

LETTERS



In the Gutter

To the Editor:

"Exterior Trim: Design Basics" (7/95) shows four gutter end treatments that ignore an essential feature of gutter placement: namely, that gutters should be set below the slope, or throw, of the roof so that ice and snow can slide clear. Besides this, I don't recall ever seeing an installation like the one illustrated in Figure 2B, where a small triangular block on top of the rake board covers the gutter end. Can the author provide pictures to demonstrate the illustrations?

Stephen E. Zecher, AIA
Zecher Associates
Cambridge, Mass.

Jamie Fisher responds:

Your question points up the difference between the climates of Boston and Seattle. In Seattle, which gets only an occasional freeze, we don't spend a lot of time designing for ice and snow. Instead, wind-driven rain and rot are important issues. We tell the gutter subs to hang the gutters as tight as possible to the roof sheathing, to prevent wind-driven rain from getting behind and rotting the rafter tails or fascia. Here's a photo of the installation you mention, common on Craftsman-style houses in our area.

OSB Story Alarmist?

To the Editor:

Your September story, "Fraud Indictment Raises OSB Quality Concerns" (*Eight-Penny News*, 9/95), seems to us unfair and alarmist. We don't believe, nor do we think your readers are inclined to conclude, that charges of wrongdoing against a single manufacturer warrant casting suspicion over an entire industry. APA, while concerned by allegations that quality auditing procedures were circumvented, initiated action over a year ago and is taking further steps to assure that the marketplace can continue to rely on the APA trademark for product quality and performance.

David L. Rogoway, President
APA — The Engineered Wood Assn.
Tacoma, Wash.

It is very important that builders be able to rely on third-party ratings of plywood and OSB since there is no way to evaluate panel quality in the field. (Sources at APA were unable to provide any pointers for such on-site inspections.) Given that, we feel that the alleged misuse of the APA stamp is important news and applaud any steps that APA has taken to guard against such problems in the future.

The Editors

Ready-Mix Radiant Floor

To the Editor:

I enjoyed John Siegenthaler's "Radiant Slab on a Tight Budget" (7/95). Last year we did the same thing (almost). Our pour was on the second floor, not at ground level, so we used a conveyor truck for the job (way cheaper than a pumper!). Our mix was six sack, 6-inch slump, with $\frac{3}{8}$ aggregate and fiber mesh. (Our local batch plant doesn't have any additives on hand nor are they interested in pursuing any.) We had mini-

mal cracking, but will adopt the "slip sheet" and control joints next time.

During the pour, it is necessary to remind the flat workers that vigorous raking of the mud can snag the tubing and pull it up. Also, when tipping a wheelbarrow, be certain there's no tube under the pivot point. After several days of curing, I sprayed day-glow paint at all caution areas to alert everyone of the tubing's presence. I also alerted all trades who might drill holes from below that they were to verify their route was clear.

M. Felix Marti
Ridgway, Colo.

Cabinet Installation Tool

To the Editor:

The main purpose of the T-Jak (mentioned in "Installing Cabinets Solo," 9/95) is to quickly and safely install wall cabinets without the use of deadmen, wall brackets, and the like. The T-Jak does not work like a screw jack as the article states. It is designed to raise up to any height between 53 and 84 inches through the use of its "quick release knob." You then simply turn the knob for the final adjustments.

The T-Jak is designed for installing one cabinet at a time and is not recommended for installing ganged cabinets. And lastly, the tool does not sell for under \$20, as the article states: It's 100% made in the U.S., sells for \$79, and is a bargain at that price.

James M. Clarke, President
Patterson Avenue Tool Co.
Glenview, Ill.

Keep 'em coming! Letters must be signed and include the writer's address. The *Journal of Light Construction* reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, and clarity. Mail letters to JLC, RR 2, Box 146, Richmond, VT 05477; or e-mail to 76176.2053@compuserve.com.