

Instantly Lower Your Monthly Bills

Lower Your
Mortgage

Reduce Your
Auto
Insurance

Cut Your Credit
Card Payments
by 50%

Call Friends and
Family for Less

[Click Here](#)



washingtonpost.com

Decked by a Source With an Ax to Grind

Sunday, May 9, 2004; Page B06

The May 1 Real Estate story "Deck Lumber, Hardware Present Risks" is the third lengthy feature piece

on chromium copper arsenate pressure-treated wood that has appeared in the Real Estate section in the past 13 months. All of these stories have been biased, but a source cited in the May 1 story is of particular concern.

Matthew Robb relied extensively on an interview with Richard Maas. However, Mr. Robb failed to mention that Mr. Maas has a vested interest in speaking out against treated wood. Maas has a relationship with the Environmental Working Group (also cited in the story), selling his "test kits" on the EWG Web site. He is an outspoken environmental activist who should not be described to unsuspecting readers as an impartial expert.

The fact that Mr. Maas was quoted nine times in the story and paraphrased on six occasions, while no one from the wood preservative industry was contacted, presents a highly biased version of the issue. Pressure-treated wood has been a safe and reliable product in this country for more than 70 years, and irresponsible stories like this serve only to misinform and unnecessarily alarm the public.

JIM HALE

Mount Vernon

The writer is executive director of the Wood Preservative Science Council.

© 2004 The Washington Post Company