

DO NOT trust a Dog or an X-Ray Gun to detect Chinese Drywall

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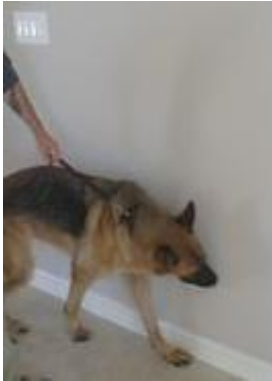
DOG

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If you call around enough places you'll find an inspector who has supposedly trained his dog to sniff out Chinese Drywall. While K-9's have a very sensitive sense of smell, it's doubtful that the training the inspector's dog (or the inspector) has received is very thorough. Both the K-9's and their handlers used in law enforcement, search & recovery, medical alert, etc. undergo years of extensive training, certifications, and continuing education by both Federal and State Canine Associations; and very few make the cut. After a state-wide search, we were unable to find ANY dogs certified (**by a reputable organization**) to successfully detect Chinese drywall without a high rate of misses &/or false hits.

X-RAY GUN

When an inspector claims to have a "Special Gun" "X-Ray Gun" or "Chinese Drywall Gun," he/she is likely referring to the Thermo Fisher Scientific XRF Analyzer.

In fact, the manufacturer states: It was made to determine the break-down of soil. It can **SOMETIMES** detect **SOME TYPES** of gypsum that are **SOMETIMES** found in **SOME TYPES** of Chinese drywall, but it is no way accurate, thorough, or conclusive. It was not made to detect Chinese drywall, and should not be used as such. **Further**, Ron O'Brien, Director of Public Relations at Thermo Fisher Scientific stated (paraphrased): *The XRF Analyzer is not recommended for use as a "Chinese Drywall Detector."* *If someone uses the XRF gun for the purpose of attempting to determine the presence of specific materials, it should be intended as a preliminary screening method that may detect materials that could prompt you to back up your findings by a confirmatory test which would include a "destructive" inspection – including removing sheets of drywall to examine them for manufacturer's labels/markings, &/or taking samples for more thorough laboratory testing.* **UPDATE 08/2010: see [CD More Evidence Against X-Ray Guns](#)**



Drywall usually comes from within the United States. However due to a shortage during the real estate boom in Florida from 2002 – 2009, it was imported from China. There is evidence that the off gassing of Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), Carbon Disulfide (CS₂), and / or Carbonyl Sulfide (COS) from Chinese drywall causes several health issues including respiratory discomfort, eye irritations, nose bleeds, headaches, etc. It also causes the corrosion of metal building products and components in home appliances. Check out our website & click the following links to learn more from the **Florida Department of Health**, the **Technical Symposium on Corrosive Imported Drywall** and the **Drywall Information Center**, which is a collaboration of experts from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, **The US Consumer Product Safety Commission**, **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**, and the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**.



Drywall Information Center
<http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/>

There's just no short-cut. A proper inspection requires a thorough inspection for both the physical evidence of contaminated drywall AND evidence of any off-gassing. That's what we do at Sherlock Home Inspections.