

Section 5 – Crews and on-site construction issues

On the Laurel Fork home, the builder used his in-house, four-person crew for the framing. The framing crew reported no major issues or concerns working with Premium Steel's insulated steel wall panels, steel partitions, or trusses. One crew member stated that "it's different, but a good system." The crew thought there was too much wood at door and window opens.

This is a custom home with very exacting specifications. Thus, it does not represent a good opportunity to assess cycle time. The framers indicated that the framing has taken much longer than expected, but that the prolonged construction schedule can be attributed to the complicated roof framing system and not the materials that were used.

Trade contractors

The builder indicated that the electrician charged approximately 5% more to work with this system compared to a wood framed home. This charge was attributed to the increased time required to wire the home due to the use of the hot knife to create wire chases.

The interior drywall will be attached by the building crew. They did not express concerns with hanging gypsum board.

According to the builder, none of the other trade contractors modified their prices or expressed concerns over working with the steel materials or the insulated panels. However, there are far less trade contractors involved in this home than on a production project because the builder uses his in-house crew for much of the work.