

FRAMING THE AMERICAN DREAM

ROOF TRUSSES

Framing the American Dream conducted two controlled experiments to allow for apples-to-apples framing comparisons. In 1995, and again in 2015, two identical houses were framed side-by-side.



The only difference between the two homes was one house was entirely stick-framed, while the other home was framed using structural components, including roof trusses, wall panels and floor trusses.

What We Learned

According to NAHB, stick-framed rafter construction accounts for one-third of the total square footage of roof built in the U.S. However, these experiments clearly indicate roof trusses are a better way to frame in that it takes more labor, and considerably more skill, to stick-frame a roof on the jobsite:

1995

TOTAL JOBSITE HOURS TO ERECT	STICK BUILT	COMPONENT	SAVINGS
142.5 HRS	59.5 HRS	83 HRS	

2015

TOTAL JOBSITE HOURS TO ERECT	STICK BUILT	COMPONENT	SAVINGS
74 HRS	47.5 HRS	27.5 HRS	

Framing the American Dream data suggests that installing roof trusses completes the task of framing a building's roof in less time, requires less framer skill and experience and ultimately results in a roof that enables more open and flexible floor plans.



Additional Benefits

Today's design software allow roof truss manufacturers to more accurately and efficiently resist the flow of loads through a building.

Built in a controlled manufacturing environment with the help of computer-aided machinery and a rigorous quality control program, roof trusses are built with precision, resulting in truly superior structural framing.