

NEWSLETTER

HOME/FURNITURE/DESIGN

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New national standard raised the environmental bar—E1 furniture panels to be phased out by 2026

China has officially released the national standard GB 18580-2025, titled “Interior decorating and refurbishing materials – formaldehyde emission limits for wood-based panels and their products.” Effective 1 June 2026, E1-grade panels (formaldehyde emission ≤ 0.124 mg/m³) will be withdrawn from the Chinese market; only E0-grade panels (≤ 0.050 mg/m³) may thereafter be produced or sold. **(National Standardization Commission)**

The sales of national building materials and home furnishing stores rose in September

In September, the sales volume in the national large-scale building materials and home furnishing stores reached 130.838 billion yuan (\$18.38 billion), a month-on-month increase of 23.84% but a year-on-year decrease of 8.02%. From January to September 2025, the cumulative sales volume reached 1.044801 trillion yuan (\$146.74 billion), down 3.75% year-on-year. **(China Building Materials Circulation Association)**

China's export of ceramic products rose 1.7% in September

For the first nine months, China's cumulative exports of ceramic products reached 112.8 billion yuan (\$15.82 billion), up 1.7% year-on-year. In September alone, exports totaled 10.52 billion yuan (\$1.48 billion), marking a drop of 4.13% year-on-year. After exceeding 13 billion yuan (\$1.82 billion) monthly from March through May, China's ceramic exports began to taper off, falling below 11 billion yuan (\$1.54 billion) starting in June. **(General Administration of Customs)**

The building materials and home furnishings stores prosperity Index rose in September

According to the Building Materials and Home Furnishings Terminal Stores Prosperity Index (BHI) released recently, the national BHI for September stood at 122.93, up 12.87 points month-on-month but down 3.75 points year-on-year. The sub-index “Manager Confidence Index” this month came in at 159.64, down 3.83 points from the previous month, the largest month-on-month decline among all sub-indices. **(China Building Materials Circulation Association)**

China's import of wood increased in September

Latest customs figures showed that China imported 4.669 million m³ of timber in September 2025, worth \$931 million. Compared with September 2024, volume fell 7.9% and value dropped 10.8%, marking a seventh consecutive month of year-on-year decline. Month-on-month, however, both metrics rebounded from August: volume rose 15.9% and value gained 13.8%. **(General Administration of Customs)**