

(Self-build)

Self-build is a cost-effective option with Siptec-Hemsec

Discerning individuals looking to create the home of their dreams at a realistic cost are focusing increasingly on the SIPs technology (Structural Insulated Panels) option.

Siptec-Hemsec – Europe's most experienced SIPs manufacturer – have witnessed a spiralling interest in their niche self-build service. With materials costs around half of the traditional 'bricks and blocks' route, and construction times also cut by half, this is hardly surprising.

Although SIPs technology has been around for at least 50 years, it is only recently that technological advances have provided the quality, performance and value for money that will appeal to the mass market.

The structural strength of new generation SIPs has meant that this timber-based construction method has eliminated the need for expensive steel frameworks. Add to this the huge cost savings which accrue from off-site manufacture and quick on-site erection, and the growing popularity of SIPs is easy to understand.

Made from timber OSB 3 facings with a core material of fire-retardant polyurethane foam, SIPs panels are used for walls, floors or roofs. Complete sections can be pre-made at the factory to include dormer windows, porches, bay windows and so on. Panels can be supplied as single modules or as fully-engineered Ready To Assemble (RTA) solutions.

Commenting on the reduced reliance on bricks, mortar and timber framing, Siptec-Hemsec Production Manager, Peter Bxxxxxx, said:

“Using SIPs, an average-size three-bedroom house requires only 60 to 80 panels compared to the thousands of items used in conventional construction. Obviously, this reduces labour and materials costs, as well as cutting construction times.”

Other areas where the economics of SIPs technology are impressive include:

- Insulation levels well in excess of Building Regulations' requirements.
- An airtight structure which reduces energy loss and cuts fuel costs.
- High quality factory-engineered panels which reduce the need for costly post-construction remedial work.
- The creation of valuable living space within the roof areas (thanks to SIPs panels needing no trusses.)
- The thinner walls of SIPs panels where internal space is maximised.

As well as offering a wide range of external cladding to create an attractive-looking home, Siptec-Hemsec are able to provide a range of forward-looking safety, security and environmental design features. These include inbuilt water management systems which re-cycle rain water for use within the home; automatic sprinklers to supplement smoke alarms; and a range of inter-connected security features.

To start the ball rolling – once product choices have been made – self-build clients simply submit their detailed plans and Siptec-Hemsec will prepare CAD drawings and instruct a structural engineer prior to manufacture and assembly.

Erecting the building can be organised by the client – or Siptec-Hemsec will either appoint an approved contractor or provide on-site assembly training.

More details about Siptec-Hemsec self-build homes – and details of ‘Green Mortgages’ – can be found on the company’s web-site:

www.siptd.co.uk

PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

- Timber OSB 3 (Orientated Strand Board) provides high structural strength.
- Panels are available in thicknesses from 75mm to 245mm, with optional finishes of OSB 15mm and cement particle board.
- Sandwich construction of panels produces similar characteristics to I-Beam.
- The polyurethane core contains a fire retardant to inhibit accidental ignition when tested to BS4735.
- U-values for insulation of 0.08 (245mm thick) to 0.28 (100mm).
- Excellent U-value to panel thickness ratio minimises wall thickness, thus maximising internal space.
- Multiple options for external finishes.
- Air-tight structure drastically reduces energy loss.

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