

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What role can Timber Frame play in achieving the various levels of Code for Sustainable Homes?

A. Well-insulated timber frame buildings can give around a 30% reduction in CO² emissions: this is a great help in achieving CSH level 3. By further increasing thermal efficiency along with, perhaps, the addition of some renewables e.g. solar thermal and/or air source heat pumps, CSH level 4 can be obtained. To reach level 5 and the ultimate level 6 (zero carbon) even higher levels of thermal efficiency through the fabric are required, and in addition, the use of renewables (Photovoltaics, Bio-Mass boilers, Wind Turbines etc) to provide electricity is mandatory.

Q. What wall thickness do we need to achieve the various levels of Code for Sustainable Homes?

A. Typically we would use a 140mm stud with various configurations of insulation. The finished frame thickness (inside face of plasterboard to face of cavity) is between 162mm to 235mm.

Q. What's the difference between Pre-Insulated Panel & Closed Panel?

A. Pre-insulated panels have rigid or mineral wool insulation fitted in our factory, saving time on site in materials handling and installation, and reducing waste produced from on-site process. Closed Panels go a stage further, and typically include factory fitting of the vapour barrier, service battens and can include windows and doors.

Q. Do we always build trussed roofs on the slab?

A. Wherever possible we build all roofs on the slab prior to frame erection (usually one week before). When the panels arrive we crane the roof off the slab and place to one side, erect the wall/floor panels, and crane the roof back on – all in one day. This has proven to be a safe method of build as the roof is not constructed at height.

Q. Can we erect our timber frames without scaffold?

A. Depending on design we can erect the structural frame without a conventional scaffold system. This can reduce scaffold hire costs by around 10%, remove scaffold erection from the critical path, and improve the quality of scaffold installation as the timber frame is in situ.

Delivering safe, sustainable solutions for today's construction industry

