



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

April 19, 2005

Audience: Manufacturer

Contact:

David Plenkovich

Public Relations

dplenkovich@alowood.com

(360) 366.3500

Revolutionary Technology Gives “Hardwood” New Meaning

A breakthrough technology in wood modification was recently unveiled that doubles the strength, hardness, and durability of plantation-grown softwoods. Alowood, the environmentally friendly, sustainable wood product enhanced by Everdex, was introduced in January of 2005 by Chemco, the worldwide leader in modified wood products.

“This is an incredible milestone for our company,” said John Gibb, President of Chemco. “This is a revolutionary product that is sure to change the way the world looks at wood.”

The wood modification technology uses a patented combination vacuum and pressure injection process that replaces air and moisture in the wood with Everdex, an all-natural additive made from corn and soy proteins. The wood is then thermally cured in an oven, permanently locking in those proteins. The result is Alowood, capable of surpassing other medium to high-density hardwoods for durability and strength, while maintaining the warmth and character that’s synonymous with hardwood.

“Because the natural additives are evenly dispersed within the wood’s cells, the look and feel of the wood is all natural and consistently even,” said Yin Wang, Ph.D., and Vice-President, Research & Development, Chemco. “Alowood can be further modified during this process to enhance the colors and grain characteristics of the wood. If you choose to alter Alowood’s color at a later time, just like most woods, it can be stained or sanded, and the quality in aesthetics and durability will not be lost.”

In all tests conducted, the modified timber had a greater holding power for screws and nails than untreated timber. When modified, the shear strength of the timber increased by 67 percent and the stiffness by 47 percent. Additionally, the modified timber proved to be easily machined in cross cutting, shaping, drilling, finger jointing, turning, molding, and planing.

Alowood – Everdex Enhanced is a division of and patented by Chemco. Based in Ferndale, Wash., Chemco provides wood modification technology services to the worldwide market leaders in the wood products industry. For more information on any Chemco product, visit the Chemco website at www.chemco.us or contact Customer Service at 360.366.3500. For more information on Alowood, visit www.alowood.com.

###