

Advanced Housing Research Center

Developing Partnerships to Improve Our Nation's Housing

America needs durable, affordable, and energy-efficient housing. In response to this need, the Advanced Housing Research Center (AHRC) was established at the USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), in Madison, Wisconsin. FPL has been involved in wood-frame housing research since 1910 and has long been recognized as a world leader in such housing-related areas as engineered wood products and structures, moisture control, material design and performance, coatings and finishes, adhesives, wood preservation, and composites. Many of the materials and technologies currently used in wood-frame housing were developed through basic research at FPL in cooperation with industry, academia, and government. To move new technologies into use, FPL has also established strong links to industry and has played an active role in technology transfer and in the development of codes and standards.

Research at the AHRC evaluates technology needed for both new and existing housing and encompasses all types of residential structures in which wood or wood-based products are used as primary or secondary building components. Emphasis is on the improved use of traditional wood products, recycled and engineered wood composite materials, durability, moisture control, natural disaster resistance, and an improved living environment. The Center's research focuses primarily on the housing structure and practical technologies that can be readily adopted by homebuilders, industry, and consumers. The AHRC also cooperates with partners in areas involving the latest theories and ideas in

resource management, including water conservation and landscaping.

Housing research at the AHRC is facilitated and coordinated through both internal and external advisory committees. The Center also relies heavily on partnerships and alliances with universities, industry, consumers, and other government agencies, including the following:

- Coalition for Advanced Housing and Forest Products Research (CAHFPR) brings together our nation's universities to focus on residential wood product and systems research.
- Residential Moisture Management Network (RMMN), consisting of industry associations and government agencies, has the goal of coordinating programs and disseminating information and recommended construction practices.
- Deconstruction Coalition focuses on the careful dismantlement of structures in order to recover valuable building materials for reuse and recycling.
- Federal Agency Housing Partnership (FAHP) facilitates cooperation and coordination between Federal agencies for housing research and technology transfer.
- Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH), which is a joint government–industry partnership, seeks to accelerate the development and implementation of new housing technologies.



The Research Demonstration House, built on FPL grounds, is being used to monitor moisture intrusion and promote proper building practices.

