

ECO-Block Usage in *The Villages of Rio Del Sol*

Siskin Partners has created an extremely innovative subdivision in Cathedral City, California, utilizing ECO-Block, an insulating concrete form used in place of standard wood framing. The subdivision, which is called *The Villages at Rio del Sol*, is the largest ICF community in the nation. Never before has the ECO-Block been used in as grand of a scale as Siskin Partners has envisioned using it, with such benefits to the environment. Not only do the houses offer a 50-80% reduction in energy to the homeowner, but they also raise awareness of Californians as to how precious America's nonrenewable fossil fuels are, and how important it is to conserve them by responsible energy consumption.

Siskin Partners demonstrates its commitment to green building by its bold use of ECO-Block. While many custom builders have adopted ICF technology, no production builder to date has been willing to ride the necessary learning curve to develop an insulation system that truly integrates with other building trades. With the support and commitment of ECO-Block's training department, Damon Siskin worked through all of the details to develop a system that meets all safety standards, creates minimal waste, empowers local workers and offers them career opportunities, and has been streamlined to be able to meet the schedule within the budget allocated.

The ICF utilized, ECO-Block, is a modular, flat panel form constructed of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam. These forms are designed to stack like blocks and pour like regular formwork. The block walls are assembled around simple reinforcing steel then filled with concrete to form a superior structural wall with insulation factors exceeding R40 and unparalleled sound mitigation.

The ECO-Block of *The Villages at Rio del Sol* is utilized in all of the exterior walls for the Tuscan and Desert Modern style homes. When comparing these walls to the latest US standard of R-19 exterior wall ratings, Damon's system provides the previously referenced 50-80% reduction in energy use for the homeowner. The R-45 insulation rating ceilings have blown in cellulose insulation, which adds to the overall energy efficiency of the system. ECO-Block homes are stronger, quieter, and more resistant to fire, moisture, mold and the other natural elements than any other homes using Insulating Concrete Forms (ICFs). ECO-Block is the only ICF company with an environmental policy, a certified environmental specialist, and building science support. ECO-Block has a high percentage of recycled material (40% by weight). Additionally, the panels are non-toxic; produce no CFCs or HCFCs in manufacturing, and no offgassing on the jobsite. They contribute to a clean indoor air quality by reducing unwanted air infiltration and allowing for the filtration and control of replacement air.

The Villages at Rio del Sol has received national recognition, both through the media and from various organizations, for its bold use of ECO-Block Siskin

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