

Technical Bulletin #38a

Created: 1-17-12, Revised: 1-17-12



MOISTURE CONTENT OF LUMBER USED IN PREMIER SIPS

Integral to the construction of a Premier SIP structure is the lumber used as plating and splines in the Premier SIPs. Premier SIPs are designed to be used with kiln dried lumber. Kiln dried lumber has a moisture content at or below 19%. The reason for this requirement is to minimize any shrinkage of the lumber used within the panels thus reducing the potential for unsealed gaps and cracks.

It is a well know fact that lumber with a moisture content in excess of 19% may see considerable shrinkage as the lumber dries down to an equilibrium moisture content less than 19%. If this shrinkage occurs within a SIP panel, gaps or cracks may open that provide a pathway for the movement of air. This air may contain moisture and if this moisture laden air meets a surface with a temperature at or below the dew point of the air, condensation will occur. The use of lumber with a moisture content of 19% or less will reduce the potential for lumber shrinkage and minimize potential issues associated with any shrinkage.