims for personal injury or wrongful death, if any. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself. You must ask the Court to exclude you from the Class by mailing a letter requesting exclusion to the U.S. District Clerk, U.S. Courthouse, 700 Stewart Street, Seattle, Washington 98101, and Lead Class Counsel for Plaintiffs and Counsel for Defendants.

If you do not exclude yourself from the class settlement, you may object to the settlement by December 15, 2008. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself.

The Court will hold a hearing in these cases, known as *Pelletz, Jamruk, et al. v. Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies, Inc.*, No. C08-0334 JCC, on January 8, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., to consider whether to approve the Settlement and a request by Class Counsel for fees, costs, and expenses of \$1,750,000. Class Counsel will also ask for a payment of \$7,500 to each Class Representative, who helped the lawyers on behalf of the whole Class. If you would like, you or your lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own cost, but it is not required.

For more information, visit the website at:
www.AERT.com/class_action_settlement.asp or call 1-877-220-6624.