

An advertising feature to the Arizona Daily Star

SAHBA's Home Hints

Building green with insulated building blocks

Information provided by the
Southern Arizona Home Builders Association (SAHBA)



Building a "green" home doesn't need to be a hassle. With an insulated building system, a custom home can be framed in less time while simultaneously building a stronger, tighter, and quieter home.

"Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) have been around for decades but only recently have achieved a high degree of popularity and acceptance," said Bill Siemon, owner of Panel Pro Associates.

These sandwich-like panels consist of two outer layers of oriented strand board and an inner airtight core of high-performance foam insulation. They are custom-fabricated per existing house plans and can be used for walls, roofs, and even floors.

"These panels are fabricated in the factory, shipped to the jobsite, and individually assembled on-site," said Siemon. "Once assembled, the panels create a sturdy, unibody-type envelope, complete with an uninterrupted 'blanket' of high-performance insulation, up to R-48."

The system is interlocked panel by panel using tongue-and-groove-style links.

"With this one simple installation process, walls are assembled complete with custom door and window

cutouts, as well as expanded polystyrene (EPS) insulation," said Siemon, a SAHBA member.

SIPs can be installed by Panel Pro Associates or delivered to a jobsite for personal installation. Due to the customized manufacturing of these panels, SIPs can be provided in thicknesses ranging from 4 to 12 inches depending on personal preferences.

"The insulation in this system is a component, rather than an afterthought," said Siemon.

EPS insulates with an airtight seal preventing heating and cooling leakages from the home, translating to lower energy consumption. This allows for up to a 60 percent decrease in heating and cooling costs.

SIPs also are very cost efficient due to the lack of wasted resources on the jobsite. These panels are custom-made in the factory; therefore, they are not wasted during construction.

"This method uses up to 35 percent less raw timber, it wastes less materials, and it saves a huge amount of energy in the home," said Siemon. "Integrating SIPs into any building project is an easy and cost-effective way to build green."

Details: Siemon at 975-2995.