



LEFT: Most panels can be put in place by one or two crew members. Once set on the home's sub-floor, the SIPs are secured with adhesives, fasteners, and spline joinery.

BELOW: A SIP that will support a window is readied to be placed between two main-floor panels. Note that each panel is labeled; the letter/number combinations correspond to panel layouts created by CAD (computer-aided design) software.

When Bob and Sandy Jaros decided to build a log home, they took great pains to educate themselves on everything to do with log homes: weather considerations, heating factors, building systems and their pluses and minuses — all this and more kept the couple busy for the better part of a year. When they finally decided they were ready to choose a log company, the Jaroses were well-versed in log home lore.

Enter Marty Wheeler, owner of Alpenglow Log & Timber Homes. Marty knew the builder the Jaroses had chosen, and was invited to provide some preliminary cost projections on the project. Bob and Sandy liked Marty's presentation, which included many detailed pages on the project. They were also attracted to the idea of using the SIP style of construction.

SIP is a relative newcomer to the world of log home building. Alpenglow uses this type of panel system, which it calls the Alpenglow Panel 'N' Log wall system, in many of its homes.

SIP construction consists of insulated panels that are pre-cut and fabricated in a company shop. The panels are



fitted to match a home's blueprint layout, setting up the exterior wall sections of the home. Much like individual logs cut and tagged in a log company's yard, the SIPs are carefully identified to ensure correct placement in the home. Once completed, the panels are shipped to the home site, where, Wheeler says, most can be erected by two crew members.

The panels themselves consist of a foam core of expanded polystyrene

(EPS) with oriented strand board (OSB) laminated on each side.

"As a manufacturer, we bring in the EPS resin, expand it, and mold it into blocks that are 30 inches by 50 inches, and 16 feet, two inches long," says Dale Lee, general manager at Advanced Form Plastic in Reno, Nevada. AFP supplies SIPs to Alpenglow and other companies.

"After a curing time, the panels are then custom cut to meet the dimension