

NEWS RELEASE

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OSB: Panel of Choice in Remodeling

Oriented Strand Board (OSB) is positioned to become the structural panel of choice for residential remodeling just as it is now for roof, wall and floor sheathing in new home construction.

No OSB-specific numbers are tabulated in the remodeling industry. But just as builders use OSB for residential sheathing in new home construction, a market in which OSB has more than 75 percent market share in North America, remodelers are using OSB for the same applications in whole-house remodeling. "It (OSB) is mainly used for remodeling additions," says Kimberly Sweet, editor-in-chief of Professional Remodeler magazine.

Consumer awareness of the abstract quilt-patterned panel, which can be seen covering new homes going up across North America, is not as high as plywood. But neither did builders in the new residential construction market immediately take to OSB in the late 1970s and early 1980s when OSB was introduced as a structural panel but was mistakenly perceived by many as a non-structural product.

"It will take a much shorter time for remodelers than it did for builders to accept OSB as the whole-house remodeling panel of choice," says Mark Angelini, CEO and president of the Structural Board Association, representing North American and international OSB manufacturers. "OSB has already overtaken plywood as the top structural panel in residential construction and enjoys an established product and brand acceptance."

According to Angelini, the following key factors will drive OSB use in the remodeling market, which the Census Bureau says was worth \$169 billion in 2001, or nearly equal to the single home residential construction market, worth \$181 billion according to figures provided by the National Association of Home Builders:

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Price

No structural panel can compete with OSB on price. This is largely due to highly automated and computerized manufacturing methods in which nearly all of wood fiber of the logs is processed into OSB panels that are made up of layers of strands oriented in cross-aligned directions.

Engineered for Applications and Strength

The strands can be cut to different lengths, oriented in different directions and assembled with various amounts of adhesives for customized purposes. Longer strands provide more flexibility. Directional orientation of strands contributes to strength. Additional resin develops durability.

Recognized as a Structural Panel in the Model Codes

OSB is recognized as an equivalent to plywood in all North American model codes for structural sheathing applications in dry service conditions.

Wide Availability and Size-Variety

OSB is available in all home improvement retail outlets in North America selling wood in dimensions that other structural panels do not offer, including panels from 4 feet by 8 feet to 8 feet by 24 feet in more than half a dozen thicknesses for multiple span ratings.

High Consistency

Because its quality is not dependent on the size of harvested trees, but on a manufacturing method employing strands cut from trees, each OSB panel is manufactured with the same uniformity and consistency, with no voids and allowing for reliable workability. OSB is easy to saw, drill, nail, plane, file and sand.

Environmentally Advantageous

OSB is processed mainly from fast-growing small diameter trees, avoiding the need to log old-growth timber. OSB is an extremely resource-efficient product, maximizing yields from a fast-growing renewable resource.

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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.