

CONSTRUCTION

New Apartment Dwellers ... In a Storm

Radiant with happiness, the new apartment dweller, holding in hand the cherished permit for the long-awaited apartment, stepped across the threshold of his new home... and collapsed, senseless. Then, the same thing occurred to another, and to a third... But, what happened this summer in the towns of Solnechnyi and Lyantorskii in the Surgut Raion was not caused by an excess of joy.

These northern residents are not ones to be swept off their feet by emotions. But even these conquerors of Siberia's underground riches, hardened against toxic chemical substances, cannot withstand this surprise. And who served up this latest survival test for the new oil field and gas field workers of northern Tyumen region but the "rationalizers" of the Perm' Housing Construction Combine (DSK). Inside the panels of these 16-unit apartment houses, they decided to use a new chemical insulator in place of the traditional mineral wool. Unsuspecting, the workers of Tyumen assembled the buildings using these "improved" structural members.

What happened then is convincingly reflected in a document drawn up by personnel of 'Gosarkhistroikontrol' (State Control Board for Architecture and Construction) and the public health service: "Inside the housing units one can smell an unpleasant odor emanating from the building's structural members. People are suffering from watery