

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



**At BASF, we don't
build homes, we
help make it more
energy efficient.**

Customer: American PolySteel
End-Use: High-Performance Homes
Product: Styropor® Expandable Polystyrene Foam

Challenge: When the City of Lubbock Texas was awarded money from the Federal Government's Community Development Block Grant funds to demolish and reconstruct homes in challenged but improvable areas of the city, Brad Reed recognized his chance of a lifetime to rebuild homes the right way this time around.

Several neighborhoods were identified as candidates for improvement. The houses in those neighborhoods typically were beyond rehabilitation. Issues such as structural instability, high energy use, bad designs and lead based paints made them ideal candidates for demolition and reconstruction.

With rising energy costs and the increased incidents of severe weather (Lubbock sits in what is commonly referred to as Tornado Alley), Reed, Senior Housing Inspector for the Community Development Department in Lubbock, was looking for a solution that would provide homeowners with quality homes that were energy efficient and tornado resistant.

SOLUTION: After studying different construction methods, Reed set out for Albuquerque, NM to attend a training seminar on American PolySteel's insulating concrete form (ICF) products. He was so impressed; he returned to Lubbock and piloted the construction of the first ICF home under a new construction program called "Home Investment Partnership."

At the beginning of the program, owners were given the option of having their home rebuilt using either wood frame construction or ICF's. After gathering and analyzing cost data over three years, the City realized the operational cost savings were so great in the ICF homes, they no longer offered owners the option – every new home would now use ICF construction. The 100th ICF home was poured on 12 September 2007!

When asked about the additional costs of ICF's over traditional wood-frame construction, Reed estimates the additional costs range from \$3000 to \$4000 per house (which are typically between 1000 and 1500 square feet). Before subsidies, that figure would add less than \$24 per month to a 30 year mortgage at 6% interest and is more than made up by the savings in monthly energy bills. Monthly energy costs range from \$50 to \$75 compared to the \$150 to \$200 commonly found in non-ICF construction of similar homes.

"After the 5th or 6th ICF house we did, the homes just sold themselves," Reed says. The product most widely used is American PolySteel's innovative PS-3000 Waffle Grid Form which has several distinct advantages over traditional forms. For one, it uses 25% less concrete allowing for narrower walls to be built (a wall profile of 9 ¼ inches compared to the 11-inch profile of standard forms), while retaining a 4-hour fire rating and the same R-value of wider forms, according to Pat Murphy, president of American PolySteel.

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 **BASF**
The Chemical Company

American PolySteel's forms are made from BASF's Styropor Expandable Polystyrene Foam insulation. – the only GreenGuard Indoor Air Quality certified foam!

ICF Benefits:

- Fast & easy installation
- Unlimited design flexibility
- 4-hour fire protection
- Withstands tornados and hurricanes
- Saves energy
- Free of harmful CFC's
- Recyclable
- Cradle2Cradle certified product by MBDC

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