**OSB vs. Lightweight Fiberboard Structural Sheathing: Choosing the Best Option for Your Project, with a Look at Perma “R” Brace**

When building a house or any structure with exterior walls, selecting the right structural sheathing is crucial. Two popular options are oriented strand board (OSB) and fiberboard. Both offer advantages and disadvantages, and the best choice depends on your specific needs and priorities. However, there's a growing contender in the market – Perma “R” Brace by Perma R Products.

**Understanding OSB and Lightweight Structural Sheathing:**

* **OSB:** Universally accepted most markets, but susceptible to moisture potentially compromising integrity of board and price volatility as lumber costs fluctuate daily.
* **Lightweight Fiberboard Structural Sheathing:** Lower weight-to-strength ratio, water, mold, and vapor resistant, price stable, but not universally accepted in all markets.

**Introducing Perma “R” Brace:**

Perma “R” Brace is a next-generation structural sheathing solution that combines the best aspects of OSB and fiberboard while addressing their shortcomings. Here's what makes it stand out:

* **Superior Strength and Durability:** Made with a proprietary blend of materials, Perma “R” Brace boasts exceptional structural performance exceeding both OSB and some fiberboard options. It offers superior resistance to bending, racking, and impact.
* **Exceptional Moisture Resistance:** Perma “R” Brace is specifically engineered to repel moisture, significantly reducing the risk of warping, swelling, and mold growth compared to traditional OSB. This makes it ideal for use in humid climates or areas with potential exposure to water.
* **Dimensional Stability:** Perma “R” Brace maintains its shape exceptionally well, minimizing shrinkage and expansion with temperature fluctuations. This leads to tighter wall construction and a superior finished product.
* **Improved Insulation:** While not its primary strength, Perma “R” Brace offers competitive insulation values, contributing to better overall building thermal performance.
* **Environmentally Friendly:** Perma “R” Brace prioritizes sustainable practices during manufacturing. It often utilizes recycled content and features formaldehyde-free resin, making it a healthier choice for your home and the environment.
* **Ease of Use:** Perma “R” Brace cuts and installs similarly to traditional sheathing materials, ensuring a smooth building process for contractors.

**Perma “R” Brace: The Strong, Stable, and Sustainable Choice**

While both OSB and fiberboard have their merits, Perma “R” Brace offers a compelling alternative. It provides superior strength, unmatched moisture resistance, excellent dimensional stability, and environmental benefits, making it a strong contender for your next project.

Perma “R” Brace provides excellent moisture management, compared to OSB and fiberboard, because Perma “R” Brace ⅛-inch thickness forms a tight seal to the framing parts which gives superb protection against water and air infiltration. In addition, the long fibers of the Perma “R” Brace’s core are specially-treated with weather- and water-resistant plies. The plies are pressure laminated with a water-resistant adhesive. All grades of Perma “R” Brace have been evaluated and allowed as a Water-Resistive Barrier (WRB) noted in IRC section R703.2 and IBC Section 1404.2.

Unlike OSB and fiberboard, Perma “R” Brace is formaldehyde free.

* Perma “R” Brace is less expensive than OSB, and can help to offset the high and increasing OSB prices.
* Perma “R” Brace saves money over OSB and fiberboard because it is easy to install and lightweight which saves labor and time.
* All grades of Perma “R” Brace are made of high-quality, long fibers that add dimensional stability and strength that saves money over OSB and fiberboard because there is less worksite damage, which lessens replacement costs.
* Additionally, Perma “R” Brace comes in custom dimensions which means less site clean up and waste.

Structural exterior wall sheathings, like Perma “R” Brace, OSB, and fiberboard all work with the building envelope to prevent wind and water from entering tie framing studs together and makes the walls resistant to twisting and bending. They also provide a surface for application of materials, like siding.

Perma “R” Brace, however, provides more strength, better moisture management, is non-toxic and saves time and money compared to OSB and fiberboard structural sheathings.