



Standard Fiberglass Insulation Wins Award

Owens Corning products selected for high school complex in California

Canyon Crest Academy



When architects drew up plans for the \$97 million Canyon Crest Academy – a “school of choice” open to students throughout the San Dieguito Union High School District in Carmel Valley, California – they wanted to use the insulation of choice for meeting the state’s tight environmental standards. They got their wish as standard fiberglass insulation was installed throughout the 10-building, village-like complex.

An early look at the specifications, however, seemed to imply that the building owner and general contractor would not have much choice of insulation for the school of choice. The specifications called for formaldehyde-free insulation.

John Robinson, president of Spring Valley Insulation Contractors, was undeterred. He didn’t interpret the specification literally because he was familiar with other projects where those words were

simply an expression of the architect’s desire to use environmentally sound materials with very low emissions that meet or exceed state standards.

That is not to say that everything went smoothly. Unhappy because their bids were not low for the project, competitors tried to upset and reverse the award.

“When we were bidding it and we were low, our competition found out and they called all the general contractors and others and told them that we worked with Owens Corning and we couldn’t do the formaldehyde-free insulation,” says Robinson.

“As long as we have GREENGUARD CertificationSM the people reviewing the bids seem to be satisfied.”

John Robinson, president, Spring Valley Insulation Contractors

Robinson submitted his company’s bid based on the use of standard Owens Corning FIBERGLAS[®] insulation. He included documentation to show that the products have been awarded GREENGUARD Certification, by the GREENGUARD Environmental InstituteSM. He offered to provide additional data from independent, state-approved testing laboratories if needed. It wasn’t necessary. Spring Valley Insulation Contractors got the award to install more than 250,000 square feet of fiberglass insulation.

“We were all geared up and waiting for them to question the submittal,” says Robinson. “If there had been questions we were prepared to take care of them in a timely manner.”

The questions never came. The builders were satisfied with the documentation Robinson provided.

“On bid day, our competitor was telling everybody that Spring Valley is not going to be able to meet the spec,” continues Robinson. “But we got it and we’re doing it.”

Robinson says there is a great deal of interest in California about air quality and emissions, and so-called formaldehyde-free insulation has stirred up a lot of confusion. The Canyon Crest Academy project was one of the first big ones that bid when the confusion first surfaced.

“We have run into other projects that were specified formaldehyde-free and we use the same process with our bid – include GREENGUARD Certification information along with the submittal,” says Robinson. “As long as we have GREENGUARD Certification the people reviewing the bids seem to be satisfied.”

By the Numbers

- Canyon Crest Academy
Carmel Valley, Calif.
- Building Square Footage: 225,891
- Site Acreage: 61 Acres
- Buildings: 10
- Grades: 9-12
- Teaching Station Count: 102
- Expected student population: 2,400
- Scheduled to open: Fall 2004
- Estimated completion date: Sept. 2005

School:

Canyon Crest Academy
5951 Village Center Loop Road
San Diego, CA 92130
(858) 481-8221
www.sduhsd.net/cc

District:

San Dieguito Union High School District
710 Encinitas Boulevard
Encinitas, CA 92024
760-753-6491
www.sduhsd.net

Architect:

NTD Architects
4719 Viewridge Avenue, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92123
858-277-5115
www.ntd.com

Drywall Contractor:

Standard Drywall, Inc.
1800 John Towers Avenue
El Cajon, CA 92020
619-448-7600

Insulation Contractor:

Spring Valley Insulation Contractors
3151 Bancroft Drive
Spring Valley, CA 91977
619-463-0266

Area Sales Manager

Owens Corning
Jim McHugh
480-575-9370
james.mchugh@owenscorning.com

Environmental Certification

Growing concern about the environment has prompted architects, engineers and building owners to ask for environmentally friendly products. Some insulation manufacturers have responded by developing new products. All of them are actively promoting the environmental qualities of their products.

So how does a builder or architect decide which product to specify? One of the most basic things to check is whether an insulation product's environmental claims are backed up by an independent, third party organization that has expertise and experience in evaluating such information.



GREENGUARD Environmental Institute

An example of this is the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute's certification and labeling program that subjects building materials to rigorous tests for emissions of formaldehyde and other matter. GREENGUARD Certification for indoor air quality complies with criteria set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® program and other notable organizations. Only low-emitting products that do not compromise the air quality of indoor environments are awarded GREENGUARD Certification. Owens Corning has been awarded GREENGUARD Certification by the

GREENGUARD Environmental Institute for Owens Corning insulating products including: PINK® FIBERGLAS batts and rolls, all blowing wools, FOAMULAR® extruded foam, QuietZone® batts and acoustic floor mat, SelectSound® black acoustic blanket and FoamSealIR™ ridged sill gasket. Certification demonstrates these products contribute minimal emissions to indoor environments.

Information about certified products is also available at the Institute's website: www.greenguard.org

Collaborative for High Performance Schools

Another third-party certification example is the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS, often pronounced "chips"), which aims to increase the energy efficiency of schools in California by marketing information, services and incentive programs directly to school districts and designers. The Collaborative's goal is to facilitate the design of high performance schools: environments that are not only energy efficient, but also healthy, comfortable, well lit, and contain the amenities needed for a quality education.

In May 2004, CHPS officially launched a low-emitting products database, which lists products that comply with California Special Environmental Requirements Specification (Section 1350). The Low-Emitting Materials Table is a free resource available on the Web to anyone.

The table can be found at: http://www.chps.net/manual/lem_table.htm. It currently lists eight building insulation products made by Owens Corning – more than all of its competitors combined.

Photos on the front by Dennis Davis, Davis Photographic, Los Angeles, CA



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ONE OWENS CORNING PARKWAY
TOLEDO, OHIO, USA 43659

1-800-GET-PINK
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