



OSB: Truths & Myths

OSB is the most widely used structural panel in North America. Despite this, and the fact that it has been used by builders for the past 25 years, there are still some popular misconceptions about it.

Myth	Truth
<i>OSB can't be used on a roof with a pitch greater than 6 in 12 because it's too slippery and poses a safety issue</i> FALSE	OSB is no more, or less slippery than Plywood – laboratory tests for both Coefficient of Friction and Angle of Slip show that OSB is not a safety issue . There is nothing in the Occupational Health & Safety Act preventing the use of OSB for roof applications. There is no reason OSB can't be used for any roof application.
<i>OSB is just bits of wood glued together</i> FALSE	Oriented Strand Board (OSB) is an engineered, mat-formed panel consisting of precisely cut strands typically 0.026" thick, 0.5-1.5" wide and 4.5-6.0" long which are oriented in three or more layers for strength. Every panel is third party certified to meet or exceed the performance standards of Plywood.
<i>OSB is the same as Aspenite, Waferboard, Particleboard and Chipboard</i> FALSE	OSB is a structural panel that must meet rigorous performance criteria in order to be certified and used in building applications. Aspenite, Waferboard, and Chipboard are all older obsolete products that do not exist today. Particleboard is a non-structural panel, not subject to the performance criteria of OSB/PLY and only used in shelving/furniture applications.
<i>OSB has off-gassing of dangerous fumes</i> FALSE	Tests have shown that formaldehyde emissions from phenolic bonded OSB are not significant enough to be regulated.
<i>OSB is not permeable and traps moisture in the walls</i> FALSE	Any OSB panel 7/16 or thinner has a value under 120ng/Pa.s.m2 and can be used for side wall construction. Therefore, permeability is not an issue.
<i>OSB is not as strong as Plywood</i> FALSE	7/16 OSB is stronger and more rigid than 3/8 Spruce Plywood.
<i>OSB is 20 lbs heavier than Plywood</i> FALSE	For Roofing applications 3/8" Plywood = 29 lbs 7/16" OSB = 38 lbs

