Over 252 wall feet were erected by a six-man crew of senior church members in just two hours with the unique WALLFRAME™ Building System.

Up Go The Walls!
New wall framing system offers advantages to contractors and homebuyers alike.

M/I Homes, Columbus, OH, replaced traditional wood framing with the WALLFRAME™ System in several homes in its Cherry Bottom Village development and is offering the system as an upgraded insulation package option to energy conscious buyers.

With interest rates continuing to decline, consumers are turning to the new home market in increasing numbers. Surveys show that quality and energy efficiency rate high as important criteria in the buying decision.

Many home buyers have come to understand and accept the obvious energy saving devices such as attic insulation, double-hung windows, whole-house attic fans, and energy efficient appliances. One new concept, however, is not so obvious but has numerous advantages for the consumer and builder alike.

The WALLFRAME™ Building System, manufactured by ARCO Building Products, is the first load-bearing, one-step framing and wall system in the United States. Compatible with single family and multi-unit residential construction, the system replaces traditional wood framing, sheathing and insulation with inter-
As an example of the system’s ease of installation, a group of six senior citizens recently erected over 252 wall feet in just two hours.

Connecting, easy to handle, (40 lbs), 4’ x 8’ solid foam panels framed in galvanized steel.

Among the benefits to the consumer are a quality product yielding exceptionally straight walls and superior insulating performance. Unlike batt insulation, which can lose its shape over time due to gravity, moisture, or slippage, these rigid panels provide a constant R-value. Finished homes are also said to be much quieter than those utilizing wood frame construction.

**Minimum Repair . . .**

For the builder, framing time is significantly reduced and repair work is held to a minimum. For example, because the panels do not expand, contract, warp or shift like wood, drywall

Interior construction of Runnymead Farms development shows 35-foot clear span of WALLFRAME™ Building System panels. System provided one-step framing, sheathing and insulation with low waste and speed of construction.

Consistent panel strength of WALLFRAME™ Building System offered structural integrity for two-story construction at Runnymead Farms development even when cutting door and window openings.
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Nail pops are eliminated, removing the need for follow up repairs.

Additionally, field reports indicate that on-site incidents of vandalism have been reduced because this system is self-contained and materials are not accessible at the construction site. Finally, there is much less material waste due to exacting specifications, as well as the fact that with wood framing a certain percentage of the studs will need to be replaced because of bowing.

The panels, which are available with steel framing on 24" and 16" centers, can meet a wide range of load bearing needs. One project in Pennsylvania features this system on its single family homes and two-story condominium units. The panels with 16" on center steel studs are used on the first floor of the condos to support the upper floor with a clear 35-foot span living room/dining area featured in the floor plan.

The easily positioned panelized walls are raised into place and then secured to the deck by conventional toenailing. Exterior walls are immediately ready for siding, masonry, or stucco. Drywall finishing attaches to interior walls with screws. Exterior siding is nailed to the panels.

As an example of the system’s ease of installation, a group of six senior citizens, some in their eighties, recently erected over 252 wall feet in just two hours. The construction project was a church in Phoenix, Arizona, and many in the 300-member congregation thought the job was truly a miracle!

The 3½” thick expanded polystyrene foam core provides outstanding insulation for maximum comfort levels and optimum energy efficiency. The panels make up a wall of solid EPS with virtually no air infiltration.

The steel studs are separated with 3½” (R-15) or 5½” (R-23) insulation rating. Even the molded-in electrical raceways, which facilitate wiring, are surrounded by EPS.

Production Underway . . .

Since the introduction of the system at the NAHB Show, actual field testing has led to additional improvements. With projects already completed or underway in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Texas, Ohio, Maryland, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, California and Washington, D.C., the WALLFRAME System is expected to have significant impact on the residential construction market.

Production facilities have been established by ARCO Building Products in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Phoenix, Arizona. The company has regional sales managers and field service coordinators in the Northeast, Midwest, South and West. Coordinators will provide on-site technical assistance to builders as required.

A national network of distributors is being organized and will be announced as distributors are authorized.

According to Product Manager Greg Weidler, contractors seeking a edge in today’s competitive market can now offer energy and quality conscious home buyers efficient and cost-effective construction materials.