

# Products | Engineered Lumber | by Patrick McCombe

**Cut the Fat.** Looking to simplify your framing and save some money? Check out Ainsworth's *0.8E Durastrand Rimboard*. Made from inexpensive oriented strand lumber, it's generally suitable for spanning openings up to 9 feet wide. According to the maker, using Durastrand Rimboard for rim joists can eliminate the need for headers above doors and windows.

**Ainsworth**, 877/661-3200, [www.ainsworth.ca](http://www.ainsworth.ca).



**Drilling Allowed.** I've heard of plumbers and framers coming to blows over holes drilled in critical structural members. Maybe Weyerhaeuser's improved *TimberStrand LSL* framing members will maintain the peace, because plumbers *can* drill holes in them. The 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>- and 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch beams come in 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-, 11<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-, and 14-inch sizes; holes of up to 4<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches can be drilled in the 14-inchers.

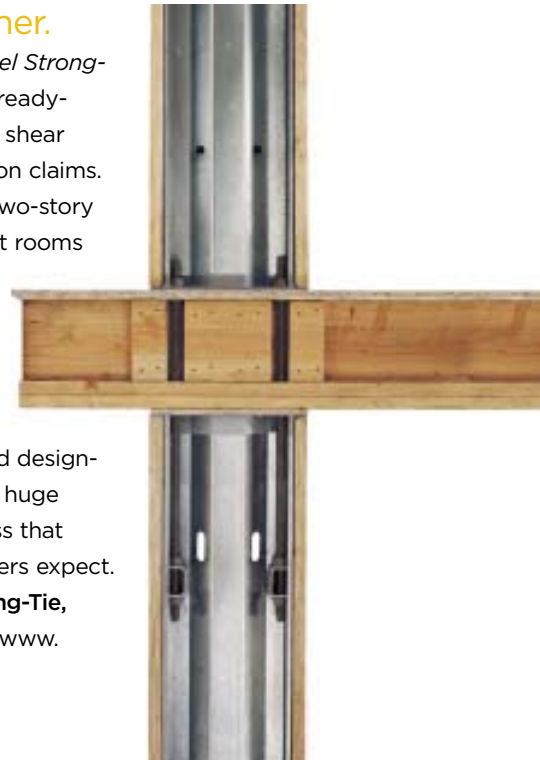
**Weyerhaeuser**, 888/453-8358, [www.iLevel.com](http://www.iLevel.com).



## Reach Higher.

The *Stacked Steel Strong-Wall* is the first ready-made two-story shear wall ever, Simpson claims. It's suitable for two-story entries and great rooms up to 20 feet 6 inches tall. Even in seismic areas, the product can help builders and designers maintain the huge expanses of glass that some homeowners expect.

**Simpson Strong-Tie**, 800/999-5099, [www.strongtie.com](http://www.strongtie.com).



## Products | Exterior Doors

**Broad Appeal.** With its silver caming and stained-glass highlights over one or two raised panels, the *Dorado* suits a number of different architectural styles. It comes in Douglas fir, western hemlock, and red oak in 3/0, 3/2, 3/4, and 3/6 sizes. Understated without being boring, this door strikes me as a great choice for spec homes. Prices start at \$1,000 (for door only).

**Simpson Door**, 800/952-4057, [www.simpsondoor.com](http://www.simpsondoor.com).



### Plastic Frame.

Maintenance-free and rotproof, PVC trim has become quite popular in harsh climates — but why stop with trim? Now you can install PVC door frames, too. Made entirely of cellular PVC, the *Proframe* has a UL 20-minute fire rating and won't rot, even in the harshest exposures, says the maker. It comes in single- and double-door configurations and in-swing and out-swing styles. Replacement-kit prices start at around \$60.

**Royal Mouldings**, 800/368-3117, [www.royalmouldings.com](http://www.royalmouldings.com).



**Factory Finish.** Staining an exterior door on site is a hassle: The weather has to be perfect; the door is out of commission for at least a few hours; and it's nearly impossible to keep tradespeople, delivery drivers, and homeowners from marring



the wet surface. So why not have the finishing done at the factory? Therma-Tru provides just that option for its Classic-Craft and Fiber-Classic doors with *FinishRight*. Available in five colors, the factory finish adds about \$310 to the cost of a 3-foot-wide entry door.

**Therma-Tru**, 800/843-7628, [www.thermatru.com](http://www.thermatru.com).