



# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

STRUCTURAL BOARD ASSOCIATION

*Representing the OSB Industry*

25 Valleywood Drive, Unit 27, Markham, Ontario, Canada L3R 5L9

Tel: 905-475-1100 • Fax: 905-475-1101 • E-mail: [info@osbguide.com](mailto:info@osbguide.com) • website: <http://www.osbguide.com>

## OSB ROOF SHEATHING SAFETY STUDY



### Summary

Testing carried out by Forintek Canada Corp. – a major independent research institution – has shown that OSB structural wood panels with a textured surface can be equal to plywood in providing a safe, non-slip surface for framers and roofing installers.

### Test Results

Tests were conducted under both wet and dry climatic conditions using OSB panels from a variety of SBA member mills and two typical construction grade plywood panels.

This comprehensive research was carried out by Forintek's large wood products research laboratory. They used OSB panels from six member mills of the SBA and tested them against plywood panels made with Canadian softwoods and U.S. southern yellow pine. The purpose of this investigation was to find out how the slipperiness of OSB panels with a textured surface compared to that of sheathing grade plywood. To ensure a fair test, the panels were tested in dry and wet conditions and in hot and cold temperatures, using a variety of shoe soles including traditional safety boots.

### Conclusion

Their conclusion was that OSB's textured surface makes it equal to or better than plywood in regards to resistance to slipping when wearing rubber soled boots.

Member mills of the SBA have responded to a major concern builders and installers experienced with OSB by providing panels with a textured surface. This is another good reason to consider OSB for your roof sheathing needs.

**Please note: working on roofs is very dangerous no matter what the surface. Use caution, wear correct footwear, use a safety harness on steep roofs, and follow safe work procedures at all times.**