JUNE 15, 2024

NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY UPDATED INDUSTRY NEWS

AMERICANS WANT POLICYMAKERS TO ACT ON HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

According to the latest press release from NAHB , Nearly four out of five Americans agree that the country is in the midst of a housing affordability crisis and that officials at all levels of government are not doing enough to address this vital issue , according to a survey conducted by the polling firm Morning Consult on behalf of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

- *80% said policymakers should factor in housing affordability when considering new laws and regulations.*
- *74% said government should provide incentives to builders and developers to create more housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income households.*
- *65% would support replacing the mortgage interest deduction with an annual tax credit for mortgage interest that can be widely claimed by middle-class home owners.*
- *64% support incentivizing local governments to ease zoning regulations that prevent the construction of more affordable housing.*
- *56% said that it is important to create more medium-density housing that is affordable to moderate-income households, younger households and first-time home buyers.*

INDUSTRY LEADING ENGINEER

York Engineering is a civil engineering firm, specializing in designs for production and custom homes. Their mission is to provide engineering in an approachable, practical, and efficient way. The York team has committed to making the Mono Slab® change by helping those in need of plan and engineering changes. York Engineering designs are cost effective and delivered quickly and efficiently.

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FROST PROTECTED SHALLOW FOUNDATIONS

National Centers for Environmental Information
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

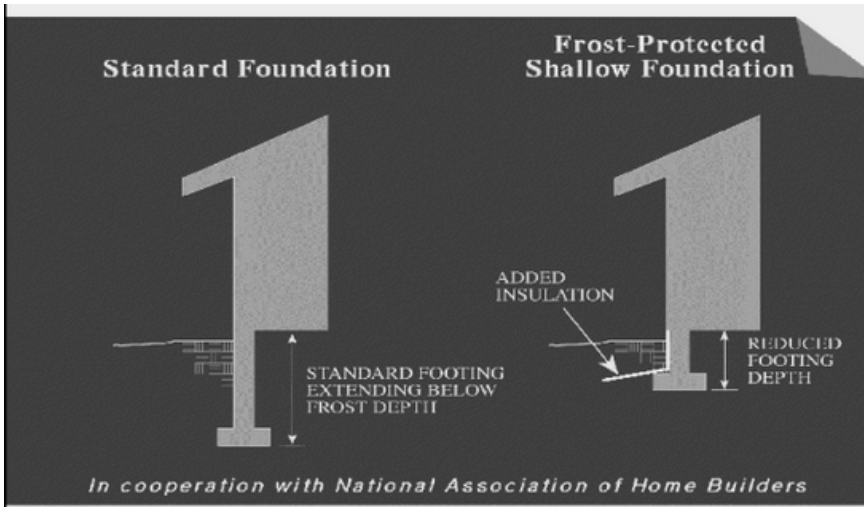
A frost protected shallow foundation (FPSF) is a practical alternative to deeper, more-costly foundations in cold regions with seasonal ground freezing and the potential for frost heave. An FPSF incorporates strategically placed insulation to raise the frost depth around a building, which allows for foundation depths as shallow as 16 inches even in the most severe climates (see Figure 1). This method has been used extensively in Nordic countries, where over one million FPSF homes have been constructed successfully over the last 40 years. Scandinavia considers FPSF a standard practice for residential buildings.

The Air-Freezing Index (AFI) is a common metric for determining the freezing severity of the winter season. AFI values represent the seasonal magnitude and duration of below-freezing air and can be used to estimate the maximum depth of frost penetration, which is useful for determining the depth of shallow foundation construction.

An accurate estimate of maximum soil frost depth is one important factor in construction costs and building foundations. AFI data and maps have been calculated using temperature data from the 1951–1980 and 1981–2010 Climate Normals.

Cautionary Note When Using AFI Values: *Topographic variability, proximity to bodies of water, and urban heat effects should be considered when using these data. For those locations or if the planned construction site is not located nearby a station that has AFI data, using a combination of the AFI map and the most representative city(s) AFI value(s) is advisable.*

Figure 1: *Standard Foundation compared to Frost Protected Shallow Foundation*



"Frost Protected Shallow Foundations." National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), 17 Jan. 2023, www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/land-based-station/frost-protected-shallow-foundations.

National Centers for Environmental Information
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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

WHAT IS EPS?

What is Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam?
The word Styrofoam™ is often used to describe expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam; however, 'Styrofoam' is actually a trademarked term for closed-cell extruded polystyrene foam made for thermal insulation and craft applications. EPS foam is the correct term for any form of expanded polystyrene.
Expanded Polystyrene insulation is a lightweight, rigid, closed cell insulation. EPS is available in several compressive strengths to withstand load and back-fill forces. This closed-cell structure provides minimal water absorption and low vapor permanence.

EPS is extremely "GREEN". NEVER any CFC's, NEVER any HCFC's.
Expanded Polystyrene has always been CFC- and HCFC-free.

EPS BENEFITS

Commonly used as insulation for walls, foundations and roofing, there are many benefits to selecting EPS products:

- Long-term R-Value ("R" is the resistance to heat flow)
- Energy efficiency
- Constant thermal resistance
- Measurable energy savings
- Strength
- Sustainability
- No growth of bacteria, nor will it decay over time
- Dimensional stability
- Chemical inertness
- Low cost

A cost efficient, high performing alternative to extruded (XPS) foam, EPS is the perfect choice for many insulation and construction applications.

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Mono Slab® EZ Form LLC