

# FIRST PARTY PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHINESE DRYWALL CLAIMS

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# TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED

The Science of Drywall

History of The Chinese Drywall Problem

Property Insurance Coverage

- Covered Risks

- Covered Property

- Exclusions

- Ensuing or Resulting Loss Exception

- Causation

- Valuation of Covered Loss

- Burdens of Proof

- Insurance Policy Interpretation and Construction Principles

Case Study



# THE SCIENCE OF DRYWALL

# What is Drywall?

- Gypsum board is the generic name for a family of panel-type products consisting of a noncombustible core, primarily of gypsum, with a paper surfacing on the face, back, and long edges.
- Gypsum board is often called drywall, wallboard, sheetrock or plasterboard and differs from products such as plywood, hardboard, and fiberboard, because of its noncombustible core.



# How Drywall Is Made

- A drywall panel is made of a paper liner wrapped around an inner core made primarily from hardened gypsum plaster.
- Drywall is typically available in 4 ft (1219 mm) wide sheets of various lengths. Newly formed sheets are cut from a belt, the result of a continuous manufacturing process.
- The core material of drywall, gypsum, is available in two forms, pure gypsum, which is naturally occurring, and synthetic gypsum, which is manmade.



# How Drywall Is Made

## ➤ What is gypsum?

- ❖ Pure gypsum is a white to transparent mineral, but sometimes impurities color it grey, brown, or pink.
- ❖ Synthetic gypsum is generally manufactured with byproducts of coal-fired power plants.





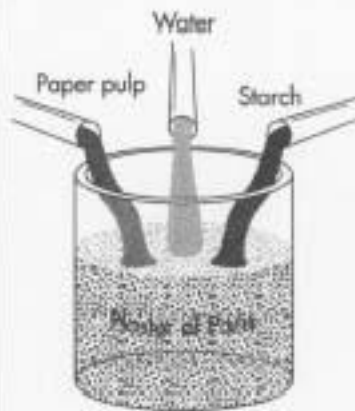
# How Drywall Is Made

## ➤ The manufacturing process

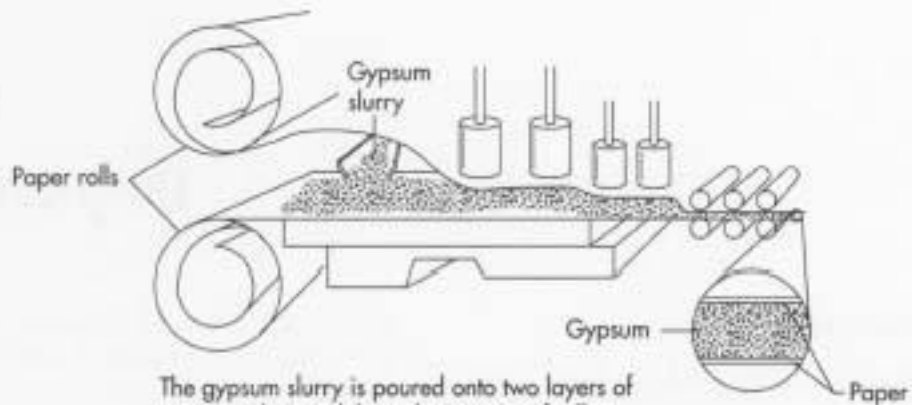
- ❖ In order to form drywall, gypsum must be “calcined,” or partially dehydrated by heating.
- ❖ When gypsum is heated, it loses about three quarters of its water and becomes hemihydrate gypsum which is soft and can be easily ground to a powder called hemihydrate gypsum plaster.
- ❖ The gypsum powder is then mixed with water to form a paste or slurry.

# How Drywall Is Made

## The manufacturing process



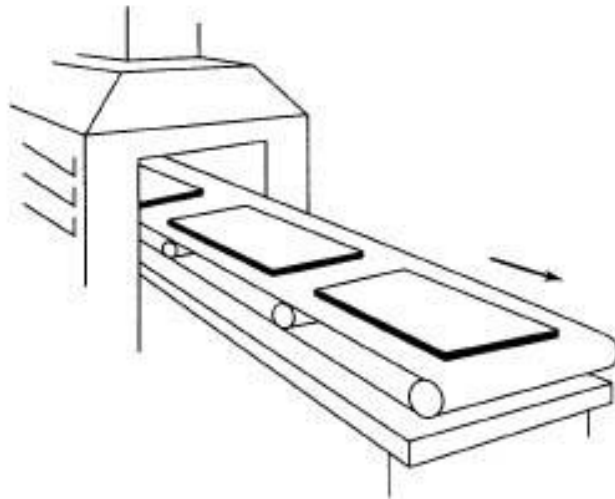
To make drywall, additives are added to gypsum powder (plaster of Paris). Water is then mixed in to form a slurry.



The gypsum slurry is poured onto two layers of paper and passed through a system of rollers.



# How Drywall Is Made



After the panels are cut and the edges shaped, they are fed through a drying oven.



The panels are inspected and bundled.

# How Drywall Is Made

## ➤ The manufacturing process

- While the hemihydrate gypsum plaster is in slurry form, it is poured between two paper layers to make drywall.
- Drywall is formed by sandwiching a core of wet gypsum between two sheets of heavy paper or fiberglass mats. When the core sets and is dried in a large drying chamber, the “sandwich” becomes rigid and strong enough for use as a building material.
- The paste or slurry is typically mixed with fiber (usually paper and/or fiberglass), plasticizer, foaming agent, potash as an accelerator, starch or other chelate as a retarder, various additives that increase mildew and fire resistance (fiberglass or vermiculite), and water.



How Is Chinese Drywall Different?

# WHAT IS CHINESE DRYWALL?

- ❖ Tainted 1/2" Chinese drywall contains strontium sulfide, iron sulfide, and calcium oxide
- ❖ Investigators have found three types of sulfide gasses including carbon disulfide, carbonyl sulfide, and dimethyl sulfide.



# The Difference Between Chinese Drywall and Domestic Drywall

- ❑ Atomic absorption and electron microscopy to detect sulfur content and strontium content
- ❑ Possible source of sulfur and other contaminants
  - Mined gypsum
  - Coal fire power plant fly ash
  - Recycled defective drywall
  - Other

# What Problems Exist With Chinese Drywall?

## ➤ Rotten Egg Smell

- Strontium sulfide is a gray powder that emits a hydrogen sulfide, or “rotten eggs”, odor when exposed to heat and moisture

## ➤ Corrosion of Metal Components

- HVAC systems (evaporation coils), smoke detectors, fire sprinkler systems, electrical wiring, metal plumbing, natural gas distribution components, and other household appliances

## ➤ U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Report

- 3 studies of 51 homes
- Studies found “a strong association between the problem drywall, the hydrogen sulfide levels in homes with that drywall, and corrosion in those homes.”



# Property Damage



Corroded A/C Coils



Normal A/C Coils





# Property Damage



Corroded Freon Line

# Property Damage



Corroded Plumbing



Normal Plumbing



# Property Damage



Corroded Wiring



Normal Wiring





# History of the Chinese Drywall Problem

# History of Chinese Drywall

- ❑ From 1997 through 2001, Knauf Gips established three plasterboard plants located in Wuhu, Tianjin, and Dongguan, China, respectively.
- ❑ The combination of the building boom beginning in 2004 and natural disasters in 2005 led to a shortage of U.S. made drywall. Builders bought Chinese drywall.



# Distribution

- ❑ At least 550 million pounds of Chinese drywall came into the United States from approximately 2004 to 2006 -- enough to construct 60,000 average-size homes.
- ❑ Nearly 60 percent of the Chinese drywall that came into the United States came in through Florida ports.
- ❑ Miami's port received the largest number of shipments of Chinese drywall. Public records show that more than 100 million pounds of Chinese drywall were off-loaded in Miami.
- ❑ Other ports with significant Chinese drywall off-loading include Port Everglades (80 million pounds), Tampa, (50 million pounds), as well as Port Manatee, Pensacola, Port Canaveral, and Jacksonville.

# Effected Areas

- Primarily in Southern and Southeastern states
- Florida and Louisiana probably primary states
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Report
  - “We believe no new Chinese drywall has entered the United States in 2009.”



MADE IN CHINA





KNAUF-TIANJIN CHINA-AST 036



National  
Gypsum  
CORPORATION

ASTM C36/C1396 STANDARD

MADE IN CHINA



# Property Insurance Coverage



# Covered Risks

## ☐ All risks

- ✓ Commercial Property Form (CP 00 17)
- ✓ Homeowners HO-3 Form (HO 00 03)
  - Typically limited to Dwelling Coverage

## ☐ Named Risks

- ✓ Homeowners HO-3 Form
  - Personal Property Coverage
  - 16 Specific Perils

## CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION COVERAGE FORM

Various provisions in this policy restrict coverage. Read the entire policy carefully to determine rights, duties and what is and is not covered.

Throughout this policy the words "you" and "your" refer to the Named Insured shown in the Declarations. The words "we", "us" and "our" refer to the Company providing this insurance.

Other words and phrases that appear in quotation marks have special meaning. Refer to Section H. – Definitions.

### A. Coverage

We will pay for direct physical loss of or damage to Covered Property at the premises described in the

(b) Materials, equipment, supplies, and temporary structures, on or within 100 feet of the described premises,

## A. Coverage

We will pay for direct physical loss of or damage to Covered Property at the premises described in the Declarations caused by or resulting from any Covered Cause of Loss.

(4) Personal property owned by you that is used to maintain or service the building or structure or its premises, including:

- (a) Fire extinguishing equipment;
- (b) Outdoor furniture;
- (c) Floor coverings; and
- (d) Appliances used for refrigerating, ventilating, cooking, dishwashing or laundering that are not contained within individual units;

(5) If not covered by other insurance:

- (a) Additions under construction, alterations and repairs to the building or structure;

personal property listed in Paragraph A.1.a.(6) above.

b. **Your Business Personal Property** located in or on the building described in the Declarations or in the open (or in a vehicle) within 100 feet of the described premises, consisting of the following:

- (1) Personal property owned by you or owned indivisibly by all unit-owners;
- (2) Your interest in the labor, materials or services furnished or arranged by you on personal property of others;
- (3) Leased personal property for which you have a contractual responsibility to insure, unless otherwise provided for under Personal Property of Others.

But Your Business Personal Property does not include personal property owned only by a unit-owner.



## CAUSES OF LOSS – SPECIAL FORM

Words and phrases that appear in quotation marks have special meaning. Refer to Section F. – Definitions.

### A. Covered Causes Of Loss

When Special is shown in the Declarations, Covered Causes of Loss means Risks Of Direct Physical Loss unless the loss is:

1. Excluded in Section B., Exclusions; or
2. Limited in Section C., Limitations; that follow.

### B. Exclusions

1. We will not pay for loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss or damage is excluded regardless of any other cause or event that contributes concurrently or in any sequence to the loss.

#### a. Ordinance Or Law

The enforcement of any ordinance or law:

- (1) Regulating the construction, use or repair of any property; or
- (2) Requiring the tearing down of any property, including the cost of removing its debris.

This exclusion, Ordinance Or Law, applies whether the loss results from:

- (1) An ordinance or law that is enforced even if the property has not been damaged; or
- (2) The increased costs incurred to comply with an ordinance or law in the course of construction, repair, renovation, remodeling or demolition of property, or removal of its debris, following a physical loss to that property.

#### b. Earth Movement

- (1) Earthquake, including any earth sinking, rising or shifting related to such event;
- (2) Landslide, including any earth sinking, rising or shifting related to such event;
- (3) Mine subsidence, meaning subsidence of a man-made mine, whether or not mining activity has ceased;

- (4) Earth sinking (other than sinkhole collapse), rising or shifting including soil conditions which cause settling, cracking or other disarrangement of foundations or other parts of realty. Soil conditions include contraction, expansion, freezing, thawing, erosion, improperly compacted soil and the action of water under the ground surface.

But if Earth Movement, as described in b.(1) through (4) above, results in fire or explosion, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire or explosion.

- (5) Volcanic eruption, explosion or effusion. But if volcanic eruption, explosion or effusion results in fire, building glass breakage or Volcanic Action, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire, building glass breakage or Volcanic Action.

Volcanic action means direct loss or damage resulting from the eruption of a volcano when the loss or damage is caused by:

- (a) Airborne volcanic blast or airborne shock waves;
- (b) Ash, dust or particulate matter; or
- (c) Lava flow.

All volcanic eruptions that occur within any 168 hour period will constitute a single occurrence.

Volcanic action does not include the cost to remove ash, dust or particulate matter that does not cause direct physical loss or damage to the described property.

#### c. Governmental Action

Seizure or destruction of property by order of governmental authority.

But we will pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from acts of destruction ordered by governmental authority and taken at the time of a fire to prevent its spread, if the fire would be covered under this Coverage Part.

### **A. Covered Causes Of Loss**

When Special is shown in the Declarations, Covered Causes of Loss means Risks Of Direct Physical Loss unless the loss is:

1. Excluded in Section **B.**, Exclusions; or
2. Limited in Section **C.**, Limitations;  
that follow.



**10. Landlord's Furnishings.** We will pay up to \$2500 for your appliances, carpeting and other household furnishings, in an apartment on the "residence premises" regularly rented or held for rental to others by an "insured," for loss caused only by the following Perils Insured Against:

- a. Fire or lightning.
- b. Windstorm or hail.

This peril does not include loss to the property contained in a building caused by rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust unless the direct force of wind or hail damages the building causing an opening in a roof or wall and the rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust enters through this opening.

This peril includes loss to watercraft and their trailers, furnishings, equipment, and outboard

This peril does not include loss:

- (1) To the system or appliance from which the water or steam escaped;
- (2) Caused by or resulting from freezing except as provided in the peril of freezing below; or
- (3) On the "residence premises" caused by accidental discharge or overflow which occurs off the "residence premises."

In this peril, a plumbing system does not include a sump, sump pump or related equipment.

- i. Sudden and accidental tearing apart, cracking, burning or bulging of a steam or hot water heating system, an air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system, or an appliance for heating water.

## COVERAGE A – DWELLING and COVERAGE B – OTHER STRUCTURES

We insure against risk of direct loss to property described in Coverages A and B only if that loss is a physical loss to property. We do not insure, however, for loss:

a falling object. Damage to the falling object itself is not included.

- j. Weight of ice, snow or sleet which causes damage to property contained in a building.

- k. Accidental discharge or overflow of water or steam from within a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or from within a household appliance.

earthquake, and shock waves or tremors.

The \$2500 limit is the most we will pay in any one loss regardless of the number of appliances, carpeting or other household furnishings involved in the loss.

### SECTION I – PERILS INSURED AGAINST

#### COVERAGE A – DWELLING and COVERAGE B – OTHER STRUCTURES

We insure against risk of direct loss to property described in Coverages A and B only if that loss is a physical loss to property. We do not insure, however, for loss:

- 1. Involving collapse, other than as provided in Additional Coverage 8.;
- 2. Caused by:

# Direct Physical Loss or Damage

- ❖ The phrase “direct physical loss or damage” is generally not defined in the insurance policy.
- ❖ Typically, physical damage requires a distinct, demonstrable, alteration of property.
- ❖ Some courts have found that physical damage is not restricted to the actual destruction or harm to property, but includes loss of use, loss of access, and impairment of function and value.
- ❖ Other courts have concluded that a pervasive, persistent, or noxious odor may constitute a physical loss.
- ❖ One Florida court recently concluded that an abnormality in a drain pipe connecting the insured’s toilet to a sewer pipe constituted an “accidental direct physical loss”.



# COVERED PROPERTY

## ➤ Commercial Property Form

### ❖ Condominium Association

- Building
- Business Personal Property

## ➤ Homeowners Form

### ❖ Dwelling

### ❖ Personal Property

# EXCLUSIONS

- Hidden, Latent, or Inherent Defect
- Rust, Corrosion, or Deterioration
- Pollutant or Contaminant
- Humidity, Moisture, or Vapor
- Dryness or Dampness of Atmosphere
- Changes in or Extremes of Temperature
- Defective Product



## CAUSES OF LOSS – SPECIAL FORM

Words and phrases that appear in quotation marks have special meaning. Refer to Section F. – Definitions.

### A. Covered Causes Of Loss

When Special is shown in the Declarations, Covered Causes of Loss means Risks Of Direct Physical Loss unless the loss is:

1. Excluded in Section B., Exclusions; or
2. Limited in Section C., Limitations; that follow.

### B. Exclusions

1. We will not pay for loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss or damage is excluded regardless of any other cause or event that contributes concurrently or in any sequence to the loss.

#### a. Ordinance Or Law

The enforcement of any ordinance or law:

- (1) Regulating the construction, use or repair of any property; or
- (2) Requiring the tearing down of any property, including the cost of removing its debris.

This exclusion, Ordinance Or Law, applies whether the loss results from:

- (1) An ordinance or law that is enforced even if the property has not been damaged; or
- (2) The increased costs incurred to comply with an ordinance or law in the course of construction, repair, renovation, remodeling or demolition of property, or removal of its debris, following a physical loss to that property.

#### b. Earth Movement

- (1) Earthquake, including any earth sinking, rising or shifting related to such event;
- (2) Landslide, including any earth sinking, rising or shifting related to such event;
- (3) Mine subsidence, meaning subsidence of a man-made mine, whether or not mining activity has ceased;

- (4) Earth sinking (other than sinkhole collapse), rising or shifting including soil conditions which cause settling, cracking or other disarrangement of foundations or other parts of realty. Soil conditions include contraction, expansion, freezing, thawing, erosion, improperly compacted soil and the action of water under the ground surface.

But if Earth Movement, as described in b.(1) through (4) above, results in fire or explosion, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire or explosion.

- (5) Volcanic eruption, explosion or effusion. But if volcanic eruption, explosion or effusion results in fire, building glass breakage or Volcanic Action, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire, building glass breakage or Volcanic Action.

Volcanic action means direct loss or damage resulting from the eruption of a volcano when the loss or damage is caused by:

- (a) Airborne volcanic blast or airborne shock waves;
- (b) Ash, dust or particulate matter; or
- (c) Lava flow.

All volcanic eruptions that occur within any 168 hour period will constitute a single occurrence.

Volcanic action does not include the cost to remove ash, dust or particulate matter that does not cause direct physical loss or damage to the described property.

#### c. Governmental Action

Seizure or destruction of property by order of governmental authority.

But we will pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from acts of destruction ordered by governmental authority and taken at the time of a fire to prevent its spread, if the fire would be covered under this Coverage Part.

**d. Nuclear Hazard**

Nuclear reaction or radiation, or radioactive contamination, however caused.

But if nuclear reaction or radiation, or radioactive contamination, results in fire, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire.

**e. Utility Services**

The failure of power or other utility service supplied to the described premises, however caused, if the failure occurs away from the described premises. Failure includes lack of sufficient capacity and reduction in supply.

But if the failure of power or other utility service results in a Covered Cause of Loss, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that Covered Cause of Loss.

This exclusion does not apply to the Business Income coverage or to Extra Expense coverage. Instead, the Special Exclusion in Paragraph **B.4.a.(1)** applies to these coverages.

**f. War And Military Action**

- (1) War, including undeclared or civil war;
- (2) Warlike action by a military force, including action in hindering or defending against an actual or expected attack, by any government, sovereign or other authority using military personnel or other agents; or
- (3) Insurrection, rebellion, revolution, usurped power, or action taken by governmental authority in hindering or defending against any of these.

**g. Water**

- (1) Flood, surface water, waves, tides, tidal waves, overflow of any body of water, or their spray, all whether driven by wind or not;
- (2) Mudslide or mudflow;
- (3) Water that backs up or overflows from a sewer, drain or sump; or
- (4) Water under the ground surface pressing on, or flowing or seeping through:
  - (a) Foundations, walls, floors or paved surfaces;
  - (b) Basements, whether paved or not; or
  - (c) Doors, windows or other openings.

But if Water, as described in **g.(1)** through **g.(4)** above, results in fire, explosion or sprinkler leakage, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire, explosion or sprinkler leakage.

**h. "Fungus", Wet Rot, Dry Rot And Bacteria**

Presence, growth, proliferation, spread or any activity of "fungus", wet or dry rot or bacteria.

But if "fungus", wet or dry rot or bacteria results in a "specified cause of loss", we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that "specified cause of loss".

This exclusion does not apply:

1. When "fungus", wet or dry rot or bacteria results from fire or lightning; or
2. To the extent that coverage is provided in the Additional Coverage - Limited Coverage For "Fungus", Wet Rot, Dry Rot And Bacteria with respect to loss or damage by a cause of loss other than fire or lightning.

Exclusions **B.1.a.** through **B.1.h.** apply whether or not the loss event results in widespread damage or affects a substantial area.

2. We will not pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from any of the following:
  - a. Artificially generated electrical current, including electric arcing, that disturbs electrical devices, appliances or wires.

But if artificially generated electrical current results in fire, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire.
  - b. Delay, loss of use or loss of market.
  - c. Smoke, vapor or gas from agricultural smudging or industrial operations.
  - d.(1) Wear and tear;
  - (2) Rust or other corrosion, decay, deterioration, hidden or latent defect or any quality in property that causes it to damage or destroy itself;
  - (3) Smog;
  - (4) Settling, cracking, shrinking or expansion;
  - (5) Nesting or infestation, or discharge or release of waste products or secretions, by insects, birds, rodents or other animals.



**(2)** Rust or other corrosion, decay, deterioration, hidden or latent defect or any quality in property that causes it to damage or destroy itself;

(6) Mechanical breakdown, including rupture or bursting caused by centrifugal force. But if mechanical breakdown results in elevator collision, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that elevator collision.

(7) The following causes of loss to personal property:

(a) Dampness or dryness of atmosphere;

(b) Changes in or extremes of temperature; or

(c) Marring or scratching.

But if an excluded cause of loss that is listed in 2.d.(1) through (7) results in a "specified cause of loss" or building glass breakage, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that "specified cause of loss" or building glass breakage.

e. Explosion of steam boilers, steam pipes, steam engines or steam turbines owned or leased by you, or operated under your control. But if explosion of steam boilers, steam pipes, steam engines or steam turbines results in fire or combustion explosion, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire or combustion explosion. We will also pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from the explosion of gases or fuel within the furnace of any fired vessel or within the flues or passages through which the gases of combustion pass.

f. Continuous or repeated seepage or leakage of water, or the presence or condensation of humidity, moisture or vapor, that occurs over a period of 14 days or more.

g. Water, other liquids, powder or molten material that leaks or flows from plumbing, heating, air conditioning or other equipment (except fire protective systems) caused by or resulting from freezing, unless:

(1) You do your best to maintain heat in the building or structure; or

(2) You drain the equipment and shut off the supply if the heat is not maintained.

h. Dishonest or criminal act by you, any of your partners, members, officers, managers, employees (including leased employees), directors, trustees, authorized representatives or anyone to whom you entrust the property for any purpose:

(1) Acting alone or in collusion with others; or

(2) Whether or not occurring during the hours of employment.

This exclusion does not apply to acts of destruction by your employees (including leased employees); but theft by employees (including leased employees) is not covered.

i. Voluntary parting with any property by you or anyone else to whom you have entrusted the property if induced to do so by any fraudulent scheme, trick, device or false pretense.

j. Rain, snow, ice or sleet to personal property in the open.

k. Collapse, except as provided below in the Additional Coverage for Collapse. But if collapse results in a Covered Cause of Loss at the described premises, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that Covered Cause of Loss.

l. Discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of "pollutants" unless the discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape is itself caused by any of the "specified causes of loss". But if the discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of "pollutants" results in a "specified cause of loss", we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that "specified cause of loss".

This exclusion, l., does not apply to damage to glass caused by chemicals applied to the glass.

m. Neglect of an insured to use all reasonable means to save and preserve property from further damage at and after the time of loss.

3. We will not pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from any of the following, 3.a. through 3.c. But if an excluded cause of loss that is listed in 3.a. through 3.c. results in a Covered Cause of Loss, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that Covered Cause of Loss.

a. Weather conditions. But this exclusion only applies if weather conditions contribute in any way with a cause or event excluded in Paragraph 1. above to produce the loss or damage.

b. Acts or decisions, including the failure to act or decide, of any person, group, organization or governmental body.



**(7)** The following causes of loss to personal property:

- (a)** Dampness or dryness of atmosphere;
- (b)** Changes in or extremes of temperature; or
- (c)** Marring or scratching.

**f.** Continuous or repeated seepage or leakage of water, or the presence or condensation of humidity, moisture or vapor, that occurs over a period of 14 days or more.

**3.** We will not pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from any of the following, **3.a.** through **3.c.** But if an excluded cause of loss that is listed in **3.a.** through **3.c.** results in a Covered Cause of Loss, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that Covered Cause of Loss.

**c. Faulty, inadequate or defective:**

- (1) Planning, zoning, development, surveying, siting;
- (2) Design, specifications, workmanship, repair, construction, renovation, remodeling, grading, compaction;
- (3) Materials used in repair, construction, renovation or remodeling; or
- (4) Maintenance;  
of part or all of any property on or off the described premises.

**4. Special Exclusions**

- (b) Suspension, lapse or cancellation of any license, lease or contract. But if the suspension, lapse or cancellation is directly caused by the "suspension" of "operations", we will cover such loss that affects your Business Income during the "period of restoration" and any extension of the "period of restoration" in accordance with the terms of the Extended Business Income Additional Coverage and the Extended Period Of Indemnity Optional Coverage or any variation of these.

**c. Faulty, inadequate or defective:**

- (1) Planning, zoning, development, surveying, siting;
- (2) Design, specifications, workmanship, repair, construction, renovation, remodeling, grading, compaction;
- (3) Materials used in repair, construction, renovation or remodeling; or
- (4) Maintenance;  
of part or all of any property on or off the described premises.

(3) Any loss caused by or resulting from direct physical loss or damage to radio or television antennas (including satellite dishes) and their lead-in wiring, masts or towers.

- (4) Any increase of loss caused by or resulting from:

(a) Delay in rebuilding, repairing or replacing the property or resuming "operations", due to interference at the location of the rebuilding, repair or replacement by strikers or other persons; or

Action.



**10. Landlord's Furnishings.** We will pay up to \$2500 for your appliances, carpeting and other household furnishings, in an apartment on the "residence premises" regularly rented or held for rental to others by an "insured," for loss caused only by the following Perils Insured Against:

**a. Fire or lightning.**

**b. Windstorm or hail.**

This peril does not include loss to the property contained in a building caused by rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust unless the direct force of wind or hail damages the building causing an opening in a roof or wall and the rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust enters through this opening.

This peril includes loss to watercraft and their trailers, furnishings, equipment, and outboard engines or motors, only while inside a fully enclosed building.

**c. Explosion.**

**d. Riot or civil commotion.**

**e. Aircraft,** including self-propelled missiles and spacecraft.

**f. Vehicles.**

**g. Smoke,** meaning sudden and accidental damage from smoke.

This peril does not include loss caused by smoke from agricultural smudging or industrial operations.

**h. Vandalism or malicious mischief.**

**i. Falling objects.**

This peril does not include loss to property contained in a building unless the roof or an outside wall of the building is first damaged by a falling object. Damage to the falling object itself is not included.

**j. Weight of ice, snow or sleet** which causes damage to property contained in a building.

**k. Accidental discharge or overflow of water or steam** from within a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or from within a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss:

- (1) To the system or appliance from which the water or steam escaped;
- (2) Caused by or resulting from freezing except as provided in the peril of freezing below; or
- (3) On the "residence premises" caused by accidental discharge or overflow which occurs off the "residence premises."

In this peril, a plumbing system does not include a sump, sump pump or related equipment.

**l. Sudden and accidental tearing apart, cracking, burning or bulging** of a steam or hot water heating system, an air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system, or an appliance for heating water.

We do not cover loss caused by or resulting from freezing under this peril.

**m. Freezing** of a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or of a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss on the "residence premises" while the dwelling is unoccupied, unless you have used reasonable care to:

- (1) Maintain heat in the building; or
- (2) Shut off the water supply and drain the system and appliances of water.

**n. Sudden and accidental damage from artificially generated electrical current.**

This peril does not include loss to a tube, transistor or similar electronic component.

**o. Volcanic eruption** other than loss caused by earthquake, land shock waves or tremors.

The \$2500 limit is the most we will pay in any one loss regardless of the number of appliances, carpeting or other household furnishings involved in the loss.

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**SECTION I – PERILS INSURED AGAINST**

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**COVERAGE A – DWELLING and COVERAGE B – OTHER STRUCTURES**

We insure against risk of direct loss to property described in Coverages A and B only if that loss is a physical loss to property. We do not insure, however, for loss:

1. Involving collapse, other than as provided in Additional Coverage 8.;
2. Caused by:

- a. Freezing of a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or of a household appliance, or by discharge, leakage or overflow from within the system or appliance caused by freezing. This exclusion applies only while the dwelling is vacant, unoccupied or being constructed, unless you have used reasonable care to:

- (1) Maintain heat in the building; or
- (2) Shut off the water supply and drain the system and appliances of water;

- b. Freezing, thawing, pressure or weight of water or ice, whether driven by wind or not, to a:

- (1) Fence, pavement, patio or swimming pool;
- (2) Foundation, retaining wall, or bulkhead; or
- (3) Pier, wharf or dock;

- c. Theft in or to a dwelling under construction, or of materials and supplies for use in the construction until the dwelling is finished and occupied;

- d. Vandalism and malicious mischief if the dwelling has been vacant for more than 30 consecutive days immediately before the loss. A dwelling being constructed is not considered vacant;

- e. Any of the following:

- (1) Wear and tear, marring, deterioration;
- (2) Inherent vice, latent defect, mechanical breakdown;
- (3) Smog, rust or other corrosion, mold, wet or dry rot;
- (4) Smoke from agricultural smudging or industrial operations;
- (5) Discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of pollutants unless the discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape is itself caused by a Peril Insured Against under Coverage C of this policy.  
Pollutants means any solid, liquid, gaseous or thermal irritant or contaminant, including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acids, alkalis, chemicals and waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed;
- (6) Settling, shrinking, bulging or expansion, including resultant cracking, of pavements, patios, foundations, walls, floors, roofs or ceilings;
- (7) Birds, vermin, rodents, or insects; or
- (8) Animals owned or kept by an "insured."

If any of these cause water damage not otherwise excluded, from a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or household appliance, we cover loss caused by the water including the cost of tearing out and replacing any part of a building necessary to repair the system or appliance. We do not cover loss to the system or appliance from which this water escaped.

### 3. Excluded under Section I – Exclusions.

Under items 1. and 2., any ensuing loss to property described in Coverages A and B not excluded or excepted in this policy is covered.

### COVERAGE C – PERSONAL PROPERTY

We insure for direct physical loss to the property described in Coverage C caused by a peril listed below unless the loss is excluded in SECTION I – EXCLUSIONS.

#### 1. Fire or lightning.

#### 2. Windstorm or hail.

This peril does not include loss to the property contained in a building caused by rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust unless the direct force of wind or hail damages the building causing an opening in a roof or wall and the rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust enters through this opening.

This peril includes loss to watercraft and their trailers, furnishings, equipment, and outboard engines or motors, only while inside a fully enclosed building.

#### 3. Explosion.

#### 4. Riot or civil commotion.

#### 5. Aircraft, including self-propelled missiles and spacecraft.

#### 6. Vehicles.

#### 7. Smoke, meaning sudden and accidental damage from smoke.

This peril does not include loss caused by smoke from agricultural smudging or industrial operations.

#### 8. Vandalism or malicious mischief.

#### 9. Theft, including attempted theft and loss of property from a known place when it is likely that the property has been stolen.

This peril does not include loss caused by theft:

- a. Committed by an "insured";
- b. In or to a dwelling under construction, or of materials and supplies for use in the construction until the dwelling is finished and occupied; or



**(2)** Inherent vice, latent defect, mechanical breakdown;

**(3)** Smog, rust or other corrosion, mold, wet or dry rot;

**(5)** Discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of pollutants unless the discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape is itself caused by a Peril Insured Against under Coverage C of this policy.

Pollutants means any solid, liquid, gaseous or thermal irritant or contaminant, including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acids, alkalis, chemicals and waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed;

- c. From that part of a "residence premises" rented by an "insured" to other than an "insured."

This peril does not include loss caused by theft that occurs off the "residence premises" of:

- a. Property while at any other residence owned by, rented to, or occupied by an "insured," except while an "insured" is temporarily living there. Property of a student who is an "insured" is covered while at a residence away from home if the student has been there at any time during the 45 days immediately before the loss;
- b. Watercraft, and their furnishings, equipment and outboard engines or motors; or
- c. Trailers and campers.

#### 10. Falling objects.

This peril does not include loss to property contained in a building unless the roof or an outside wall of the building is first damaged by a falling object. Damage to the falling object itself is not included.

#### 11. Weight of ice, snow or sleet which causes damage to property contained in a building.

#### 12. Accidental discharge or overflow of water or steam from within a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or from within a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss:

- a. To the system or appliance from which the water or steam escaped;

- b. Caused by or resulting from freezing except as provided in the peril of freezing below; or

- c. On the "residence premises" caused by accidental discharge or overflow which occurs off the "residence premises."

In this peril, a plumbing system does not include a sump, sump pump or related equipment.

#### 13. Sudden and accidental tearing apart, cracking, burning or bulging of a steam or hot water heating system, an air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system, or an appliance for heating water.

We do not cover loss caused by or resulting from freezing under this peril.

#### 14. Freezing of a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or of a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss on the "residence premises" while the dwelling is unoccupied, unless you have used reasonable care to:

- a. Maintain heat in the building; or
- b. Shut off the water supply and drain the system and appliances of water.

#### 15. Sudden and accidental damage from artificially generated electrical current.

This peril does not include loss to a tube, transistor or similar electronic component.

#### 16. Volcanic eruption other than loss caused by earthquake, land shock waves or tremors.

### SECTION I – EXCLUSIONS

- 1. We do not insure for loss caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss is excluded regardless of any other cause or event contributing concurrently or in any sequence to the loss.

- a. **Ordinance or Law**, meaning enforcement of any ordinance or law regulating the construction, repair, or demolition of a building or other structure, unless specifically provided under this policy.

- b. **Earth Movement**, meaning earthquake including land shock waves or tremors before, during or after a volcanic eruption; landslide; mine subsidence; mudflow; earth sinking, rising or shifting; unless direct loss by:

- (1) Fire;
- (2) Explosion; or

- (3) Breakage of glass or safety glazing material which is part of a building, storm door or storm window;

ensues and then we will pay only for the ensuing loss.

This exclusion does not apply to loss by theft.

#### c. **Water Damage**, meaning:

- (1) Flood, surface water, waves, tidal water, overflow of a body of water, or spray from any of these, whether or not driven by wind;

- (2) Water which backs up through sewers or drains or which overflows from a sump; or



- (3) Water below the surface of the ground, including water which exerts pressure on or seeps or leaks through a building, sidewalk, driveway, foundation, swimming pool or other structure.

Direct loss by fire, explosion or theft resulting from water damage is covered.

- d. **Power Failure**, meaning the failure of power or other utility service if the failure takes place off the "residence premises." But, if a Peril Insured Against ensues on the "residence premises," we will pay only for that ensuing loss.
- e. **Neglect**, meaning neglect of the "insured" to use all reasonable means to save and preserve property at and after the time of a loss.
- f. **War**, including the following and any consequence of any of the following:
- (1) Undeclared war, civil war, insurrection, rebellion or revolution;
  - (2) Warlike act by a military force or military personnel; or
  - (3) Destruction, seizure or use for a military purpose.
- Discharge of a nuclear weapon will be deemed a warlike act even if accidental.
- g. **Nuclear Hazard**, to the extent set forth in the Nuclear Hazard Clause of SECTION I – CONDITIONS.

h. **Intentional Loss**, meaning any loss arising out of any act committed:

- (1) By or at the direction of an "insured"; and
- (2) With the intent to cause a loss.

2. We do not insure for loss to property described in Coverages A and B caused by any of the following. However, any ensuing loss to property described in Coverages A and B not excluded or excepted in this policy is covered.

- a. **Weather conditions**. However, this exclusion only applies if weather conditions contribute in any way with a cause or event excluded in paragraph 1. above to produce the loss;
- b. **Acts or decisions**, including the failure to act or decide, of any person, group, organization or governmental body;
- c. **Faulty, inadequate or defective**:
- (1) Planning, zoning, development, surveying, siting;
  - (2) Design, specifications, workmanship, repair, construction, renovation, remodeling, grading, compaction;
  - (3) Materials used in repair, construction, renovation or remodeling; or
  - (4) Maintenance;
- of part or all of any property whether on or off the "residence premises."

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#### SECTION I – CONDITIONS

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1. **Insurable Interest and Limit of Liability**. Even if more than one person has an insurable interest in the property covered, we will not be liable in any one loss:
- a. To the "insured" for more than the amount of the "insured's" interest at the time of loss; or
  - b. For more than the applicable limit of liability.
2. **Your Duties After Loss**. In case of a loss to covered property, you must see that the following are done:
- a. Give prompt notice to us or our agent;
  - b. Notify the police in case of loss by theft;
  - c. Notify the credit card or fund transfer card company in case of loss under Credit Card or Fund Transfer Card coverage;
  - d. Protect the property from further damage. If repairs to the property are required, you must:

- (1) Make reasonable and necessary repairs to protect the property; and
  - (2) Keep an accurate record of repair expenses;
- e. Prepare an inventory of damaged personal property showing the quantity, description, actual cash value and amount of loss. Attach all bills, receipts and related documents that justify the figures in the inventory;
- f. As often as we reasonably require:
- (1) Show the damaged property;
  - (2) Provide us with records and documents we request and permit us to make copies; and
  - (3) Submit to examination under oath, while not in the presence of any other "insured," and sign the same;

2. We do not insure for loss to property described in Coverages A and B caused by any of the following. However, any ensuing loss to property described in Coverages A and B not excluded or excepted in this policy is covered.

**c. Faulty, inadequate or defective:**

- (1) Planning, zoning, development, surveying, siting;
- (2) Design, specifications, workmanship, repair, construction, renovation, remodeling, grading, compaction;
- (3) Materials used in repair, construction, renovation or remodeling; or
- (4) Maintenance;

of part or all of any property whether on or off the "residence premises."



# Ensuing or Resulting Loss Exception

- A resulting loss is covered even if a defective product is a “but for” cause of the loss. The intent of the exclusion and exception is to exclude only that portion of the loss attributable to the defective product. In other words, losses that are defective products are not covered, while those that result from the defective product are covered.
- The exclusion and exception, read together, operate to eliminate the conduct or defect from consideration in analyzing the cause of resulting damage; only the actual risk causing the resulting physical damage is subject to the coverage analysis.
- To the extent that cause is neither excluded nor excepted in the applicable policy, coverage exists for the damage which resulted from the defective product.



# Causation

❑ Insurance law employs the concept of proximate cause for purposes of determining whether the specific type of injury caused by the specific type of physical act or event was intended to be covered under the terms of the subject policy.

## ➤ Efficient Proximate Cause

- The efficient proximate cause doctrine has been applied under those circumstances in which two or more identifiable causes, at least one of which is covered under the policy and at least one of which is excluded thereunder, contribute to a single loss.
- If the cause is determined to have set the chain of events in motion, the efficient proximate cause, is covered under the terms of the policy, the loss is likewise be covered.



# Causation

## ❑ Concurrent Cause

- Where a covered and an excluded cause combine to produce a loss, the concurrent cause doctrine mandates that coverage shall be provided when a loss would not have occurred but for the joinder of independent covered and excluded causes.

## ❑ Anti-Concurrent Cause Lead in Language

- Parties can contract around the concurrent cause and efficient proximate cause doctrines through an express anti-concurrent cause (“ACC”) provision.
- Commercial Property Form (CP 10 30)
  - ACC Limited to B.I. Exclusions
- Homeowners Form (HO 00 03)
  - ACC Limited to 8 Excluded Risks



## CAUSES OF LOSS – SPECIAL FORM

Words and phrases that appear in quotation marks have special meaning. Refer to Section F. – Definitions.

### A. Covered Causes Of Loss

When Special is shown in the Declarations, Covered Causes of Loss means Risks Of Direct Physical Loss unless the loss is:

1. Excluded in Section B., Exclusions; or
2. Limited in Section C., Limitations; that follow.

### B. Exclusions

1. We will not pay for loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss or damage is excluded regardless of any other cause or event that contributes con-

- (4) Earth sinking (other than sinkhole collapse), rising or shifting including soil conditions which cause settling, cracking or other disarrangement of foundations or other parts of realty. Soil conditions include contraction, expansion, freezing, thawing, erosion, improperly compacted soil and the action of water under the ground surface.

But if Earth Movement, as described in b.(1) through (4) above, results in fire or explosion, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire or explosion.

### B. Exclusions

1. We will not pay for loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss or damage is excluded regardless of any other cause or event that contributes concurrently or in any sequence to the loss.

even if the property has not been damaged; or

- (2) The increased costs incurred to comply with an ordinance or law in the course of construction, repair, renovation, remodeling or demolition of property, or removal of its debris, following a physical loss to that property.

#### b. Earth Movement

- (1) Earthquake, including any earth sinking, rising or shifting related to such event;
- (2) Landslide, including any earth sinking, rising or shifting related to such event;
- (3) Mine subsidence, meaning subsidence of a man-made mine, whether or not mining activity has ceased;

- (b) Ash, dust or particulate matter; or

- (c) Lava flow.

All volcanic eruptions that occur within any 168 hour period will constitute a single occurrence.

Volcanic action does not include the cost to remove ash, dust or particulate matter that does not cause direct physical loss or damage to the described property.

#### c. Governmental Action

Seizure or destruction of property by order of governmental authority.

But we will pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from acts of destruction ordered by governmental authority and taken at the time of a fire to prevent its spread, if the fire would be covered under this Coverage Part.

**d. Nuclear Hazard**

Nuclear reaction or radiation, or radioactive contamination, however caused.

But if nuclear reaction or radiation, or radioactive contamination, results in fire, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire.

**e. Utility Services**

The failure of power or other utility service supplied to the described premises, however caused, if the failure occurs away from the described premises. Failure includes lack of sufficient capacity and reduction in supply.

But if the failure of power or other utility service results in a Covered Cause of Loss, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that Covered Cause of Loss.

This exclusion does not apply to the Business Income coverage or to Extra Expense coverage. Instead, the Special Exclusion in Paragraph B.4.a.(1) applies to these coverages.

**f. War And Military Action**

- (1) War, including undeclared or civil war;
- (2) Warlike action by a military force, including action in hindering or defending against an actual or expected attack, by any government, sovereign or other authority using military personnel or other agents; or
- (3) Insurrection, rebellion, revolution, usurped power, or action taken by governmental authority in hindering or defending against any of these.

**g. Water**

- (1) Flood, surface water, waves, tides, tidal waves, overflow of any body of water, or their spray, all whether driven by wind or not;
- (2) Mudslide or mudflow;
- (3) Water that backs up or overflows from a sewer, drain or sump; or
- (4) Water under the ground surface pressing on, or flowing or seeping through:
  - (a) Foundations, walls, floors or paved surfaces;
  - (b) Basements, whether paved or not; or
  - (c) Doors, windows or other openings.

But if Water, as described in g.(1) through g.(4) above, results in fire, explosion or sprinkler leakage, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire, explosion or sprinkler leakage.

**h. "Fungus", Wet Rot, Dry Rot And Bacteria**

Presence, growth, proliferation, spread or any activity of "fungus", wet or dry rot or bacteria.

But if "fungus", wet or dry rot or bacteria results in a "specified cause of loss", we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that "specified cause of loss".

This exclusion does not apply:

1. When "fungus", wet or dry rot or bacteria results from fire or lightning; or
2. To the extent that coverage is provided in the Additional Coverage - Limited Coverage For "Fungus", Wet Rot, Dry Rot And Bacteria with respect to loss or damage by a cause of loss other than fire or lightning.

Exclusions B.1.a. through B.1.h. apply whether or not the loss event results in widespread damage or affects a substantial area.

2. We will not pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from any of the following:

- a. Artificially generated electrical current, including electric arcing, that disturbs electrical devices, appliances or wires.

But if artificially generated electrical current results in fire, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire.

- b. Delay, loss of use or loss of market.
- c. Smoke, vapor or gas from agricultural smudging or industrial operations.

- d.(1) Wear and tear;

- (2) Rust or other corrosion, decay, deterioration, hidden or latent defect or any quality in property that causes it to damage or destroy itself;

- (3) Smog;

- (4) Settling, cracking, shrinking or expansion;

- (5) Nesting or infestation, or discharge or release of waste products or secretions, by insects, birds, rodents or other animals.



(6) Mechanical breakdown, including rupture or bursting caused by centrifugal force. But if mechanical breakdown results in elevator collision, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that elevator collision.

(7) The following causes of loss to personal property:

(a) Dampness or dryness of atmosphere;

(b) Changes in or extremes of temperature; or

(c) Marring or scratching.

But if an excluded cause of loss that is listed in 2.d.(1) through (7) results in a "specified cause of loss" or building glass breakage, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that "specified cause of loss" or building glass breakage.

e. Explosion of steam boilers, steam pipes, steam engines or steam turbines owned or leased by you, or operated under your control. But if explosion of steam boilers, steam pipes, steam engines or steam turbines results in fire or combustion explosion, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that fire or combustion explosion. We will also pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from the explosion of gases or fuel within the furnace of any fired vessel or within the flues or passages through which the gases of combustion pass.

f. Continuous or repeated seepage or leakage of water, or the presence or condensation of humidity, moisture or vapor, that occurs over a period of 14 days or more.

g. Water, other liquids, powder or molten material that leaks or flows from plumbing, heating, air conditioning or other equipment (except fire protective systems) caused by or resulting from freezing, unless:

(1) You do your best to maintain heat in the building or structure; or

(2) You drain the equipment and shut off the supply if the heat is not maintained.

h. Dishonest or criminal act by you, any of your partners, members, officers, managers, employees (including leased employees), directors, trustees, authorized representatives or anyone to whom you entrust the property for any purpose:

(1) Acting alone or in collusion with others; or

(2) Whether or not occurring during the hours of employment.

This exclusion does not apply to acts of destruction by your employees (including leased employees); but theft by employees (including leased employees) is not covered.

i. Voluntary parting with any property by you or anyone else to whom you have entrusted the property if induced to do so by any fraudulent scheme, trick, device or false pretense.

j. Rain, snow, ice or sleet to personal property in the open.

k. Collapse, except as provided below in the Additional Coverage for Collapse. But if collapse results in a Covered Cause of Loss at the described premises, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that Covered Cause of Loss.

l. Discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of "pollutants" unless the discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape is itself caused by any of the "specified causes of loss". But if the discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of "pollutants" results in a "specified cause of loss", we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that "specified cause of loss".

This exclusion, l., does not apply to damage to glass caused by chemicals applied to the glass.

m. Neglect of an insured to use all reasonable means to save and preserve property from further damage at and after the time of loss.

3. We will not pay for loss or damage caused by or resulting from any of the following, 3.a. through 3.c. But if an excluded cause of loss that is listed in 3.a. through 3.c. results in a Covered Cause of Loss, we will pay for the loss or damage caused by that Covered Cause of Loss.

a. Weather conditions. But this exclusion only applies if weather conditions contribute in any way with a cause or event excluded in Paragraph 1. above to produce the loss or damage.

b. Acts or decisions, including the failure to act or decide, of any person, group, organization or governmental body.

**c. Faulty, inadequate or defective:**

- (1) Planning, zoning, development, surveying, siting;
- (2) Design, specifications, workmanship, repair, construction, renovation, remodeling, grading, compaction;
- (3) Materials used in repair, construction, renovation or remodeling; or
- (4) Maintenance;  
of part or all of any property on or off the described premises.

**4. Special Exclusions**

The following provisions apply only to the specified Coverage Forms.

**a. Business Income (And Extra Expense) Coverage Form, Business Income (Without Extra Expense) Coverage Form, Or Extra Expense Coverage Form**

We will not pay for:

- (1) Any loss caused directly or indirectly by the failure of power or other utility service supplied to the described premises, however caused, if the failure occurs outside of a covered building. Failure includes lack of sufficient capacity and reduction in supply.

But if the failure of power or other utility service results in a Covered Cause of Loss, we will pay for the loss resulting from that Covered Cause of Loss.

- (2) Any loss caused by or resulting from:
  - (a) Damage or destruction of "finished stock"; or
  - (b) The time required to reproduce "finished stock".

This exclusion does not apply to Extra Expense.

- (3) Any loss caused by or resulting from direct physical loss or damage to radio or television antennas (including satellite dishes) and their lead-in wiring, masts or towers.
- (4) Any increase of loss caused by or resulting from:
  - (a) Delay in rebuilding, repairing or replacing the property or resuming "operations", due to interference at the location of the rebuilding, repair or replacement by strikers or other persons; or

- (b) Suspension, lapse or cancellation of any license, lease or contract. But if the suspension, lapse or cancellation is directly caused by the "suspension" of "operations", we will cover such loss that affects your Business Income during the "period of restoration" and any extension of the "period of restoration" in accordance with the terms of the Extended Business Income Additional Coverage and the Extended Period Of Indemnity Optional Coverage or any variation of these.

- (5) Any Extra Expense caused by or resulting from suspension, lapse or cancellation of any license, lease or contract beyond the "period of restoration".
- (6) Any other consequential loss.

**b. Leasehold Interest Coverage Form**

- (1) Paragraph B.1.a. Ordinance Or Law, does not apply to insurance under this Coverage Form.
- (2) We will not pay for any loss caused by:
  - (a) Your cancelling the lease;
  - (b) The suspension, lapse or cancellation of any license; or
  - (c) Any other consequential loss.

**c. Legal Liability Coverage Form**

- (1) The following exclusions do not apply to insurance under this Coverage Form:
  - (a) Paragraph B.1.a., Ordinance Or Law;
  - (b) Paragraph B.1.c., Governmental Action;
  - (c) Paragraph B.1.d., Nuclear Hazard;
  - (d) Paragraph B.1.e., Utility Services; and
  - (e) Paragraph B.1.f., War And Military Action.



**10. Landlord's Furnishings.** We will pay up to \$2500 for your appliances, carpeting and other household furnishings, in an apartment on the "residence premises" regularly rented or held for rental to others by an "insured," for loss caused only by the following Perils Insured Against:

**a. Fire or lightning.**

**b. Windstorm or hail.**

This peril does not include loss to the property contained in a building caused by rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust unless the direct force of wind or hail damages the building causing an opening in a roof or wall and the rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust enters through this opening.

This peril includes loss to watercraft and their trailers, furnishings, equipment, and outboard engines or motors, only while inside a fully enclosed building.

**c. Explosion.**

**d. Riot or civil commotion.**

**e. Aircraft,** including self-propelled missiles and spacecraft.

**f. Vehicles.**

**g. Smoke,** meaning sudden and accidental damage from smoke.

This peril does not include loss caused by smoke from agricultural smudging or industrial operations.

**h. Vandalism or malicious mischief.**

**i. Falling objects.**

This peril does not include loss to property contained in a building unless the roof or an outside wall of the building is first damaged by a falling object. Damage to the falling object itself is not included.

**j. Weight of ice, snow or sleet** which causes damage to property contained in a building.

**k. Accidental discharge or overflow of water or steam** from within a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or from within a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss:

- (1) To the system or appliance from which the water or steam escaped;
- (2) Caused by or resulting from freezing except as provided in the peril of freezing below; or
- (3) On the "residence premises" caused by accidental discharge or overflow which occurs off the "residence premises."

In this peril, a plumbing system does not include a sump, sump pump or related equipment.

**l. Sudden and accidental tearing apart, cracking, burning or bulging** of a steam or hot water heating system, an air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system, or an appliance for heating water.

We do not cover loss caused by or resulting from freezing under this peril.

**m. Freezing** of a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or of a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss on the "residence premises" while the dwelling is unoccupied, unless you have used reasonable care to:

- (1) Maintain heat in the building; or
- (2) Shut off the water supply and drain the system and appliances of water.

**n. Sudden and accidental damage from artificially generated electrical current.**

This peril does not include loss to a tube, transistor or similar electronic component.

**o. Volcanic eruption** other than loss caused by earthquake, land shock waves or tremors.

The \$2500 limit is the most we will pay in any one loss regardless of the number of appliances, carpeting or other household furnishings involved in the loss.

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**SECTION I – PERILS INSURED AGAINST**

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**COVERAGE A – DWELLING and COVERAGE B – OTHER STRUCTURES**

We insure against risk of direct loss to property described in Coverages A and B only if that loss is a physical loss to property. We do not insure, however, for loss:

1. Involving collapse, other than as provided in Additional Coverage 8.;
2. Caused by:

- c. From that part of a "residence premises" rented by an "insured" to other than an "insured."

This peril does not include loss caused by theft that occurs off the "residence premises" of:

- a. Property while at any other residence owned by, rented to, or occupied by an "insured," except while an "insured" is temporarily living there. Property of a student who is an "insured" is covered while at a residence away from home if the student has been there at any time during the 45 days immediately before the loss;
- b. Watercraft, and their furnishings, equipment and outboard engines or motors; or
- c. Trailers and campers.

#### 10. Falling objects.

- b. Caused by or resulting from freezing except as provided in the peril of freezing below; or

- c. On the "residence premises" caused by accidental discharge or overflow which occurs off the "residence premises."

In this peril, a plumbing system does not include a sump, sump pump or related equipment.

- 13. **Sudden and accidental tearing apart, cracking, burning or bulging** of a steam or hot water heating system, an air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system, or an appliance for heating water.

We do not cover loss caused by or resulting from freezing under this peril.

- 14. **Freezing** of a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or of a household appliance.

## 1. We do not insure for loss caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss is excluded regardless of any other cause or event contributing concurrently or in any sequence to the loss.

- a. To the system or appliance from which the water or steam escaped;

earthquake, land shock waves or tremors.

### SECTION I – EXCLUSIONS

- 1. We do not insure for loss caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss is excluded regardless of any other cause or event contributing concurrently or in any sequence to the loss.

- a. **Ordinance or Law**, meaning enforcement of any ordinance or law regulating the construction, repair, or demolition of a building or other structure, unless specifically provided under this policy.

- b. **Earth Movement**, meaning earthquake including land shock waves or tremors before, during or after a volcanic eruption; landslide; mine subsidence; mudflow; earth sinking, rising or shifting; unless direct loss by:

- (1) Fire;
- (2) Explosion; or

- (3) Breakage of glass or safety glazing material which is part of a building, storm door or storm window;

ensues and then we will pay only for the ensuing loss.

This exclusion does not apply to loss by theft.

- c. **Water Damage**, meaning:

- (1) Flood, surface water, waves, tidal water, overflow of a body of water, or spray from any of these, whether or not driven by wind;
- (2) Water which backs up through sewers or drains or which overflows from a sump; or



- (3) Water below the surface of the ground, including water which exerts pressure on or seeps or leaks through a building, sidewalk, driveway, foundation, swimming pool or other structure.

Direct loss by fire, explosion or theft resulting from water damage is covered.

- d. **Power Failure**, meaning the failure of power or other utility service if the failure takes place off the "residence premises." But, if a Peril Insured Against ensues on the "residence premises," we will pay only for that ensuing loss.
- e. **Neglect**, meaning neglect of the "insured" to use all reasonable means to save and preserve property at and after the time of a loss.
- f. **War**, including the following and any consequence of any of the following:
- (1) Undeclared war, civil war, insurrection, rebellion or revolution;
  - (2) Warlike act by a military force or military personnel; or
  - (3) Destruction, seizure or use for a military purpose.

Discharge of a nuclear weapon will be deemed a warlike act even if accidental.

- g. **Nuclear Hazard**, to the extent set forth in the Nuclear Hazard Clause of SECTION I - CONDITIONS.

- h. **Intentional Loss**, meaning any loss arising out of any act committed:

- (1) By or at the direction of an "insured"; and
- (2) With the intent to cause a loss.

2. We do not insure for loss to property described in Coverages A and B caused by any of the following. However, any ensuing loss to property described in Coverages A and B not excluded or excepted in this policy is covered.

- a. **Weather conditions**. However, this exclusion only applies if weather conditions contribute in any way with a cause or event excluded in paragraph 1. above to produce the loss;

- b. **Acts or decisions**, including the failure to act or decide, of any person, group, organization or governmental body;

- c. **Faulty, inadequate or defective**:

- (1) Planning, zoning, development, surveying, siting;
  - (2) Design, specifications, workmanship, repair, construction, renovation, remodeling, grading, compaction;
  - (3) Materials used in repair, construction, renovation or remodeling; or
  - (4) Maintenance;
- of part or all of any property whether on or off the "residence premises."

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#### SECTION I - CONDITIONS

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1. **Insurable Interest and Limit of Liability**. Even if more than one person has an insurable interest in the property covered, we will not be liable in any one loss:

- a. To the "insured" for more than the amount of the "insured's" interest at the time of loss; or
- b. For more than the applicable limit of liability.

2. **Your Duties After Loss**. In case of a loss to covered property, you must see that the following are done:

- a. Give prompt notice to us or our agent;
- b. Notify the police in case of loss by theft;
- c. Notify the credit card or fund transfer card company in case of loss under Credit Card or Fund Transfer Card coverage;
- d. Protect the property from further damage. If repairs to the property are required, you must:

- (1) Make reasonable and necessary repairs to protect the property; and

- (2) Keep an accurate record of repair expenses;

- e. Prepare an inventory of damaged personal property showing the quantity, description, actual cash value and amount of loss. Attach all bills, receipts and related documents that justify the figures in the inventory;

- f. As often as we reasonably require:

- (1) Show the damaged property;
- (2) Provide us with records and documents we request and permit us to make copies; and
- (3) Submit to examination under oath, while not in the presence of any other "insured," and sign the same;

# VALUATION OF COVERED LOSS

- ❑ Actual Cash Value (“ACV”) vs. Replacement Cost (“RC”)
  - ACV until repair/replacement completed
  - Miceli Rule
  - 3 tests to measure ACV if not defined in Policy
    - ✓ Market Value
    - ✓ RC – Depreciation
    - ✓ Broad Evidence



# VALUATION OF COVERED LOSS

## ☐ Replacement Cost Issues

- Replacement/Repair/Remediation
- Matching
- Cost to tear out and replace drywall
- Overhead and Profit
- Ordinance or Law

## ☐ Value Policy Law/Total Loss

- 50% Rule

# Burdens of Proof

- An insured seeking to recover under an “all risks” policy has the burden of proving *only* that direct physical loss or damage occurred to covered property while the policy was in force.
- *Once the insured establishes a loss apparently within the terms of an “all risks” policy, the burden shifts to the insurer to prove that the loss arose from a cause which is excluded.*
- *The insured is not required to disprove any excluded clauses.*



# INSURANCE POLICY INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION PRINCIPLES

- Insurance contracts are construed in accordance with the plain language of the policy as bargained for by the parties.
- The contract is to be construed as a whole, endeavoring to give every provision its full meaning and operative effect.
- If the salient policy language is susceptible to two reasonable interpretations, one providing coverage and the other limiting or excluding coverage, then the policy is considered ambiguous.
- Ambiguous coverage provisions are construed strictly against the insurer that drafted the policy and liberally in favor of the insured.
- Exclusion clauses are generally considered contrary to the fundamental protective purpose of insurance. Thus, the courts give a strict interpretation to exclusion clauses, as opposed to the liberal interpretation afforded coverage provisions.



# Case Study

- Single Family Residence in Florida
- Chinese Drywall installed
- Insured Complaints
  - ✓ A “rotten egg” odor;
  - ✓ Frequent replacement of components in air conditioning unit;
  - ✓ Blackened and corroded exposed electrical wiring at the breaker panels and copper in outlet boxes;
  - ✓ Copper water lines and metal plumbing fixtures pitting and discoloring;
  - ✓ Sterling picture frames and sterling silver dishes turning black in short periods of time;
- Insured vacates home claiming uninhabitable;
- HO 00 03 Form;

# Case Study Continued

## ➤ Insurer Expert report;

- ✓ The mixture of gypsum and cellulose from the drywall produced in China *combined* with the normally humid atmosphere in Florida is releasing sulfurous gas causing corrosion of copper, brass and silver in the home;
- ✓ Sulfurous gases plus humidity are also decomposing other cellulose products, such as the kraft paper backing on insulation;
- ✓ The electrical system must be inspected and possibly replaced;
- ✓ Sulfurous gases have accelerated the corrosion of the wiring by ten-fold or more, resulting in potential fire hazards due to resistive connections; and
- ✓ The drywall is a defective product.



## □ Dwelling Loss

- Remove and replace drywall
- Eliminate rotten egg odor
- Remove and replace fixtures and components

## □ Personal Property Loss

- Picture frames and dishes
- Named peril triggered?

- Insurer denial

- Latent Defect
- Pollutant
- Defective Product

- Coverage?

- Direct physical loss ?
- Exclusions applicable?



**10. Landlord's Furnishings.** We will pay up to \$2500 for your appliances, carpeting and other household furnishings, in an apartment on the "residence premises" regularly rented or held for rental to others by an "insured," for loss caused only by the following Perils Insured Against:

**a. Fire or lightning.**

**b. Windstorm or hail.**

This peril does not include loss to the property contained in a building caused by rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust unless the direct force of wind or hail damages the building causing an opening in a roof or wall and the rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust enters through this opening.

This peril includes loss to watercraft and their trailers, furnishings, equipment, and outboard engines or motors, only while inside a fully enclosed building.

**c. Explosion.**

**d. Riot or civil commotion.**

**e. Aircraft,** including self-propelled missiles and spacecraft.

**f. Vehicles.**

**g. Smoke,** meaning sudden and accidental damage from smoke.

This peril does not include loss caused by smoke from agricultural smudging or industrial operations.

**h. Vandalism or malicious mischief.**

**i. Falling objects.**

This peril does not include loss to property contained in a building unless the roof or an outside wall of the building is first damaged by a falling object. Damage to the falling object itself is not included.

**j. Weight of ice, snow or sleet** which causes damage to property contained in a building.

**k. Accidental discharge or overflow of water or steam** from within a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or from within a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss:

- (1) To the system or appliance from which the water or steam escaped;
- (2) Caused by or resulting from freezing except as provided in the peril of freezing below; or
- (3) On the "residence premises" caused by accidental discharge or overflow which occurs off the "residence premises."

In this peril, a plumbing system does not include a sump, sump pump or related equipment.

**l. Sudden and accidental tearing apart, cracking, burning or bulging** of a steam or hot water heating system, an air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system, or an appliance for heating water.

We do not cover loss caused by or resulting from freezing under this peril.

**m. Freezing** of a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or of a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss on the "residence premises" while the dwelling is unoccupied, unless you have used reasonable care to:

- (1) Maintain heat in the building; or
- (2) Shut off the water supply and drain the system and appliances of water.

**n. Sudden and accidental damage from artificially generated electrical current.**

This peril does not include loss to a tube, transistor or similar electronic component.

**o. Volcanic eruption** other than loss caused by earthquake, land shock waves or tremors.

The \$2500 limit is the most we will pay in any one loss regardless of the number of appliances, carpeting or other household furnishings involved in the loss.

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**SECTION I – PERILS INSURED AGAINST**

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**COVERAGE A – DWELLING and COVERAGE B – OTHER STRUCTURES**

We insure against risk of direct loss to property described in Coverages A and B only if that loss is a physical loss to property. We do not insure, however, for loss:

1. Involving collapse, other than as provided in Additional Coverage 8.;
2. Caused by:

We insure against risk of direct loss to property described in Coverages A and B only if that loss is a physical loss to property. We do not insure, however, for loss:

**2. Caused by:**



- a. Freezing of a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or of a household appliance, or by discharge, leakage or overflow from within the system or appliance caused by freezing. This exclusion applies only while the dwelling is vacant, unoccupied or being constructed, unless you have used reasonable care to:

- (1) Maintain heat in the building; or
- (2) Shut off the water supply and drain the system and appliances of water;

- b. Freezing, thawing, pressure or weight of water or ice, whether driven by wind or not, to a:

- (1) Fence, pavement, patio or swimming pool;
- (2) Foundation, retaining wall, or bulkhead; or
- (3) Pier, wharf or dock;

- c. Theft in or to a dwelling under construction, or of materials and supplies for use in the construction until the dwelling is finished and occupied;

- d. Vandalism and malicious mischief if the dwelling has been vacant for more than 30 consecutive days immediately before the loss. A dwelling being constructed is not considered vacant;

- e. Any of the following:

- (1) Wear and tear, marring, deterioration;
- (2) Inherent vice, latent defect, mechanical breakdown;
- (3) Smog, rust or other corrosion, mold, wet or dry rot;
- (4) Smoke from agricultural smudging or industrial operations;
- (5) Discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of pollutants unless the discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape is itself caused by a Peril Insured Against under Coverage C of this policy.  
Pollutants means any solid, liquid, gaseous or thermal irritant or contaminant, including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acids, alkalis, chemicals and waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed;
- (6) Settling, shrinking, bulging or expansion, including resultant cracking, of pavements, patios, foundations, walls, floors, roofs or ceilings;
- (7) Birds, vermin, rodents, or insects; or
- (8) Animals owned or kept by an "insured."

If any of these cause water damage not otherwise excluded, from a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or household appliance, we cover loss caused by the water including the cost of tearing out and replacing any part of a building necessary to repair the system or appliance. We do not cover loss to the system or appliance from which this water escaped.

### 3. Excluded under Section I – Exclusions.

Under items 1. and 2., any ensuing loss to property described in Coverages A and B not excluded or excepted in this policy is covered.

### COVERAGE C – PERSONAL PROPERTY

We insure for direct physical loss to the property described in Coverage C caused by a peril listed below unless the loss is excluded in SECTION I – EXCLUSIONS.

#### 1. Fire or lightning.

#### 2. Windstorm or hail.

This peril does not include loss to the property contained in a building caused by rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust unless the direct force of wind or hail damages the building causing an opening in a roof or wall and the rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust enters through this opening.

This peril includes loss to watercraft and their trailers, furnishings, equipment, and outboard engines or motors, only while inside a fully enclosed building.

#### 3. Explosion.

#### 4. Riot or civil commotion.

#### 5. Aircraft, including self-propelled missiles and spacecraft.

#### 6. Vehicles.

#### 7. Smoke, meaning sudden and accidental damage from smoke.

This peril does not include loss caused by smoke from agricultural smudging or industrial operations.

#### 8. Vandalism or malicious mischief.

#### 9. Theft, including attempted theft and loss of property from a known place when it is likely that the property has been stolen.

This peril does not include loss caused by theft:

- a. Committed by an "insured";
- b. In or to a dwelling under construction, or of materials and supplies for use in the construction until the dwelling is finished and occupied; or

**(2)** Inherent vice, latent defect, mechanical breakdown;

**(5)** Discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of pollutants unless the discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape is itself caused by a Peril Insured Against under Coverage C of this policy.

Pollutants means any solid, liquid, gaseous or thermal irritant or contaminant, including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acids, alkalis, chemicals and waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed;



- c. From that part of a "residence premises" rented by an "insured" to other than an "insured."

This peril does not include loss caused by theft that occurs off the "residence premises" of:

- a. Property while at any other residence owned by, rented to, or occupied by an "insured," except while an "insured" is temporarily living there. Property of a student who is an "insured" is covered while at a residence away from home if the student has been there at any time during the 45 days immediately before the loss;
- b. Watercraft, and their furnishings, equipment and outboard engines or motors; or
- c. Trailers and campers.

**10. Falling objects.**

This peril does not include loss to property contained in a building unless the roof or an outside wall of the building is first damaged by a falling object. Damage to the falling object itself is not included.

- 11. Weight of ice, snow or sleet** which causes damage to property contained in a building.

- 12. Accidental discharge or overflow of water or steam** from within a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or from within a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss:

- a. To the system or appliance from which the water or steam escaped;

- b. Caused by or resulting from freezing except as provided in the peril of freezing below; or

- c. On the "residence premises" caused by accidental discharge or overflow which occurs off the "residence premises."

In this peril, a plumbing system does not include a sump, sump pump or related equipment.

- 13. Sudden and accidental tearing apart, cracking, burning or bulging** of a steam or hot water heating system, an air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system, or an appliance for heating water.

We do not cover loss caused by or resulting from freezing under this peril.

- 14. Freezing** of a plumbing, heating, air conditioning or automatic fire protective sprinkler system or of a household appliance.

This peril does not include loss on the "residence premises" while the dwelling is unoccupied, unless you have used reasonable care to:

- a. Maintain heat in the building; or
- b. Shut off the water supply and drain the system and appliances of water.

- 15. Sudden and accidental damage from artificially generated electrical current.**

This peril does not include loss to a tube, transistor or similar electronic component.

- 16. Volcanic eruption** other than loss caused by earthquake, land shock waves or tremors.

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**SECTION I – EXCLUSIONS**

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1. We do not insure for loss caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss is excluded regardless of any other cause or event contributing concurrently or in any sequence to the loss.

- a. **Ordinance or Law**, meaning enforcement of any ordinance or law regulating the construction, repair, or demolition of a building or other structure, unless specifically provided under this policy.

- b. **Earth Movement**, meaning earthquake including land shock waves or tremors before, during or after a volcanic eruption; landslide; mine subsidence; mudflow; earth sinking, rising or shifting; unless direct loss by:

- (1) Fire;
- (2) Explosion; or

- (3) Breakage of glass or safety glazing material which is part of a building, storm door or storm window;

ensues and then we will pay only for the ensuing loss.

This exclusion does not apply to loss by theft.

- c. **Water Damage**, meaning:

- (1) Flood, surface water, waves, tidal water, overflow of a body of water, or spray from any of these, whether or not driven by wind;
- (2) Water which backs up through sewers or drains or which overflows from a sump; or

1. We do not insure for loss caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss is excluded regardless of any other cause or event contributing concurrently or in any sequence to the loss.



- (3) Water below the surface of the ground, including water which exerts pressure on or seeps or leaks through a building, sidewalk, driveway, foundation, swimming pool or other structure.

Direct loss by fire, explosion or theft resulting from water damage is covered.

- d. **Power Failure**, meaning the failure of power or other utility service if the failure takes place off the "residence premises." But, if a Peril Insured Against ensues on the "residence premises," we will pay only for that ensuing loss.
- e. **Neglect**, meaning neglect of the "insured" to use all reasonable means to save and preserve property at and after the time of a loss.
- f. **War**, including the following and any consequence of any of the following:
- (1) Undeclared war, civil war, insurrection, rebellion or revolution;
  - (2) Warlike act by a military force or military personnel; or
  - (3) Destruction, seizure or use for a military purpose.

Discharge of a nuclear weapon will be deemed a warlike act even if accidental.

- g. **Nuclear Hazard**, to the extent set forth in the Nuclear Hazard Clause of SECTION I – CONDITIONS.

- h. **Intentional Loss**, meaning any loss arising out of any act committed:

- (1) By or at the direction of an "insured"; and
- (2) With the intent to cause a loss.

2. We do not insure for loss to property described in Coverages A and B caused by any of the following. However, any ensuing loss to property described in Coverages A and B not excluded or excepted in this policy is covered.

- a. **Weather conditions**. However, this exclusion only applies if weather conditions contribute in any way with a cause or event excluded in paragraph 1. above to produce the loss;

- b. **Acts or decisions**, including the failure to act or decide, of any person, group, organization or governmental body;

- c. **Faulty, inadequate or defective**:

- (1) Planning, zoning, development, surveying, siting;
  - (2) Design, specifications, workmanship, repair, construction, renovation, remodeling, grading, compaction;
  - (3) Materials used in repair, construction, renovation or remodeling; or
  - (4) Maintenance;
- of part or all of any property whether on or off the "residence premises."

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#### SECTION I – CONDITIONS

---

1. **Insurable Interest and Limit of Liability**. Even if more than one person has an insurable interest in the property covered, we will not be liable in any one loss:

- a. To the "insured" for more than the amount of the "insured's" interest at the time of loss; or
- b. For more than the applicable limit of liability.

2. **Your Duties After Loss**. In case of a loss to covered property, you must see that the following are done:

- a. Give prompt notice to us or our agent;
- b. Notify the police in case of loss by theft;
- c. Notify the credit card or fund transfer card company in case of loss under Credit Card or Fund Transfer Card coverage;
- d. Protect the property from further damage. If repairs to the property are required, you must:

- (1) Make reasonable and necessary repairs to protect the property; and

- (2) Keep an accurate record of repair expenses;

- e. Prepare an inventory of damaged personal property showing the quantity, description, actual cash value and amount of loss. Attach all bills, receipts and related documents that justify the figures in the inventory;

- f. As often as we reasonably require:

- (1) Show the damaged property;
- (2) Provide us with records and documents we request and permit us to make copies; and
- (3) Submit to examination under oath, while not in the presence of any other "insured," and sign the same;

2. We do not insure for loss to property described in Coverages A and B caused by any of the following. However, any ensuing loss to property described in Coverages A and B not excluded or excepted in this policy is covered.

(2) Design, specifications, workmanship, repair, construction, renovation, remodeling, grading, compaction;



### Bulging Due to Power Outage and Humidity

**Q** Due to the massive ice storm 1/27/09, we have many policyholders who have been without power, some going on four weeks. We are getting some claims for damage that appears related to the general changes in temperature and humidity levels. Examples include floors buckling, and cracks in drywall and trim. Since these damages are not a direct result of a covered peril, we believe there is no coverage in the case of the named peril policies (HO2, FO2, etc). In the case of the HO3, some also believe the damage is excluded under the exclusion for settling, shrinking, bulging, or expansion...of...walls, floors, roofs, or ceilings. I would appreciate if you could provide an opinion. If you could expedite, it would also be greatly appreciated considering the urgency created by the Cat situation.



Kentucky Subscriber

**A** Under the HO 02 there would be no coverage for buckling and such since indeed there is no named peril that fits the situation. However, under the HO 03 you need to look at the exclusion in context with the other exclusions. If the floor is buckling because of wear or the insured's fondness for growing orchids (thereby overly humidifying the home) then the loss is excluded. However, if the cause of the buckling is a covered power failure, then there is coverage for the loss.

### Chinese Drywall

**Q** What ISO policy exclusion under an HO3, if any, applies to a product defect? We have seen a couple of instances in Louisiana where the insureds are sustaining damage as a result of defective drywall made

in China. This was used following Katrina to replenish shortages of drywall supplies.



Louisiana Subscriber

**A** The ISO HO 03 excludes loss to coverages A & B caused by faulty materials used in repair, construction renovation or remodeling. (See page 12 of the 10 00 policy.) Any ensuing loss as a result of the faulty drywall would be covered, for example if the drywall caused corrosion damage to wires or pipes.

### Hot Tub Loss as Coverage C or Coverage B?

**Q** Our insured has a hot tub. It is a self-contained unit, located in an out-building, separate from the house. It is not connected to the domestic plumbing in any way, but it is hard-wired to the home's service panel. Recently, during a power outage, the water in the tub lines froze and caused leaks. Is the tub considered Coverage C, and if so, does this loss fit the "freezing" peril?



Massachusetts Subscriber

**A** The fact that the hot tub is hard wired into the home's service panel makes it coverage B, other structures. It is separated from the house by a clear space and attached by only a fence-utility line, or similar connection. The tub is also not very portable, another strike against it being personal property. The hot tub is not a swimming pool, so the exclusion for freezing to a pool doesn't apply. Since the house was probably heated, then the freezing of the hot tub is covered, even though it's not actually in the house.