



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Potlatch Introduces New Fire-Resistant Cedar Decking and Siding**

### **Potlatch Partners with CHEMCO SaferWood™ to Help Prevent the Spread of Fire**

Spokane, Wash. – Potlatch Corporation, a leader in specialty wood products innovation, is introducing its new CHEMCO-treated Inland Red Cedar decking and siding to offer builders and homeowners fire protection. The cedar products will be on display at the 2005 International Builders' Show in Orlando, January 13-16 at the **Potlatch booth, #S10562.**

Potlatch has partnered with fire-retardant treatment company CHEMCO, Inc. to develop its SaferWood™ deck and siding panels, which combine Inland Red Cedar's durability and resistance to decay and moisture with a Class A flame-spread rating to help prevent the spread of fire.

"We are very excited to bring fire-resistant cedar decking and siding to the market. This will enable builders to comply with many of the new strict code regulations that are being implemented in parts of the country," says Mike Urso, vice president of marketing for Potlatch's wood products and resource management divisions. "It's now possible to have the natural beauty of cedar while helping to minimize the risk of fire damage."

CHEMCO uses a vacuum pressure application process that removes moisture and air from wood cells and replaces it with an environmentally friendly fire retardant. The treated cedar is then thermally cured in a kiln to lock the fire retardant into the wood cells. This process of locking the fire retardant into the cellular structure of the wood, renders the wood suitable for Class A rated applications, with no need for future re-treatment.

"This technology helps protect wood from fire, without altering the other qualities that make wood the building material of choice," says George Woods, director of marketing for CHEMCO.

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**About Potlatch**

Potlatch Corporation is an integrated forest products company with 1.5 million acres of timberland in Idaho, Minnesota and Arkansas. The company's forestland and plantation management practices and products in Idaho and Oregon have been third-party certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) ®\* as meeting the highest standards of stewardship in the industry. FSC-certified products include framing lumber made of hemlock fir, larch fir, Douglas fir and hybrid poplar logs, as well as decking, siding, boards, and finger-jointed boards made of red cedar. For more information about Potlatch, visit [www.potlatchcorp.com](http://www.potlatchcorp.com).

\*FSC is a registered trademark of the Forest Stewardship Council.

**About CHEMCO**

Founded in 1981, CHEMCO, Inc. has become one of the leading fire retardant treatment companies for wood products in the world. Located on a 40-acre site in Ferndale, Washington, CHEMCO continues to work closely with cedar shake and shingle, lumber and engineered wood manufacturers, to develop fire retardant solutions for the global marketplace. For more information about CHEMCO, visit [www.chemco.us](http://www.chemco.us).

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