

SIP Build UK

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What are SIPs?

A SIP is a Structural an Insulated Core made of Polyurethane and a 15mm outer layer.

The panels tend to be 1.22 meters wide and can be up to 7.5 metres long depending on individual requirements.

It's a system that has been used in North America for many years and the first house was believed to have been built in 1953. They are widely used in the USA because of their strength, thermal efficiency, sustainability and quick build time.

The panels are becoming more common in the UK as their benefits are becoming more well known. SIPs are very flexible, as they can be used for new build projects, commercial developments , education buildings and airspace.



The panels are manufactured in state of the art processing facilities and delivered when required, onsite ready to install saving time and space where needed.



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How does it differ?

Unlike other building systems, SIPs panels are delivered to site ready formed in the correct sizes and are ready to install. The actual construction of the panels is relatively simple as they are fixed together with SIP joints and structural timber joints.

There is minimum defect in the building. Because the panels are cut offsite, the fit together accurately onsite and all openings are square and true, make measuring and installation of windows much easier and less complicated.

As the panels, are structurally sound there is often no need for a structural frame to be built as is necessary in a traditional timber frame home. This also, reduces the need for in-depth foundations, as the panels are significantly lighter than other building systems. This reduces cost, time and waste on site.

SIPs have a predictable cost – once you have agreed your design and work begins in the factory, costs won't rise. Standard masonry builds can over run and have increased costs. SIPs are usually delivered to your site in one delivery at a mutually agreeable time. This means that the builder can budget with certainty as there are no hidden costs.

The solid core of the polyurethane means that less heat is lost and less thermal bridging occurs. This impacts on heating costs once built, less is spent on heating air and the outside !

SIPs are often used in roof spaces to replace roof trusses and gives a completely open plan space.



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What are the benefits to building with SIPs?

There are many benefits to the SIPs system that outweigh the cost implications. More expensive than a traditional build, SIPs more than recoup that through a number of ways. In the long term, the cost of heating the property is significantly less than a traditional or timber frame build. Heating costs are said to be as little as £100 per year.

From the beginning of the build, SIPs benefit the builder with substantial time and logistical savings. As the panels are manufactured off site, they can be planned into a tight build programme safe in the knowledge that they will be delivered on time. The weather, good or bad, will have no impact on the delivery of panels to site. This means that planning of other trades and deliveries can be managed easily.

By virtue of the prefabricated system, the panels will only fit together in one way. This makes the installation relatively easy and almost foolproof.

As there is less waste on site, this means that there is reduced need to supply skips and such like. The panels are made to measure so there isn't any cutting and trimming so less noise and less mess !!

The panels are ready to be installed as soon as they arrive, so installation is speedy. They simply slot together and walls can be made in a matter of hours – significantly less time than traditional brick build. There is no waiting onsite to remedy any defects – panels are designed to fit together and are manufactured this way. With this speed, the house can be weather tight quicker so internal fixings and other trades can be set to work sooner than other systems.



Once complete, a SIP built home is quieter than a traditional timber frame home. The layer of dense core of continuous urethane insulation stops sound travelling through the walls so rooms next to each other are quieter. This also works up and down.

Building Regulations are constantly changing to ensure that homes are more airtight and thermally efficient, SIPs panels already exceed the new regulations coming in so homes are future proof. Low U-values and air leakage are standard in SIP properties.

As Building Regulations focus more on energy efficiency ensuring that warm air doesn't leak out, the relative small number of joints in a SIP home compared to the thousands of joints in a brick built house or timber frame home helps any new home meet these new regulations without any expensive remedial works.

All SIPs panels have achieved the BBA Certification required.



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I'm interested, what do I do next?

Well, first job is to contact SIP Build UK.

Our contact details are as follows:

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