

## WISE CHOICE FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

### THE EARTH-FRIENDLY FOUNDATION

The wood-framed raised floor is right for the environment and a wise choice for sustainable community development.

Raised wood floor foundations support the floodplain management principle of “No Adverse Impact” on the rights of neighboring property owners and communities. Conversely, slab-on-fill developments alter the natural floodplain, causing higher water levels and more frequent flooding.

A pier-and-beam foundation is far less disruptive to natural surroundings than slab-on-grade. Slabs smother the root systems of valuable trees. On the other hand, raised floor pier footers cause minimal disruption to roots, saving trees that might otherwise be removed near a slab.

Future structural modifications, additions or repairs can be easily accomplished with a raised wood foundation. These tasks can be completed with less environmental damage, lower energy output, and without expensive and complex technologies.

Wood-framed raised floor systems leave a softer environmental footprint compared to alternatives like concrete and steel. Wood is the only renewable building material, whereas steel and concrete production use finite resources, require more energy and emit more pollutants.

### A FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

More raised wood floor foundations mean healthier forests. As wood product demand increases, foresters respond by planting more trees. Even though 97% of North American homes are framed with wood and we use more wood per capita than anyone else in the world, our forests cover about the same land area as they did 100 years ago. Furthermore, these forests have expanded by 12 million acres over the past 25 years.

Forests also help fight global warming. Growing forests generate life-sustaining oxygen while capturing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas considered to be a major factor in global warming. For every ton of wood grown, a young forest produces 1.07 tons of oxygen and absorbs 1.47 tons of carbon dioxide.

Reforestation efforts are added assurance that future generations will enjoy the many benefits of healthy forests.

#### About SFPA

The Southern Forest Products Association is a nonprofit trade association



that has represented manufacturers of Southern Pine lumber since 1915. Today, SFPA is the leading source of information about Southern Pine products for design/build professionals and consumers. Builders, dealers, designers and DIYers rely on SFPA to provide accurate and unbiased information on the proper use of Southern Pine lumber products. For more information, visit [SouthernPine.com](http://SouthernPine.com).

The conditions under which lumber is used in construction may vary widely, as does the quality of workmanship. Neither SFPA, nor its members, have knowledge of the quality of materials, workmanship or construction methods used on any construction project and, accordingly, do not warrant the technical data, design or performance of the lumber in completed structures.



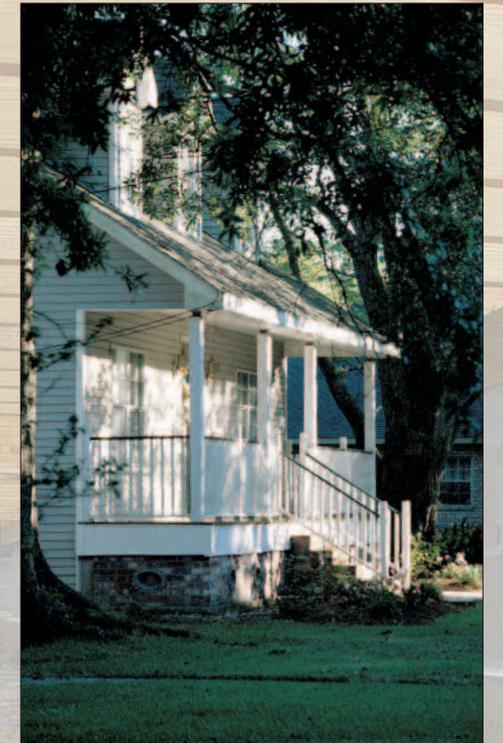
## WE CAN HELP

SFPA offers construction guides, online continuing education, a product locator, even a building professional locator. Get the facts at [RaisedFloorLiving.com](http://RaisedFloorLiving.com).

[SouthernPine.com](http://SouthernPine.com)  
[SouthernPineDecks.com](http://SouthernPineDecks.com)  
[RaisedFloorLiving.com](http://RaisedFloorLiving.com)



Secure and Sustainable Living for Family, Community and the Planet



A raised floor system framed with sustainable, locally sourced wood products adds value for homeowners and homebuilders alike.

# Build

TO A HIGHER STANDARD

[RaisedFloorLiving.com](http://RaisedFloorLiving.com)

## HOMEOWNERS: RAISE YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

Repeated flood losses and expensive repairs are a fact of life for many homeowners with slab-on-grade foundations. Today, more homeowners are discovering the security and sustainability of an elevated, wood-framed foundation.

Find your raised floor building pro at  
[RaisedFloorLiving.com](http://RaisedFloorLiving.com)

**CURB APPEAL.** Like a pedestal, a raised foundation adds stature and grace that enhances curb appeal and celebrates the classic American home and lifestyle.

**UPLIFTING COMFORT.** The raised floor home nurtures the body and soul. The subtle yield of a raised floor joist system means walking comfort and less stress on back, legs and feet. From window or porch, the raised floor changes an ordinary view to a vista.

**LIFETIME FOUNDATION.** Expect a lifetime of strength, stability and durability with Southern Pine framing. And pressure treatment adds resistance to decay and termites.

**EXTENDED LIVING SPACE.** Porches, decks and sunrooms are natural amenities for a raised floor home, extending the living area outdoors.

**SIMPLE FOUNDATION.** All foundations settle, but pier-and-beam or crawlspace systems are simple to level and repair. A sinking, cracked concrete slab is very expensive to fix.



**EASY HOME IMPROVEMENT.** Installation, maintenance and modification of utilities and plumbing are within easy reach under floor. Remodeling is a breeze.

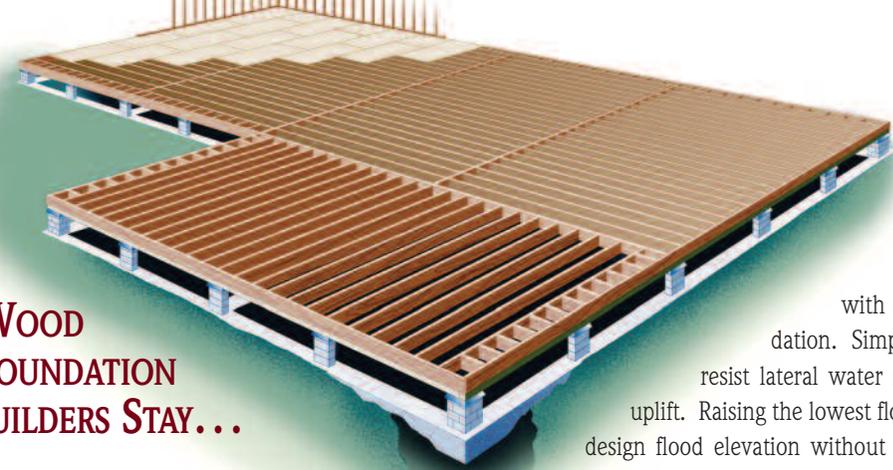
**NATURAL INSULATOR.** Wood is a natural insulator. A properly constructed and insulated raised wood floor foundation is energy efficient and provides a comfortable walking surface.

**HIGH AND DRY.** The raised floor can reduce flood risk. It is the practical choice to meet or exceed base flood elevation requirements and can save homeowners more than 50% on flood insurance premiums.

**PEST PROTECTED.** Elevated off the ground, raised floor homes provide families a naturally dry environment that isolates the living space from moisture-loving pests and mold. Pest inspection is easy under floor, and proper barriers deter termite entry.

**FLEXIBLE LANDSCAPING.** Built-up flower beds located against a slab can invite termite infestation and rot. Landscaping around a raised foundation minimizes that risk, plus it complements rather than hides the home. A raised pier-and-beam system can preserve valuable energy-saving shade trees near the foundation that might otherwise require removal with slab-on-grade.

**GREEN FOUNDATION.** The green homeowner chooses a foundation made from renewable, sustainable wood. Healthy and expanding U.S. forests are responsibly managed, harvested and replanted. Production of wood building materials is a low-energy, low-pollution process. Unlike slab-on-fill developments, raised wood floor communities do not adversely impact the natural floodplain and worsen flooding.



## A RAISED WOOD FLOOR FOUNDATION HELPS BUILDERS STAY...

**NOTICED.** In markets dominated by ordinary slab-on-grade homes, homebuilders can establish and grow a distinctive market niche by offering a practical and affordable raised wood-framed foundation that meets the higher expectations of today's homebuyer.

**IN DEMAND.** Join the "Building Pro Locator" at [www.RaisedFloorLiving.com](http://www.RaisedFloorLiving.com), where savvy homebuyers go to find a builder. Sign-up is easy and free.

**COMPETITIVE.** A raised wood floor foundation can meet or beat slab-on-grade costs, especially on challenging building sites such as those with poor soils or sloping lots. In flood zones, the raised floor builder saves even more time and money by avoiding the added expense of pouring a slab on a backfilled perimeter wall.

**ON SCHEDULE.** The raised floor builder avoids holdups that delay slab-on-grade projects. There is no wait for the plumbing inspector to show, or the site to dry after a storm – situations that can postpone the concrete pour for a slab foundation.

**ABOVE WATER.** Flood zone requirements are easy to achieve and fill restrictions are a non-issue with raised floor foundations. Elevating the floor height at or above the required base flood elevation avoids clumsy alternatives such as slab atop fill or a backfilled perimeter wall.



### CODE COMPLIANT.

Meeting code in flood and wind zones is easy with a raised wood floor foundation. Simple hardware connections resist lateral water movement, flotation and uplift. Raising the lowest floor to meet or exceed the design flood elevation without fill is easy. Wood-frame designs can resist winds up to 150 mph or higher, and at less cost than concrete or steel.

**AWAY FROM FILL.** Raised wood floor foundations need little or no fill. Fill is costly, and may require special site and environmental permits. Completion of fill grading, compaction and de-watering can take weeks.

**TENSION FREE.** Post-tension cable systems are a time-consuming and costly technology installed to minimize slab failure in problem soils. The cost-effective answer to expansive clays or soil subsidence is a raised wood floor foundation. Raised pier-and-beam systems allow expansive clays to "flow" around the footings.

**ON THE UPGRADE.** Homeowners welcome upgrades that naturally harmonize with a raised foundation — a front porch, screened back porch or sunroom, or a rear deck. The added security of termite-resistant framing is also a wise upgrade on any foundation. If needed, an access ramp is easy to blend into the design.



**GREEN.** The "green" builder chooses locally sourced Southern Pine under many recognized forest certification programs, including the American Tree Farm System, Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council. These programs are recognized by the National Association of Home Builders' Model Green Home Building Guidelines.

