



Left: A stair stringer is assembled using EZ Stairs' brackets in the Palm Harbor Homes factory. The brackets are screw attached and then swiveled into place, making stringer set up fast and easy for both risers and treads. This system provides for stair construction either in the plant (center photo) or at the home site. At right a Palm Harbor model featuring stairs built with the EZ Stairs system.

Palm Harbor Homes Feature EZ Stairs' Award-Winning Technology

ALISO VIEJO, CA—EZ Stairs®, a revolutionary advancement in stair building technology, engineering and construction, is now being used by Palm Harbor Homes in the majority of their new multi-story homes in their communities across the nation. This patented stair building system and process of stair construction offers multiple benefits for the modular production industry which Palm Harbor Homes recognized and incorporated into their construction process early in 2008.

Palm Harbor starts assembly of the basic stair structure for their homes in the factory setting. At this stage the EZ Stairs brackets are attached to two 2x6 stringer members using the EZ Stairs spacers and pivot screws. The spacers, which are set according to riser height and tread width, are then removed and brackets are rotated to simultaneously adjust stair height.

Both stringers are preassembled in the factory with treads and risers fastened to the EZ Stairs brackets on each of the two stringers. As a result Palm Harbor is able to accelerate considerably stair building assembly time since the brackets are ICC-ES accepted as joist hangers. This allows the risers to act as load bearing joists, spanning across the stair between the two stringers. As a result only two stringers are needed regardless of the width. The two stringer system is of particular value in the modular/factory-built environment due to substantially lower costs that result from using this efficient, streamlined technique.

Actual installation of the stairs for Palm Harbor Homes can occur either on the assembly line or on site. Depending on the particular home model preassembled stairs are set in place for connection to landings and assembled together. EZ Stairs new Tongue & Groove interior system combined with pre-finished risers and treads were used in the Palm Harbor Model Homes in the 2009 IBS Show Village.

Up to 80% of the finished trim work labor that is traditionally required is completely eliminated with this new innovative T&G application equating to major cost savings, increased productivity and additional profits. This new interior stair system now allows tract, modular, factory-built and custom home builders to construct and install fully finished classic knee-wall stairs in three hours or less.

Research has shown that builders save an average of 36% per flight of stairs using The EZ Stair System compared to traditional methods of construction. The bottom line is that the whole

interior stair building process has been drastically simplified by using the most innovative, accurate and seamless system that has ever been available.

Additional key reasons impacting the ease of EZ Stairs integration into the modular, production and factory-built setting include:

- Short learning curve and easy cross training mean anyone on the crew is able to build stairs.
- The overall design of the entire system where the brackets automatically and accurately adjust to the exact rise and run every time, eliminating mistakes and loss of material.
- EZ Stairs is the only fully engineered wood stair system where only two outside stringers are required.
- The risers are structural, spanning across the stair like floor joists, exceeding IBC load requirements by a ratio of 12 to 1.
- The stringer also serves as the skirt board giving a classic knee wall look.
- The system is fast, accurate and strong and can be built on the assembly line as Palm Harbor does or on site, allowing flexibility for last minute customer changes in floor finish thickness which is often a problem with pre-built stairs.
- EZ Stairs can be used for simple basement stairs or fully finished hardwood stairs. With finished stairs pre-finished risers and treads may be used adding an additional layer of savings up to \$500 for a full flight which can equate to over \$1000+ for a multi-story house and goes directly to the bottom line.

Overall the advantages for changing from traditional construction to EZ Stairs were clear for Palm Harbor Homes who have now made EZ Stairs the preferred stair construction method for all of their multi-story homes.

EZ Stairs brackets are dual purpose for all interior and exterior applications and are available in stainless steel as the optimal solution for salt water climates. These brackets are also phosphate treated and powder coated for ACQ compatibility and harsh weather environments.

EZ Stairs has been ICC-ES approved for both residential and commercial construction. The full report may viewed online at www.ez-stairs.com.

For more information on EZ Stairs contact Gordon Walker, EZ Stairs president, at 866.693.9570, email gwalker@ez-stairs.com or circle Reader Service No. 66.

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