

## THE CUTTING EDGE

The EPS Molders Association represents more than 50 U.S. and Canadian manufacturers of building insulation products – and almost just as many applications. Expanded polystyrene (EPS) is used in a variety of building projects from the foundation up. To bring you the latest in EPS product development, testing and building code issues, *EPS Newslines* is a great source, helping you to envision how EPS may fit into your next project. Insulation materials have long been recognized for their energy efficiency. After all, that's their primary function. But with volatile energy costs, products that provide savings and sustainability have gained increased attention. EPS insulation significantly improves the energy efficiencies of any building project, either as an integral part of a structure or as a minor building component. Two articles in this issue highlight how EPS' versatility and efficiency make it a perfect choice for an innovative ICF research home and an easy solution to insulate basement walls. Other EPS solutions highlighted in this issue include an innovative hockey rink constructed of EPS geofoam and resources on how to recycle EPS building and construction products. To find out more about the use and performance of EPS applications visit our website at [www.epsmolders.org](http://www.epsmolders.org).

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Executive Director

# Recycling EPS Roofing Insulation Offers Environmental and Cost-Savings Benefits

Construction material waste has come under greater scrutiny as states get more aggressive about recycling goals. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recycling construction and demolition (C&D) materials conserves landfill space, reduces the environmental impact of producing new materials, creates jobs and can reduce overall building project expenses through avoided disposal costs.



Builders and contractors are being asked to recycle materials rather than landfill construction debris but often find it difficult to find recyclers. One company, Nationwide Foam, Inc. of Framingham, Massachusetts, offers foam insulation removal and recycling services throughout North America. The company collects foam insulation boards (EPS, XEPS, ISO and composite) as well as membranes (EPDM, TPO, PVC) from tear-off flat roof industrial jobsites. Last year Nationwide Foam recycled over two million pounds of foam insulation.

In April 2009 the Denver Public School system partnered with Nationwide to recycle materials from 11 scheduled school re-roofing projects. It's estimated that over 20 tons of EPDM and foam insulation will be recycled.

Recycling the foam board at the construction site can contribute to U.S. Green Building

Council LEED points. Builders seeking LEED certification can earn Materials & Resources points for recycling nonhazardous C&D debris. The builder must develop and implement a construction waste management plan that identifies the materials to be diverted from disposal.

Since LEED works throughout the building lifecycle, including significant retrofit, a waste reduction area to consider is recycling EPS insulation from roofing repair or replacement. Building owners, architects and contractors can earn extra LEED credits by recycling insulation from jobsites.

Nationwide Foam's Green Disposal Alternative is easy to implement at a job site. After removing the roof, the rolled membrane is stacked on pallets, the foam sheets are piled in manageable stacks and both are placed on a trailer provided by Nationwide Foam. When the trailers are almost full, a member of Nationwide's logistics team swap them out, leaving no down time. To ensure customer satisfaction, Nationwide Foam sends a Field Representative to each job site to perform a basic inspection of the material and to confirm that the foam removal and loading is proceeding smoothly.

Nationwide Foam offers foam removal and recycling services in all 50 states and Canada. Their service is available daily to meet any job site schedule or contractor requirements. They remove, transport and recycle the foam insulation.

Nationwide Foam's recycling program saves money and helps builders meet their environmental goals. When planning a roof repair or replacement project contact Nationwide Foam at [www.nationwidefoam.com](http://www.nationwidefoam.com) or 888-820-2760 ■