

NEWS RELEASE

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OSB: The Green Structural Panel

Quality, reliability, price and performance are key reasons why people buy oriented strand board (OSB). Another determining factor that has helped boost use of OSB is the engineered panel's environmental qualities.

OSB is the most popular structural panel used for wall and roof sheathing in North American homes. More than seven out of 10 new homes in the United States use OSB for structural paneling.

When that much wood is used for homes, green-minded Americans become concerned to the point where they now are willing to pay for a house if it protects the environment. A recent survey conducted by the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association had 21 percent of its respondents say they would pay more than \$1,000 for a home "that is resource efficient and protects the environment."

"Consumers don't have to pay more for an environmentally sound structural panel because OSB makes the most of the environment at manufacturing prices that are the most competitive for consumers," says Reg Sharpe, technical and marketing representative of the Structural Board Association, representing OSB manufacturers from all over the world.

OSB is made from wood strands bonded into panels with water-resistant adhesives. "Compared to other non-engineered wood products, OSB has the highest yield from wood, which means it makes the most use out of wood fiber and is an appropriate product for 'green buildings.'" says Sharpe.

(more)

The increasing consumer regard for the environment has led to the budding popularity of the "green building" — a home or building that helps conserve energy, prevent pollution and that is built with products that favor environmental management of forests. "Green building" can also mean using fast-growing trees raised on tree farms and products that make more efficient use of wood.

OSB is made from fast-growing, small-diameter trees that can be harvested from plantations, avoiding the need for cutting old-growth trees. OSB panels are generally manufactured from aspen poplar in the northern part of North America and southern yellow pine in the south. Other hardwood and softwood species are also used.

OSB is made from renewable resources that can be managed for environmental purposes. All parts of a log are cut into strands for reprocessing into boards and leftover particles and bark end up being used to fuel on-site energy systems of plants.

"The increasing use of OSB in other products, such as in structural insulated panels for wall framing and engineered wood joists for supporting floors, is also something that favors the environment and efficient use of renewable resources," says Sharpe.

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For additional information about OSB, contact the Structural Board Association at (416) 730-9090, fax (416) 730-9013 or e-mail info@osbguide.com. The SBA Web site (www.osbguide.com) is another excellent resource.