



INNOVATIONS FOR LIVING®

# PINK® Insulating Products Installed in First Oregon Habitat for Humanity Home Built for LEED® Certification





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Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East in Oregon is raising the bar on affordable housing. Already known for providing homes with energy conserving appliances and modest, interest-free mortgages, the organization recently completed two homes they expect to have a new feature – a gold level rating in the LEED® for Homes rating system. The new homes incorporate a variety of innovative products for comfortable living with reduced use of energy, water and other resources. When it came time to select insulation for the wood-framed walls, the construction team picked FOAMULAR® 150 extruded polystyrene (XPS) insulation and the **PROPINK Complete™** blown-in wall insulating system, both from Owens Corning. One-



inch-thick FOAMULAR® insulation is a premium extruded foam sheathing product that provides R-5 under the exterior siding. The **PROPINK Complete™** blown-in fiberglass insulating system will add R-15 in the homes' 2x4 wall cavities. "We considered a combination of factors before selecting the **PROPINK Complete™** system but a big reason was certainly the fact that the general contractor for our project has had a lot of experience with the system and likes it," said Carmen Schleiger, Director of Housing Development, Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East. After seeing the insulation installed, Schleiger said she likes the way the fiberglass insulation fills up voids that might otherwise be left around pipe, electrical components and other obstructions. She is pleased that the new homes will be energy efficient.



"The families we help have very low incomes. For example, a family of four will earn between \$20,000 and \$40,000 per year, so budgets are tight. Any savings on energy bills will be helpful to them." While the homes will squeeze all the benefit they can from the energy they use, Schleiger said the homes do not stint on comfort and livability. "There is wonderful daylighting in the homes," says Schleiger, citing one example. Serving as general contractor on the project is the Walsh Construction Company of Portland and Seattle. Dick Hutchison served as Project Manager for the company. Thea Zander served as Assistant Superintendent and on-site project supervisor. "Walsh Construction Company sponsors and builds about one project a year with Habitat for Humanity," said Hutchison. "It reflects our company values. We started doing that about five years ago and this is our fourth project. "One of our niches is affordable housing, so working with Habitat for Humanity fits right in with that," he continued. "We are doing a few apartment buildings that will apply for a LEED® rating but the Habitat homes are the first single-family homes we have done." Hutchison said he has used the **PROPINK Complete™** insulating system on several projects. "I like the way it packs the wall uniformly," he said. "There are no gaps around utility boxes and other structures in the wall. The timeliness is also a plus. The insulation goes in quickly and didn't hold



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up the project." Another positive aspect of the job for Hutchison was working with JB Insulation Company. "We work with them a lot," said Hutchison. "They provide a good value. The company is reliable and does a quality job at a very competitive price." Bob Boryska, Branch Manager, JB Insulation Company, said his company does what it can to support the community activities of their customer. "Walsh Construction Company is very involved in the community. We participate with them whenever we are invited." Boryska is also a fan of the **PROPINK Complete™** insulating system. "We certainly think it is a good system," he said. "The Habitat for Humanity project went off without a hitch."

"You only get one chance to build a well-insulated wall," he continued. "You can't change your mind after the sheetrock is up. "I'm glad we were invited to the dance. It was a worthwhile cause, and building one of the first Oregon Habitat for Humanity homes to apply for a LEED® rating is appropriate for our community. Thanks to Habitat for Humanity Portland/

Metro East, Walsh Construction and JB Insulation, at least two homes in the city are both PINK® and energy efficient.

### The **PROPINK Complete™** Blown-in Wall System

The **PROPINK Complete™** Blown-in Wall System is an alternative to roll or batt insulation and a more cost-effective option to wet-spray cellulose and spray polyurethane foam (SPF) walls, ceilings or other enclosed cavity applications. Installed by trained professionals, the system includes: non-woven fabric, Fiberglas™ insulation and an InspectR® density gauge. The unbonded loosefill insulation has no formaldehyde-based binder added.

### **FOAMULAR®** XPS Insulation

**FOAMULAR®** 150 XPS insulation contains hundreds of millions of densely packed air cells to provide exceptional thermal performance. It's also virtually impervious to moisture, preventing loss of R-value due to moisture penetration.

### **LEED®** for Homes

LEED® for Homes is a rating system that encourages the design and construction of high-performance energy efficient homes that use less energy, water and natural resources, create less waste and more comfortable for their occupants. Benefits include lower energy and water bills; reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and less exposure to mold, mildew and other indoor toxins. LEED® for Homes was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, a non-profit organization committed to expanding sustainable building practices.



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