

ALSC accredited agency.

Tags without complete information or an agency logo may appear on treated wood not monitored by an ALSC agency. And the presence of a plastic end tag does not necessarily indicate ALSC-system treated lumber, the committee says. The quality mark information should be printed separately from the manufacturer's warranty and guarantee information on the tag.

In addition, a voluntary CheckMark™ system developed by the Western Wood Preservers Institute is being implemented as part of the label ID process. In use now at some treaters, it will give pressure-treated wood buyers a greater level of comfort that the wood is properly inspected and provide a simple method of identifying and distinguishing ALSC-accredited agency trademarks and treated wood quality marks.

For more information, call the ALSC at (301) 972-1700, fax (301) 540-8004, or e-mail alsc@alsc.org. □

A Radiant Barrier Helps: Test

Use of radiant heat barriers above attic floor insulation reduced heat gain as much as 78 percent, according to a recent study by the Florida Solar Energy Center.

The center tested radiant barriers with reflective coatings on one side and both sides at roof deck temperatures of both 120° and 140° F. In each case, it found "that shielding the insulation from the hot roof allowed this regular insulation to perform largely as it was intended by reducing it from radiant heat gain."

The report of the test is by Dennis O'Neal of Texas A & M University for the Reflective Insulation Manufacturers Association.

Results of the test "indicated that this shielding improved the overall thermal resistance (of

the attic's fibrous insulation) by about 50 percent." Experiments at Texas A & M showed similar results, O'Neal says.

A radiant barrier with a single reflective side placed on the attic floor reduced the heat exchange between the roof and the fibrous insulation by 41.1 percent at 120° F and 46 percent at 140° F. A radiant barrier with two reflective sides reduced the heat exchange by 71.2 percent at 120° F and by 78.2 percent at 140° F.

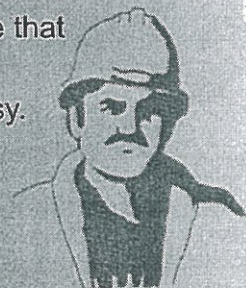
O'Neal notes that these results are relatively simple to achieve in the retrofit market, since the radiant barrier is placed on the attic floor above existing insulation. □

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