

# News and Public Relations

## **Collins Pine FreeForm™ receives Top-10 Green Product Award**

Klamath Falls, Oregon — Collins Product's new line of particleboard — Collins Pine FreeForm™ — has just been chosen as one of the "Top-10 Green Building Products" at the sixth annual U.S. Green Building Council's Conference in Chicago. The Council recognizes the most exciting products listed in their GreenSpec database, the leading national directory of green building products with over 2,000 listings. "Our policy of not accepting money from manufacturers allows us to be objective in our review of products," noted Alex Wilson, GreenSpec coeditor and BuildingGreen president.

Collins Pine FreeForm is the only FSC-certified particleboard in North America that is produced with no added urea-formaldehyde. A melamine-based binder is used rather than industry-standard urea-formaldehyde. There are several advantages to using a melamine-based resin as opposed to a phenol-based resin. "The most notable advantage is that our FreeForm board is not dark like phenolic-based products. Melamine is white which makes for a more consistent color and better lamination as the melamine does not bleed through the laminates. In addition, this new product already meets the proposed Phase I California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards for formaldehyde emissions and within the year we will meet the Phase II Standards," remarked Chris Bailey, particleboard sales manager. He went on to say, "Our rigorous product development and innovative technology team at Collins is now at work to eliminate formaldehyde-based binders altogether."

The award recognizes that Collins Pine FreeForm is produced from FSC-certified wood, has pre-consumer recycled content [actually uses 100% recovered and recycled wood], and releases minimal pollutants." In addition, it contributes to LEED credits including: MR Credit 4 for Recycled Content; MR Credit 7 for FSC-Certified Wood; and it complies with IEQ Credit 4.4 for Low-Emitting Material.

Bailey went on to say that, "Collins Pine FreeForm is just another example of our continuing goal to meet and exceed environmental standards, as well as our customer's expectations. Back in 1993, we were the first timber company in the U.S. to receive FSC-certification. We believed in and led the forest products part of the green movement when the bandwagon held few supporters. We hope to continue to be a leader in the future with new green technologies."