



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT IS ENGINEERED WOOD? WHAT HOME BUYERS AND BUILDERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ENGINEERED WOOD

Environmental benefits, lower cost among reasons consumers turning to engineered wood

(Honolulu, Hawaii), December 15, 2006 – From movies that can be downloaded to a personal music player, to in-car GPS tracking systems that provide drivers real-time directions, modern technology is booming across all industries, including the wood and lumber sector. Recent developments in engineered wood technology have helped position this material as an exciting and viable option for consumers looking to build new homes.

“Engineered wood is a great option for people to consider when constructing a home,” said Hap Person, President of the Hawaii Lumber Products Association. “Continued advances in engineered wood technology allow us to build homes almost entirely of this innovative material. Homes constructed from engineered wood are environmentally sound and can last for hundreds of years, which perhaps not everyone realizes”

To create engineered wood, manufacturers use a process that bonds together wood strands, veneers or small dimensional lumber to create a stronger and larger piece of structural wood. Specifically, the wood strands, which usually come from smaller trees not normally used for standard dimensional lumber, wood waste from saw mills, recycled wood material and other wood by-products, are mixed with an adhesive and sometimes a preservative before being pressed into an engineered structural product. Plywood is made from glued wood veneers and can be made in a wide variety of thicknesses and strengths. Glued-laminated beams are made from small dimensional lumber creating a huge beam from short pieces of two-by-four.

Using new engineered manufacturing techniques with fast growth trees or reclaimed wood fibers, they can be transformed into a number of different building materials, including oriented strand board, I-floor or roof joist, glued laminated beams, structural composite lumber and plywood panels. By using a combination of these a solid wood framed home that will last for generations can be built.

The benefits of using engineered wood in building a home start with its strength. The technology to create engineered wood inherently produces a strong product as the wood fibers are oriented and compressed together using a high strength adhesive that can eliminate checking or twisting, so that the finished product is solid and straight. Just as it is easier to break one stick, rather than a bundle of sticks, wood fibers in engineered wood products combine their strength for a stronger end product. Many manufacturers of engineered wood products guarantee performance for the life of the structure.

Another positive aspect to using engineered wood is its ability to maintain design values in Hawaii's ever changing weather-related humidity. Wood framed homes made from engineered wood provide excellent protection during natural disasters, due to their solid dimensional strength and designs which have stood the test of time.

“In Hawaii's environment, where high moisture in the air is a real and constant condition of our weather and hurricanes are a yearly threat, homes designed using engineered wood are a wise choice for home builders and home owners,” said HLPAs President Hap Person. “Especially given its competitive price, those looking to build a home should consider incorporating engineered wood into their home plans.”

The large majority of residential homes are built with wood framing (including engineered wood). Some of the reasons for this are: wood framing is generally less in material cost than steel or cement block; it permits more design options; it is readily available; and it is by far the most environment-friendly choice.

Engineered wood is a smart environmental choice. Sources for engineered wood include fast-growing varieties of trees found in managed forests. This type of tree, when harvested, can be

replanted and grows quickly to provide new wood fiber. Engineered wood also utilizes non-traditional tree species and scrap wood elements that might otherwise be a wasted resource. The energy consumption necessary to produce engineered wood is considerably less than its steel and concrete alternatives.

Consumers who select engineered wood to construct their residence will find that they can use this material for almost their entire house. Engineered wood is a proven building block for house framing. Choosing engineered wood will give your home increased durability, energy efficiency and the warmth and comfort of a well built home.

The HLPAs are comprised of professionals representing the development and construction industry as well as building material producers and service companies. They are committed to the education and promotion of lumber products as the best choice for home construction in Hawaii. To find out more about building with lumber visit www.hawaiilumber.com.

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