

WINDSTORM[®] FAQ

Wall Sheathing

Q. Does Windstorm eliminate all hardware for shear walls and uplift?

A. Windstorm panels can eliminate or reduce stud to plate connectors and floor to floor connector straps. Corner hold downs may still be required. Ask your engineer what hardware can be eliminated in your homes and to provide you with the nailing schedule to meet the uplift and shear code requirements using Windstorm.

Q. Is Windstorm a “green” product?

A. All Windstorm panels are SFI Chain of Custody certified. Windstorm does not contain any added urea-formaldehyde resins. With no horizontal joints it means up to 60% less wall air infiltration (air leakage increases energy consumption) and better indoor air quality. Using Windstorm means less job-site waste, less handling, less labor, and less metal in every house. Wood is a renewable resource that has a very positive impact on the carbon footprint.

Q. Can Windstorm help me meet green building programs?

A. Yes there are many areas in programs such as the National Green Building Standard and LEED where Windstorm can help you achieve points.

Q. What is special about Windstorm and why does it work?

A. West Fraser’s large continuous press mills can manufacture panels engineered to match wall heights whether slab on grade or raised floor. Windstorm panels are engineered to allow the use of the continuous sheathing methods allowed by building codes. High wind building codes such as SSTD 10-99 and the WFCM call for structural panels to cover from the top of the top plate, to the bottom of the bottom plate, or mid band, to meet combined uplift and shear values. Therefore 8’ walls on a slab require 97 1/8” panels and 9’ walls need 109 1/8” panel, right up to 145 1/8” without joints. Windstorm panels are available in the right sizes and combined with a design professional’s fastener schedule provide the continuous load path required by the codes.

Q. Were any independent tests completed?

A. Yes, independent testing was completed by the NAHB Research Center and the APA, The Engineered Wood Association, has also completed combined shear and uplift testing.

Q. Is Windstorm accepted by the building code?

A. Windstorm is a structural OSB panel and is accepted by North American building codes including the Florida Building Code.

Q. Why is blocking eliminated?

A. High wind codes require all horizontal joints to have solid blocking. Windstorm panels are the right lengths to span from the top of the top plate to the bottom of the bottom plate, or mid band with one structural panel – without blocking.

