

newsworthy trends

New Building Options In Wake Of Plywood Shortage

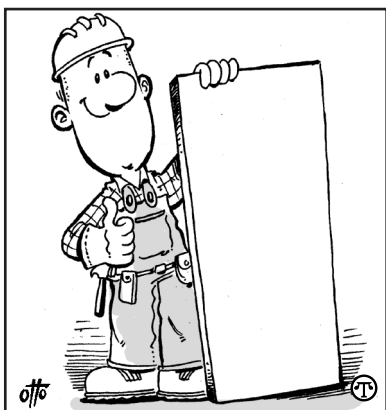
(NAPSA)—The rebuilding of Iraq, dozens of forest fires, tornadoes, floods and Hurricane Isabel have joined to create what has been termed “the perfect storm of demand” for domestic plywood and oriented strand board (OSB). Prices are at an all-time high, and availability of these materials is extremely stressed.

“Plywood costs have more than doubled in the past three to six months,” says Dan Usedom, manager of Roselle Building Materials in Roselle, Ill. The price increase can add thousand of dollars to the cost of building an average, single-family home.

“In light of the plywood shortage, builders are considering other materials for use as an exterior sheathing,” says Bob Palermo of Zechman Supply, Chicago.

One popular option is FIBEROCK Brand Sheathing with AQUA-TOUGH, manufactured by United States Gypsum Company. The sheathing is designed for use in water-managed Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) and other exterior applications. Its patented gypsum cellulose fiber formulation provides protection from both mold and termites, while offering an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional wood-based products.

Because the entire panel is water resistant, no facing layer is needed to add strength or provide a primary water barrier. Built-in water drainage channels are embossed on the back of each panel. In addition, the sheathing delivers superior fastener holding power and better bonding.



Builders are using new materials in the wake of a national plywood shortage.

The panels are 8 feet long and 4 feet wide, and are available in $\frac{1}{2}$ - and $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch thicknesses. They also feature a one-year exposure warranty, which enables the sheathing to be left on the building for up to a year without the need for anything to be installed over it.

“I don’t foresee prices going down for quite some time,” says national home improvement expert Don Zeman. “I would fully expect more and more builders to turn to products like FIBEROCK sheathing for applications where a non-structural, economical panel is required.”

The only caveat Zeman offers is that builders and contractors need to follow proper procedures in installing these types of products.

Additional information about FIBEROCK sheathing is available on the company’s Web site (www.usg.com) or by calling 800-USG-4YOU.