

FRAMING THE AMERICAN DREAM

WALL PANELS

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, 90 percent of all exterior walls are site built. However, these experiments clearly indicate there's a better way to frame walls in that it takes considerably more labor, and more skill, to stick-frame walls:

1995



TOTAL JOBSITE HOURS TO ERECT

STICK BUILT

93 HRS

COMPONENT

26.5 HRS

SAVINGS

66.5 HRS

2015



TOTAL JOBSITE HOURS TO ERECT

STICK BUILT

177 HRS

COMPONENT

36.5 HRS

SAVINGS

140.5 HRS

Framing the American Dream data suggests that installing wall panels completes the task of framing a building's walls in a fifth the time, requires less skill and experience and ultimately allows framing crews to complete more wall projects over time.



Additional Benefits

One factor that contributes to the swift installation of wall panels is that framers don't need to construct rough openings.

As the building codes push for a tighter building envelope, the need to have rough openings built

precisely to specification becomes more and more critical.

Wall panels built in a controlled manufacturing environment with the help of computer-aided machinery and a rigorous quality control program ensure rough openings are built correctly every time.