

SIPs are Superior; Cut Labor Costs, Save Time and Money!

Residential building contractors are under ever-increasing pressure to provide higher performance homes at lower cost, and in a shorter amount of time.

To address this, the *2006 BASF-Time and Motion Study* was carried out to evaluate the installation time and cost associated with SIPs, as compared with conventional 2 x 6 “stick” framing. At the time, much of the evidence of the superiority of SIPs over conventional framing methods was largely anecdotal, so the goal of this study was to quantify those benefits in terms of labor and cost savings.

It was anticipated that the design of SIPs panels would give the product a natural advantage over conventional construction, but the extent of that advantage turned out to be significant, with overall labor cost savings reported of up to 55 percent.

“The need for building systems that are both precise and efficient is more important today than ever before,” says Chris Fennell, who was involved with the study, and who is also Chief Development and Marketing Officer at the Institute for Building Technology and Safety. “SIPs are one of the building systems that very much meet that need. They are precise by design and push greater productivity across the entire job site.”

The use of SIPs reduces labor costs and improves productivity through a number of means. Prefabricated SIPs assemblies enable builders to put up the walls, roof, and dormers in segments, and in 45 percent of the time that would be needed by conventional construction. The design of SIPs also eliminates the need to install exterior sheathing, thermal

insulation, and house-wrap separately. In addition, precut openings – with door and window openings already cut – means that there is less labor required at the job site; it has all been done in advance at the factory.

“SIPs will go up in entire sections while traditional framing goes up stick by stick by stick. A SIPs house goes up really quickly and it’s much more consistent,” says Joe Fortier, President at ACME Panel. “You are really just putting up the elements of a pre-built system, so it’s much easier to get a high-quality building shell for much less labor input. Using SIPs on your building project just makes a ton of sense.”

Finding skilled construction labor is tougher today than ever before as younger workers are not entering the industry and older, more experienced workers retiring out of it. SIPs help mitigate this lack of available skilled labor, first by requiring less of it and, secondly, by being relatively easy to build with when compared to stick-framed construction.

“It’s much easier to learn how to put a SIPs house together than it is learning how to frame with sticks,” says Fortier. “For a high-quality product that goes up quicker, you just need to have a supervisor who knows SIPs and a few strong backs. And it’s easier to find strong backs than perhaps the expertise required for stick-building.”

A new brochure outlining the many advantages of SIPs was released at the International Builders’ Show in January (images shown below are from this brochure). For details on how to access the full brochure, go to www.sips.org/downloads/SIPA-Labor-Savings-brochure-pdf.pdf or contact the SIPA office at (253) 858-7472, or email info@sips.org.

This is part of a brochure that was released at IBS in January, which showcases SIPs many advantages.

Switch to SIPs: Easier Than You Think

- SIP resources in every province and state
 - Manufacturers and distributors
 - Finished project examples at www.sips.org
- Extensive and accessible building guidelines
 - FREE 10-hour video course at www.sips.org
 - Downloadable construction details from multiple manufacturers
 - 227 YouTube videos
- Hands-on, structured training available from individual manufacturers and from www.SIPschool.org

IBS Special:

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1. Complete 10-hour BEST video course at www.sips.org
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3. Receive one year FREE SIPA Membership and FREE 330-page *Builder's Guide to SIPs* by building science expert Joseph Lstiburek



SIP Benefits

- BUILDER BENEFITS**
- Lower Labor Cost
 - Easier, Faster Construction
 - Less Jobsite Waste
 - Easier to Meet New Codes

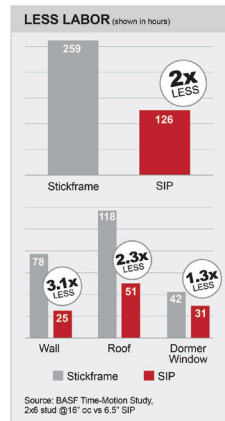
- HOMEOWNER BENEFITS**
- Lower Energy Cost
 - Healthier, Quieter Living Space
 - More Sustainable
 - Stronger, Resilient Home

SIPS SAVE \$\$ FOR BUILDER AND CLIENT



253-858-7472 • Information source: www.sips.org

SIPs CUT LABOR COSTS BY 55%



SIP MANUFACTURERS READY TO HELP

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