

# News Release

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## **Specialty Engineered Wood Product TimberStrand® LSL Celebrates 15 Years of Improving Home Construction**

For the past 15 years, home builders and remodelers have used iLevel® Trus Joist® TimberStrand® laminated strand lumber (LSL) to build stronger and straighter structural framing. Prior to the introduction of engineered wood products such as TimberStrand LSL, the range of choices for residential framing materials was limited. Greatly improving the way homes are built, TimberStrand LSL was developed as a result of extensive research and testing to meet a need for higher-performance framing materials and to make more efficient use of natural resources. [www.ilevel.com](http://www.ilevel.com)

Originally introduced to the residential market in 1992 for use as rim board, TimberStrand LSL is now available for a wide range of applications, including wall studs, rafters, beams, treated sill plate, columns, window and door headers and concrete form board. The material is manufactured using a proprietary process in which small strands of wood are carefully dried, positioned and bound together with resin to form high-strength structural framing members. The uniqueness of the product enabled it to be patented when it was first developed.

The introduction of TimberStrand LSL was based on a history of other building product innovations from companies that are now part of iLevel. Other revolutionary products include wooden I-joists (TJI® joists) and parallel strand lumber (Parallam® PSL).

In addition to expanding the applications for TimberStrand LSL over the years, researchers at the iLevel Engineered Wood Technology Center in Boise have continued to test and refine the product to further enhance its performance and ease of use. “Science has allowed us to take a widely available, renewable and adaptable material like wood and make it even better,” says Brian Greber, vice president of marketing and technology for iLevel by Weyerhaeuser. “We essentially take logs apart and reassemble them into framing members that are strong, and more consistent than the original raw material.”

Builders choose TimberStrand LSL for its stiffness, durability, consistency and availability in long lengths (up to 64 feet in some products). Its straightness and ability to hold fasteners provides smooth walls that help builders install cabinets and countertops flush, with little or no shimming. TimberStrand LSL also provides a flat, stable surface for wall finishes, reducing the risk of nails popping up or cracking in tiles or wallboard joints. The long lengths also enable builders to construct more stable “tall walls” – such as those greater than 10-feet high found in foyers and great rooms – by eliminating the need to stack two shorter walls on top of one another.

In addition to its structural benefits, TimberStrand LSL is an environmentally responsible choice since it can be manufactured from a renewable natural resource, trees, that are not large or straight enough to be usable in conventional wood building products. It also uses fibers from plentiful, fast-growing species of trees, such as aspen and yellow poplar, and uses a high percentage of each log.

TimberStrand LSL is one part of a complete and integrated package of innovative framing materials and services available from iLevel, including Parallam PSL, TJI joists, Structurwood® panels, iLevel Premium Joists™ and design software tools such as iLevel Javelin®. To learn more about the complete iLevel line of residential framing products, software tools, technical support, and extensive distribution network throughout North America, visit [www.iLevel.com](http://www.iLevel.com) or call 1-888-iLevel8 (888-453-8358) to locate a dealer near you.

### **About iLevel® by Weyerhaeuser**

iLevel is Weyerhaeuser's integrated residential framing business resulting in a seamless, unified solution for residential builders through dealers – offering a coordinated network of support for all structural framing materials. By combining Weyerhaeuser's high-quality products and services from well-known brands like Trus Joist and Strukturwood, with its distribution and technology capabilities, iLevel efficiently supplies customers with all the necessary components for building the residential structural frame, and solving builder and customer needs around that frame.

### **About Weyerhaeuser**

Weyerhaeuser Company, one of the world's largest forest products companies, was incorporated in 1900. In 2006, sales were \$21.9 billion. It has offices or operations in 18 countries, with customers worldwide. Weyerhaeuser is principally engaged in the growing and harvesting of timber; the manufacture, distribution and sale of forest products; and real estate construction, development and related activities. Additional information about Weyerhaeuser's businesses, products and practices is available at [www.weyerhaeuser.com](http://www.weyerhaeuser.com).

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