

Repulse Bay - NWT SIP Home

Repulse Bay, Nunavut



Repulse Bay demonstrates SIPs as a great fit for Northern Housing

The challenges to building houses in the high latitudes of the Arctic include the short building season; variable weather; remote locations accessible only by sea or air; shortage of skilled trades; and the effects of the harsh climate on building performance and durability.

Insulspan SIPs were selected for this project and were deemed a suitable material for northern housing construction. Some of the reasons Insulspan SIPs were selected include:

- 1) The structural capacity of SIPs reduces structural framing, thereby reducing the potential for thermal bridging.
- 2) SIPs are pre-cut to various shapes and sizes of panels. On-site waste is greatly reduced.
- 3) SIPs do not rot, shrink, swell, split or warp to the extent that dimensional lumber does.
- 4) SIP panels weigh about 35 per cent less than the same size wood frame wall, floor or roof assembly of the same thermal resistance.
- 5) SIP panel construction is faster than wood-frame construction therefore, the SIP building is weather tight sooner.

The project demonstrated multiple benefits to using a SIP package including material cost that is comparable to wood-frame construction, hours of labor required to backup compared with wood-frame construction, the potential to reduce interim financing costs, and that semi-skilled workers readily adopt the skills needed to build with SIPs.

The owners, Moses and Louise Suisangnark, are very satisfied with the SIP house. Both were born and raised in Repulse Bay and have a two-year old daughter living at home with them. They commented on the comfort of the house and during the post-occupancy interview, their daughter played on the vinyl floor in bare feet and legs—something their older children were never able to do in other houses in which the family has lived. While having a draft-free house is welcome, so are the reduced utility costs!