

Frequently Asked Questions About SIPs

1. HOW MUCH DOES A SIP PANEL WEIGH?

A 4x8x4½" SIP weighs about 100 lbs.

2. ARE THE PANELS STRUCTURAL?

Yes. And tests indicate CBS SIPs are significantly stronger than conventional 2x4 or 2x6 walls. In fact, houses built with SIPs have withstood the force of Class 6 hurricanes, such as Andrew, Hugo and Mitch.

3. WHAT IS THE R-VALUE OF A SIP?

The 4½" inch thick SIP has a rating of R-20. However, it is important to note that SIPs are much more efficient than conventional types of insulation with the same R-Value. A home built with SIPs will use about 50%-75% less energy than a typical stick-framed house. The solid, air-tight construction of these panels is what gives them their superior thermal performance.

4. DO SIPs NEED A VAPOR BARRIER?

No, as long as the panel joints and connections are protected against moisture ex-filtration as detailed in CBS's installation manual, a vapor barrier is not needed.

5. HOW MUCH DO SIPs COST COMPARED WITH TRADITIONAL STICK FRAMING?

SIPs can add approximately 1% to the overall cost of a home (or they can be approximately 1% less than the overall cost of a home) compared to a home built with traditional building materials. However, even if the cost is a little more, the resulting energy savings of the CBS SIPs system can quickly make up the difference.

6. DO SIPs COME WITH WINDOWS AND DOORS PRE-CUT?

Yes. All windows and doors can be cut at the factory assuring accuracy.

7. WHAT TOOLS DO I NEED TO INSTALL SIPs?

You will need regular carpentry tools plus a hot knife and expanding foam. A hot knife is a tool for holing out grooves in the EPS, and is needed whenever SIPs must be cut to size. Hot knives are easy to use and can be purchased or rented from CBS. Expanding foam is used to seal all connections between individual SIPs and top and bottom plates ensuring the structural integrity of the system.

8. HOW DO YOU INSTALL WIRING?

CBS SIPs are both simple and easy for electricians to wire. Two 1½" diameter horizontal wiring chases at 14" and 44" are standard in all wall panels. These chases can be easily accessed from interior partition walls or from beneath the floor deck.

9. HOW DO CBS SIPs PANELS CONNECT?

SIPs are fastened over a bottom plate and connected at the sides with EPS splines that are supplied with the CBS system. Two top plates are fastened to complete the process.

10. HOW DO I FINISH SIPs?

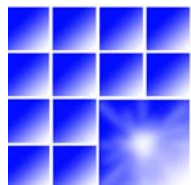
You can do this by siding or strapping the SIP walls directly. A moisture membrane is needed on the outside of the panel. After that, it's just a matter of following the installation details from the siding or finishing manufacturer.

11. WHAT IS THE FIRE RATING OF A SIP?

With 1/2" gypsum board, SIPs have a 15-minute fire rating which meet residential fire code regulations. CBS SIPs also meet the International Building Code. As with any fire resistance issue, however, requirements vary by region, occupancy and building classification. You should contact your local building or fire departments to determine the necessary requirements and ensure compliance with local fire codes.

12. WHAT IS THE WARRANTY ON CBS SIPs?

CBS offers a 10-year structural warranty.



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