

THE CONTRACTOR

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VOLUME FIFTEEN NUMBER ONE

16 Locations at your service!

Lumberyards

Minnesota

- Big Lake
- Hastings
- Kasson
- Maple Plain - Sales Office
- Red Wing
- Stillwater

Wisconsin

- Amery
- Chippewa Falls
- Hayward
- Hudson
- Milltown
- Rice Lake
- River Falls
- Webster
- Spooner

Cabinet Gallery

- Woodbury

Post Frame

- Hudson
- Rice Lake

Arrow Commercial Services

- Stillwater

Arrow Window Services

- Stillwater

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A Little Something Extra

Value-Added OSB Products Help Builders Construct Better Homes

Over the past few years, many OSB manufacturers focused on the further development of value-added products. As the industry begins to make a comeback, education is key in helping industry professionals understand the benefits, competitive advantages and overall cost savings associated with products like enhanced sub-flooring, longer length OSB and fire-rated cementitious coated sheathing panels.

Advance resin systems and unique features of the tongue-and-groove profile to help prevent moisture damage and edge swell when it rains during construction have already played a role in positioning OSB sub-flooring as a preferred value-added product, saving builders time and labor. Such features have allowed manufacturers to further back OSB sub-flooring products with no-sand guarantees. Because of these benefits, value-added OSB sub-flooring is moving to become the new category standard. Engineered for the vertical installation of walls, longer length OSB panels allow for easier sheathing installation for structures

with higher ceilings, requiring fewer panels and leaving fewer seams, less waste and lower labor cost. Tying the top and bottom wall plates together, longer length OSB panel walls are stronger, eliminating the need to add fillers or blocking material in order to meet building codes, a particular advantage in high wind and seismic areas.

Value-added OSB products are also playing a larger role in fire-resistant construction intended to help preserve a building's structural integrity long enough to allow occupants more opportunity to evacuate. Fire-rated cementitious coated (FRCC) OSB sheathing can offer a cost-effective means of meeting certain fire and structural codes as compared to some other common methods and assemblies.

Structural FRCC OSB sheathing panels consist of a non-hazardous, non-combustible cementitious coating that is bonded to one or both sides of a sheet of OSB. The fiberglass-reinforced coating increases the strength, bending stiffness, shear capacity, and impact resistance of the panels, resulting in a product that combines fire resistance and structural performance in a single panel—a key advantage in wall and roof sheathing applications. In addition to these benefits, FRCC OSB installs like regular OSB and is Exposure-1 rated to withstand weather during normal construction delays.

With value-added OSB products designed specifically to speak to industry needs such as ease of installation, time and labor savings, less waste and convenient ways to meet codes, builders are equipped to build more efficient, higher quality homes in 2013 and beyond. Proven, tested products backed by reputable brands and solid warranties further ensure that value-added OSB products are well worth the investment.

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Arrow Building Center is optimistic about 2013, and we are well positioned with staff and products to serve all your needs. As always, thank you for your business.

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Spring Maintenance: What to Look for After the Snow Melts

A blanket of snow may be pretty to look at, but what is it covering up? The harsh winter weather takes a toll on the exterior of homes and yards while much of the damage and debris is hidden until spring. Once the snow melts and the moderate temperatures are upon us again, it is a good time to take a walk around the property. Grab your jacket, a clipboard if you'd like, and a pair of binoculars (you'll see why in a minute) before heading out for your stroll. Below, we'll discuss what to look for on your spring maintenance walkabout.

Start at the top

Your roof is the most abused part of your house during the winter. Don't worry about climbing, though. Check for obvious things like leaks from the attic. Otherwise, take that pair of binoculars and see if anything looks amiss. Search for cracked, crooked or missing shingles. Nail pops usually are indicated by a shingle tab being pushed up by the head of the nail below. The shingle tab will give a slightly raised "eyebrow" appearance from below. Water is likely to seep around the raised nail. If anything looks damaged, it should be addressed.

Other things that should be checked are the gutters and chimney(s). A certified chimney sweep will not only clean out your chimney, but will ensure that the chimney caps, masonry and damper are in good working order.

All four sides

Is there any damage to your siding? Look all around the outside of your home, especially under the eaves and near gutter downspouts. Look for signs of water staining which will indicate a leak from above. For wood siding, check for popped nails and knot-holes. These and any other openings will only provide easy access for bugs and other pests that will want to move in.

For stonework and masonry, including foundations, look for cracks or missing pieces at the joints. Are there any signs of vegetation growing around the joints? That's a sure indication of moisture getting in. If there are any signs of a white chalky deposit, known as efflorescence, it indicates that the masonry is absorbing water, rather than repelling it.

Visit our website at abc-clc.com for the complete article. Go to <http://abc-clc.com/blog/03/2013>



Straighten Up

With ever-evolving building codes raising the performance bar for wood products and dwindling supplies of high-grade, long-length lumber, a number of industry professionals are turning to engineered wood products, especially laminated strand lumber (LSL).

An alternative for conventional soft-wood dimensional lumber, engineered wood products provide added strength, straightness and length that allow their use in architectural designs where traditional lumber products don't measure up.

LSL in particular offers load-bearing capabilities that traditional lumber cannot match. LSL is made from thin wood strands glued and pressed together with a stationary steam injection press that provides a uniform cure and an even density gradient across the thickness of the product, adding to its strength and making it more resistant to warping, shrinking and twisting.

LP® SolidStart® LSL, an ideal alternative to traditional lumber for beams, headers and tall wall stud applications. LSL products can be a direct replacement for 2x4, 2x6, 2x8, and 2x10 lumber products. LSL can also serve as a cost competitive alternative to LVL and glulam beams.

LSL products can greatly reduce the need to build up beams and headers, and they offer ample support for cabinets and tiled walls. Because it is so strong and offered in a variety of widths and lengths, LSL also provides tremendous flexibility for architects and designers to create larger rooms, without being held back by the limitations of traditional timber. LSL is a perfect whole-house framing solution with a number of application benefits:

Roof Framing: LSL is ideal for complex and contemporary roofs or vaulted ceilings because it stays straight.

Door and Window Headers: Because of its resistance to twisting and warping, LSL can reduce the likelihood of drywall cracking around windows or framing, especially in sliding glass door and specialty window applications, and shallow headers allow for transoms and arched windows.

Garage Door Headers: Longer lengths can allow continuous framing over garage return walls in high wind and seismic areas.

Tall Wall Framing: LSL is excellent for framing in walls over 10 feet high, such as great rooms and foyers as it reduces movement that could lead to stress cracks and leaking seals.

Rim Board: LSL's strength and shrinkage resistance make it ideal for high vertical and lateral wall load applications in multi-story construction.

Columns: LSL provides a solid, continuous load path for hold-downs in high-wind areas.

Truss Chords: Well suited for attic or girder applications, LSL has excellent plate and nail-holding capabilities.

Stair Stringers: Because LSL resists shrinking and twisting, it reduces the likelihood of squeaks.

Jobsite Safety

Fall Protection

On March 15, 2013, OSHA's new fall protection regulations go into effect for the residential construction industry. Have you made the necessary preparations? Here's what's required:

- All employees working 6 feet or more above lower levels must use fall protection equipment.
- Acceptable forms of fall protection equipment include: guardrails, safety nets, and personal fall-arrest systems (may consist of full-body harnesses, deceleration devices, lanyards, and anchor points).
- Specific types of work may implement other

fall protection measures to the extent allowed under other provisions of 29 CFR 1926.501(b). For example, warning lines and safety monitor systems are permitted during low-slope roof work.

- An effective fall-restraint system, rigged to prevent a worker from encountering a fall hazard and falling over the edge, may be used instead of a personal fall-arrest system.
- An acceptable fall-restraint system may consist of a full-body harness or body belt that is connected to an anchor point at the center of the roof by a lanyard; this lanyard should be of adequate length in order to restrict a worker from physically reaching the edge of the roof.

Go to abc-clc.com/newsletters and click on Osha Guidance Document

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self-spacing tongue and groove profile for easy installation, as well as our RainChannel™ notch system that helps protect against moisture absorption and edge swell. LP TopNotch 450 is backed by a 200-Day No-Sand Warranty and up to a 50-Year Transferable Limited Warranty.

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