



LBM Dealers Welcome New onCENTER™ Advanced Framing Lumber from BlueLinx Corporation

As many know, dimension lumber is prone to quality concerns

Today's commodity dimension lumber may contain wane, defects (twisting, cracking, warping), and higher than optimum moisture content. With 2x3 and 2x4 material, this lower quality may not be quite so crucial (unless used in truss chords). For dimension framing lumber, however, it's a *real* issue, especially for the 2x10s and 2x12s used in floor and roof framing, where low-quality lumber can slow framing and frustrate builders. New regulations were issued in response to the slipping wood quality and the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB) produced new Southern Pine design values, which go into effect June 1, 2013.

Engineered Wood Product (EWP) manufacturers have made great strides in offering affordable, high-quality alternatives to standard dimension lumber. Twenty years ago, magazines like the *Journal of Light Construction* were writing about new exotic I-joists, and urging code officials to learn about and accept the new products. Today, those same EWPs dominate the new-home and remodeling industries, especially in the use of LVL, glulams, and I-joists.



Interestingly, the innovations in EWP have fostered a mini-revolution in dimension lumber alternatives as well, so do not count out solid sectioned lumber just yet! Today, engineered products like BlueLinX Corporation's (BlueLinX) Advanced Framing Lumber (AFL) look and feel like dimension lumber but are a material improvement. Independent third-party monitoring and auditing systems assure the quality and consistency of EWPs through rigorous quality controls and moisture content checks.

Rising Adoption of Premium Products. The rising adoption of EWPs and the growing use of dimension lumber alternatives like AFL will not come as a surprise to most industry observers. Today, a majority of America's new roofs are framed with trusses, many of which could benefit from AFL truss chords. When not framed with trusses, most roofs are framed with I-joists, or quality-assured 2x10s or 2x12s. Floor framing has seen the same trends.

Now, fewer floors are framed with dimension framing lumber, because I-joists are a clearly preferred alternative. I-joists are most often used in conjunction with LVL headers and high-density OSB rim boards, both of which are remarkably consistent and stable. The result is that today's wood-framed structures are truly engineered systems, a far cry from the stick-built structures we were nailing together just a decade or two ago.

The Bottom Line. How do today's EWPs like AFL help the bottom line of America's contractors? They reduce call-backs from contractors' customers (problems and misaligned frames and floors will always broadcast errors to finished spaces). But more importantly, by using these products, builders have the components they need to build code-compliant structures. In fact, for today's home builders, the question isn't whether to use EWP, but rather whose EWP offer the best selection, prices, and availability.

Going Green. Finally, there is another compelling reason we are seeing high usage of EWP. The emergence of the green building movement has brought a great deal of attention to how lumber and wood fiber are harvested and used. There are a number of third parties that certify sustainable harvests (e.g., Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and Canadian Standards Association (CSA)), and they all recognize the environmental advantages of EWP. EWP uses more of the tree and it can be made with younger trees, making EWP greener, more sustainable, and environmentally sound, especially when you consider that EWP allows for consistently tighter frames, which are an essential part of any high-integrity thermal envelope.

With these product innovations and usage trends in mind, let's take a look at a range of engineered products from BlueLinX' onCENTER line.

BlueLinX' onCENTER Engineered Products


BlueLinX has long been associated with outstanding customer service and product innovation, and BlueLinX has a well-earned reputation for delivering quality products at competitive prices. That reputation for excellence has been further bolstered by last year's introduction of their onCENTER Engineered Products line. Designed for builders, designers, and developers, the onCENTER line offers versatility when framing open floor plans in any wood-framed structure. With allowable spans that exceed those offered by commodity dimension framing lumber, *engineered* lumber provides outstanding consistency.

BlueLinX' initial onCENTER product offering included onCENTER BLI Joists, onCENTER Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL), onCENTER Glulam 3000, and onCENTER Rim Board. Now, on the one year anniversary of onCENTER's debut, BlueLinX has expanded the onCENTER product line with the exciting addition of AFL.

To get a full idea of BlueLinX' remarkable product innovations, let's take a closer look at the entire onCENTER product line, starting with onCENTER's latest innovation, AFL.

"BlueLinX is always searching new, innovative, quality products that provide solutions to our customers needs. We are extremely excited about our latest addition to the onCENTER family of products. We are pleased to introduce onCENTER AFL."

Jim Herbig
BlueLinX VP Structural/Specialty Products



“Our customers have always valued BlueLinx’ ability to deliver products on time and with a strong support staff behind them.”

Kirk Nichols
BlueLinx Engineered Lumber
Director of Operations

onCENTER Advanced Framing Lumber (AFL)

Concerns with dimension framing lumber can be easily addressed by selecting structural products that have undergone rigorous tests and quality controls. That’s what BlueLinx offers with its AFL. AFL is composed of black spruce lumber joined together in a patented process that uses a double tongue-and-groove edge with waterproof and heat-resistant adhesive. The result is a highly stable and consistent engineered lumber product that has wane-free edges, dimensional stability, and low moisture content. For contractors building walls and columns, AFL ensures fast and easy installation of sheathing and wall finishes, because there are no imperfections broadcasting through the wall from the framing beneath. With these features, AFL is ideal for tall-wall installations.

As for roof rafters and trusses, roof framers and truss manufacturers don’t have to second-guess the quality of the framing components. That quality has been assured by BlueLinx, which provides a lifetime limited warranty for its AFL.

AFL, in addition to the above, has you covered in flooring installation. The lumber is available in lengths up to 32', which makes AFL perfect for open, large-span floor systems. Plus, AFL can be used as an alternative to wooden I-joists and trusses in floor assemblies that would otherwise require a protective membrane or sprinkler system per the 2012 IRC (R501.3).

Finally, AFL is a solid environmental choice of wood product that can bring users into compliance with the leading green building rating systems. Raw material used to produce onCENTER AFL is sourced only from forests harvested on a sustainable yield basis and managed under accreditations from the following organizations: ISO 14001, CSA Z 809, SFI or FSC. FSC credits are available upon request. All AFL lumber is dried with innovative, low-energy dryers that are powered with electricity generated from renewable bio-fuels. All mill waste is either re-used in the production process or recycled into wood pellets.

AFL is available in 1.6E, 1.7E, 1.9E, and 2.1E grades, in a 1½" width, and depths of 3½" to 16".



onCENTER LVL

onCENTER LVL offers stable dimensions, consistent performance, and superior strength. LVL is available in 2.0E, 1.9E and 1.5E grades, in 1¾" and 3½" widths, and depths from 4¾" to 24". Superior design properties make longer clear spans possible, cutting down or eliminating the need for intermediate supports. LVL quality is monitored by the third-party inspection services of APA-EWS and is also backed by BlueLinx' lifetime limited warranty.

onCENTER BLI Joists

Available in depths from 9½" to 24", onCENTER BLI joists are made with either high-grade lumber or LVL flanges and an enhanced high-density OSB web. When framed with a Rim Board perimeter, nail pops and squeaky floors are virtually eliminated because BLI Joists and Rim Board are manufactured with low-moisture content material that can help ensure quiet, stable, long-lasting floors. Like onCENTER LVL and AFL, BLI Joists are also backed by BlueLinx' lifetime limited warranty.

onCENTER Glulam 3000

onCENTER Glulam 3000 (graded dimension lumber glued together) is ideal for use as beams and headers in *any* structure, and they are widely regarded for the strength that makes long spans possible. onCENTER Glulam 3000 is available in 28F and 30F grades, in widths of 3½", 5½" and 7", and depths of 7¼" to 18". Like other EWP products, APA-EWS monitors quality on production of all onCENTER Glulam 3000 beams.

"A central tenet of the onCENTER brand is servicing the market with products needed, you might even say demanded, by the builders using them."

Kent Marks
BlueLinx Engineered Lumber
General Manager



If you want a broad product mix with consistency, quality, and predictability, the BlueLinx onCENTER product line provides it all.

Contact BlueLinx directly for questions regarding availability of onCENTER products in your area.