



SOLIDSTART®
ENGINEERED WOOD LSL



Shrinkage in Multiple Story Wood Construction

Shrinkage occurs in solid-sawn lumber wall plates as their moisture content (MC) dries from manufacturing conditions to equilibrium. Lumber drying from 19% to 10% MC can result in approximately 1 inch of shrinkage in a four-story wood framed building of which the wall plates account for about a third of the shrinkage. (WWPA, 2002).

Builders and specifiers address lumber shrinkage in various ways. However, precise compensation for building movement with flashing and detailing is difficult because of lumber's natural variability in moisture content and other properties.

LP® SolidStart® LSL is a tested solution to help minimize building movement. LP LSL is manufactured at approximately 6% MC, which is typically less than equalized moisture contents seen in enclosed structures (FPL, 2010). Plate shrinkage is virtually eliminated with LP LSL. Further mitigation of wall movement can also be obtained with LP LSL in stud and rim board applications.

Long lengths, uniform MC and consistent quality make LP SolidStart LSL a perfect fit for tall and multistory construction. For more information and product availability, contact your local LP SolidStart Distributor or visit www.LPCorp.com. Try LP LSL on your next project and take the shrinkage out of your walls.



Example of allowance for building shrinkage



LSL top wall plates



LSL bottom wall plates

Sources: Western Wood Products Association, WWPA Tech Notes, *Shrinkage Calculations for Multistory Wood Frame Construction*, TN10, November 2002, pp 3.
Forest Products Laboratory, *Wood Handbook, Chapter 13: Drying and Control of Moisture Content*, FPL-GTR-190, 2010, pp 13-5.

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