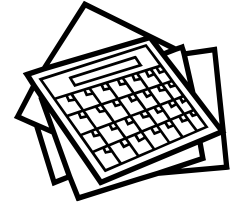




I am extremely blessed. Each day I work as long and hard as I can, and I still fall a little short of my goals. However, God has seen fit to surround me with great co-workers who always seem to get the ball into the end zone. As the market changes, the demands on our engineering department have increased substantially. As you strive to find the right product to fit the market, we are receiving new plans and revisions in overwhelming numbers. That is why I am pleased to announce the addition of Bob Granica to our engineering staff. Bob is a registered professional engineer who has over 20 years experience in residential construction. Bob hails from Golden, Colorado, and has picked the perfect time of year to come to Houston. I hope he gets "climatized" soon. His impact on the delivery times of your engineering should be felt within the next 6-8 weeks.

September 1, 2008 is an important date to builders in the State of Texas. The TRCC has established that date as the start of their initiative to require builders to have inspections in unincorporated areas of the counties. Builders will be required to have a foundation, frame and final inspection on all homes started after August 31 2008. In addition, all inspection reports must be turned in to the TRCC upon completion of the inspection. To further complicate matters, the TDLR (which is responsible for the licensing of electricians), is also requiring enforcement of the 2008 NEC beginning September 1, 2008. Implementing either of these entity's changes will be a challenge, but having them all hit on one day will require us to start preparing immediately.



Please stay in touch. I am very interested in topics for the Better Home Show(700 KSEV AM Saturdays 8 AM to 11 AM). If you have suggestions, please email me - dale@dpis.com.

Dale Phillips



Top-Down Construction - TDC

There is a strong movement, sweeping the nation, to build houses from the top down. There are a lot of advantages to this practice, even though it may seem odd or even peculiar at first introduction.

- Foundations, and everything else under the roof, can be constructed without concerns regarding weather delays.
 - The entire roof superstructure and coverings can be installed at a safe distance above terra firma, thereby reducing accidental injuries and lowering insurance costs.
 - GAF HeliPrimo Series IV shingles are, can you believe it, cheaper than conventional 3-tab shingles!
- Wall height can be readily adjusted should a customer change his or her mind regarding ceiling height or aesthetics, or if a shortage of 10 foot studs should occur.

As always, the main road block to this practice becoming the new standard is the Federal government. At the current time, there is no head protection that is OSHA – approved to withstand the impact of an entire roof system on the head of a laborer.

Billy Rogacki



Changes to the NEC

2008 NEC – While it would be impossible to describe all of the upcoming NEC changes in a newsletter, I would like to list a few of the changes that will affect all of us.

Section 334.80 No more than 2 strands of Romex can pass through a top plate. It will no longer be acceptable to have several strands of Romex sharing one hole through the top plate.

Section 406.11 requires that all 15 and 20 amp receptacles be

listed “tamper resistant”. Basically all of the convenience receptacles within the home will be required to be tamper resistant.

Section 210.52 allows greater flexibility with the 2 required circuits which serve the kitchen countertop receptacles. It is now permitted to include receptacles from the pantry, breakfast and dining areas within these required circuits.

Section 406.8 requires that all receptacles located in wet or damp locations be listed weather resistant.

Section 210.8 has expanded the GFCI requirements to include ALL garage and outdoor receptacles (15 & 20 amp). *Garage door opener and Freezer no longer excepted*

Section 210.12 expands the required locations for Arc Fault protection. Arc fault protection is now required at all 15 and 20 amp outlets within every room and hallway in the home – except kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms and garages. The exceptions are typically areas that require GFCI protection, although not all outlets in a GFCI protected room may be required to have GFCI protection. Please remember an “outlet” can be a receptacle, lighting, switch or other device. Therefore it may be possible to have a few “outlets” within a dwelling where by GFCI or Arc fault protection is not required. One example would be kitchen lighting. The kitchen is exempted from the requirement for Arc Fault protection. However, the kitchen countertop receptacles are required to have GFCI protection. That leaves the kitchen lighting and non-countertop kitchen receptacles outside of the requirement for GFCI or Arc Fault protection.

Section 410.8 deals with lighting in clothes closets. This has always been a difficult area for compliance. The NEC allows surface mounted fluorescent or led’s only. There is also a closet pole that is manufactured with led lighting built into the pole. This device can solve a lot of problems in a tight closet space.

These are just a few of the hundreds of changes within the 2008 NEC. The electricians are aware of the requirements and hopefully we will all be on the same page by September 1

Dale Phillips