

The Generation and Utilization of Residuals from Composite Panel Products

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Abstract

The typical composite panel plant in North America generates over 100 tons per day of residuals while manufacturing hardboard, particleboard or MDF. Usually, over 90% of these materials are either returned to the manufacturing process or burned to generate process heat. Residuals are also generated by secondary manufacturers during the conversion of panels to finished consumer products. There is less opportunity to recycle these materials internally, so disposal outlets must be found.

In this paper, the residual generation and utilization practices of manufacturers of both primary and secondary composite panel products are characterized. Opportunities for downstream recycling are identified and discussed, and suggestions for enhancing residual utilization are offered. An extensive list of relevant references and information sources is appended.