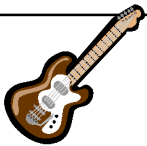


DPIS Newsletter

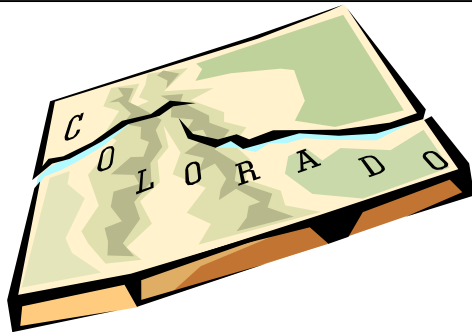
Greetings: I just wanted to take a second and thank you for letting DPIS perform your engineering, energy and inspection work. I know that you have choices when it comes to these services and I appreciate the fact that you chose us. My goal is to work harder every day in order to continue earning your business. I believe that DPIS has been successful by listening to the builder's needs and then helping them find solutions. Basically DPIS owes its existence to the awesome builders who chose to break with the status quo and search for a better way of doing things. I appreciate the opportunity you have given us.

Dale Phillips



Great Guitar Work: I am the proud father of an 18 year old high school graduate who is bound for Texas A&M this year. He is the youngest of my three children and I am proud of each of them. Like me, my son has a love for the guitar. But unlike me, he's pretty good. He has put a band together (Four Alarm) that will be performing their first public appearance on July 29th at Main Street Crossing in Tomball Texas. If you like hard rocking entertainment this will be the place to be on that Saturday night.

Dale Phillips



DPIS Opens Operations in Colorado

DPIS is working hard to keep up with the growth of our valued customers. In an effort to provide service to more areas, DPIS has opened operations in the State of Colorado. DPIS is now capable of providing engineering, energy and inspection services to the eastern half of the state. We also plan to have operations in Arizona by the end of this year. Please call us if we can be of service to you in these states or in any of the Texas cities that we serve. 281-351-0048. *Dale Phillips*



Changes to the Energy Star Program as of July 1st, 2006 !

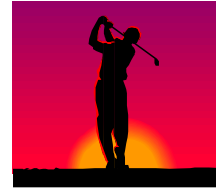
Energy Star has implemented prescriptive and performance related items into each and every home started after July 1st, 2006. These changes will have a great impact on the performance of Energy Star Homes into the future. Details can be found on our web site at www.dpis.com

Brannon King
VP Energy Efficiency Department

Winners of the 2006

DPIS Presidents Cup

Kyle Hannah and Eric Richarme
LGI Homes.



Congratulations to the winners of this year's prestigious "President's Cup"; Kyle and Eric have earned one solid year of bragging rights. We would like to thank all of the participants this year. You make this event a success every year and we are already looking forward to next year. Kyle and Eric will attempt to make history by successfully defending their title.

Items reviewed at the DPIS company meeting of July 11th, 2006.

- The pros and cons, mostly the pros, of Energy Brace and Thermoply hardboard sheathing were discussed. Thermoply and Energy Brace are both made by Covalence Coated Products, and Billy Rogacki contacted their R & D department for information regarding mechanical penetrations through these two sheathing products. Tapes *designed* for exterior application, what Mr. Paul Lautrup referred to as "flashing tapes," are acceptable. "Flashing tapes" are what we commonly call "peel & stick" in the Greater Houston residential homebuilding market. Covalence will also accept tapes designed for Tyvek (or similar) housewrap, and the tape produced by DOW for their "Blueboard," STYROFOAM sheathing. Mr. Lautrup was very firm in asserting that no tape designed to function as an HVAC sealant would be deemed acceptable for penetrations of repair of Energy Brace and Thermoply.
- Determining when and where safety glass is required by the most recent IRC can be a little tricky for newer inspectors to grab onto; there are a lot of exceptions and special circumstances delineated in the IRC. When measuring for compliance with the 24" from a door rule, the inspector must measure from the hinge and striker sides *with the door in a closed position*. This applies to windows in any line of travel to or from the door, on the inside or outside of the dwelling.
- In order to perform an accurate inspection for smoke alarm placement at the frame stage, the inspector needs to know the brand and type of the smoke alarms the builder intends to install at the electrical trim-out. Different manufacturers may have subtle but significant variations in their installation instructions. A smoke alarm from Manufacturer A may not perform at maximum efficiency if installed to the instructions prescribed for a product made by Manufacturer B. Subsequent to the meeting it was made known to me that at least one Builder is allowing their electrical sub-contractor to buy the most inexpensive smoke alarm on the market at the time of trim out. There is no way that the inspector can possibly be aware of the installation instructions for a device not yet purchased.

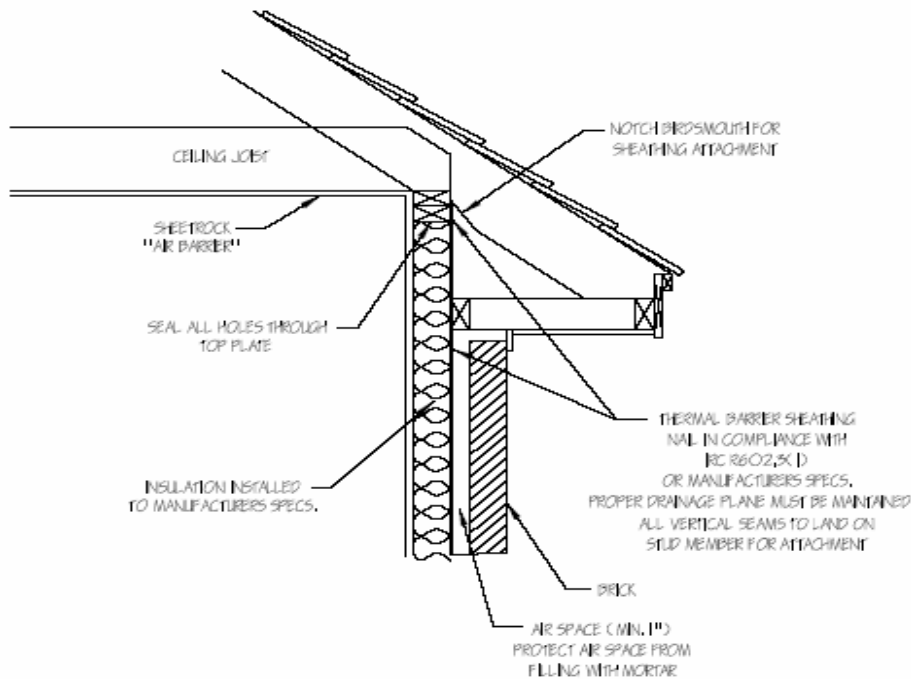
- Energy efficiency requirements for Energy Star - Houston, got stricter as of July 1st, 2006. There will be more emphasis put on the inspector *at the frame stage* to assist the builder in installing materials (blocking, mostly) to reduce air-infiltration into the living area of a residence. The detail below illustrates one of the more common air-infiltration issues we are observing in the field for builders who use construction paper or poly as the separating material at the soffits/wall cavities. Builders that install sheathing from the soffits downward, will be required to install an air barrier sheathing – one that will not diaphragm with changing pressures and winds, to seal the void between the stud cavities and the eave space above the bottom of the soffits.

Billy Rogacki

ENERGY STAR HOME BUILDER - HOUSTON

7/1/06

ENERGY STAR DETAIL #2



Please don't forget to email me with suggestions for topics that need to be discussed. dale@dpis.com

Thanks

Dale Phillips