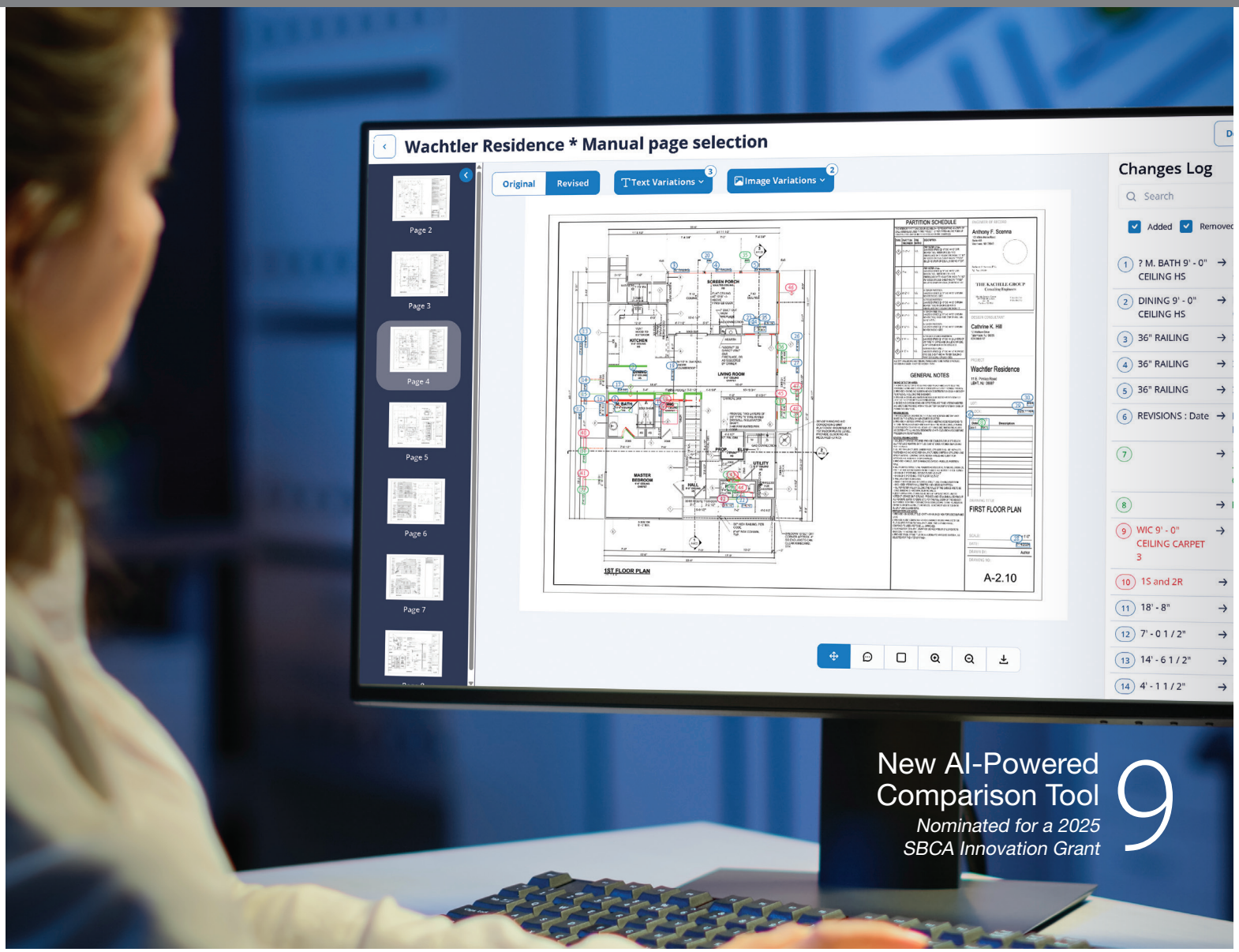
Professional tools, trends, and insights for North American Construction

GOOD CONNECTIONS®

ALPINE® AN ITW COMPANY

FALL 2025



New AI-Powered Comparison Tool 9

Nominated for a 2025 SBCA Innovation Grant

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2025-26 UPCOMING HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

U.S.

Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday, November 27
Friday, November 28

Christmas Holiday
Wednesday, December 24
Thursday, December 25

New Year Holiday
Thursday, January 1

CANADA

Thanksgiving
Monday, October 13

New Year Holiday
Thursday, January 1

Holiday Closure
Wednesday, December 24 – Friday, December 26

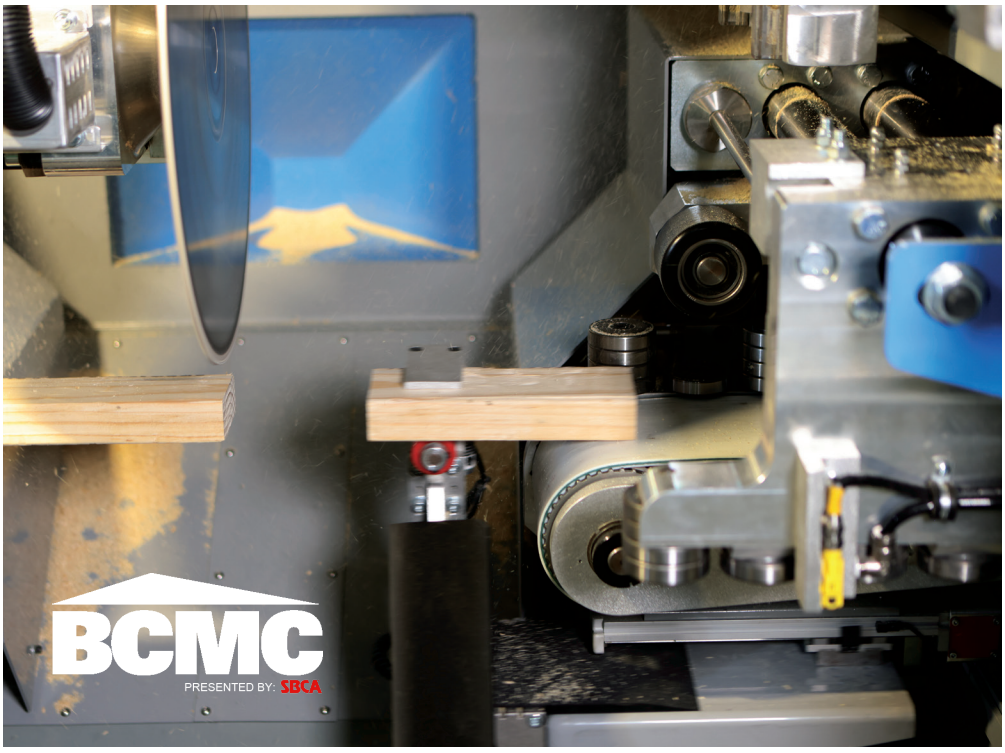
ALPINE academy

SIGN UP HERE

2025 ALPINE ACADEMY UPCOMING EVENTS & WEBINARS

Organize Complex Projects using Sub-Jobs & Linked Sub-Jobs
Friday, October 17

For additional information please contact **training@alpineitw.com**



Stop by booth #1118 to learn more about our latest innovations.

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Publishers Note:

Good Connections® is published by Alpine® for its customers, associates, builders, architects, building officials, and other professionals interested in the building components industry.

At Alpine, "Good Connections" refers to the quality products and services we offer as well as the connections we have with our customers and the components they provide to the building industry.

We appreciate story ideas, project photos, and other suggestions that you have to make this an even better publication. For more information, contact marketing@alpineitw.com.

Matt Davis
Group President

Matt Davis is the Group President of the Global Offsite Construction Platform and responsible for overseeing Alpine®, Offsite Europe, and Offsite Asia Pacific businesses. Since his tenure at ITW in 2000, Matt has held various operational and commercial roles across multiple divisions. He has previously served as the Vice President and General Manager for Commercial Construction of North America as well as ITW Medical.

We entered the year with cautious optimism, an expectation for rate cuts from the Federal Reserve and the hope that housing demand would pick up during the back half of the year. If I were to ask today, what are the chances we will see those rate cuts and a resulting increase in housing starts in 2025? Some may say the odds are one in a hundred – or one in a million.

So, you're telling me there is a chance?!

While much of the near-term enthusiasm has understandably turned to accepting realism, the reasons for long-term optimism remain strong. Housing is an essential component of our overall economy, an economy that has held up reasonably well. Politics aside, this industry is cyclical and has demonstrated resilience through past downturns and recoveries. The years of undersupply have created a substantial unmet demand that will ultimately translate to more activity once market conditions stabilize.

As an industry, I am confident we will be well prepared to meet the demand. We are finding new ways to collaborate and partner more effectively across the value chain. We are becoming more innovative through the use of technology to improve the efficiency of our processes, solutions, and operational productivity. This will result in a renewed cycle of growth and shared success.

The upcoming BCMC show provides another opportunity to strengthen longstanding partnerships and develop new ones. It is a chance to collaborate and get excited about the opportunities that lay ahead. Join us for our annual Customer Appreciation Event on Wednesday evening at The Diamond Room. It promises to be a memorable, fun-filled evening inspired by the excitement of Vegas– with lady luck on our side, this is an experience you won't want to miss.

As always, Alpine® will proudly continue to partner and support our customers. And, when it comes to those one-in-a million odds, I think the house is on our side – we're betting on success.

Stay Classy, Omaha!

INDUSTRY NEWS

BCMC 2025

Building Component Manufacturers Conference (BCMC) 2025 will be held on Monday, September 29, through Friday, October 3, at the CHI Health Center in Omaha, NE. Stop by booth #1118 to learn more about our latest component manufacturing innovations. LEARN MORE

Overall Housing Starts

In the U.S., overall housing starts in 2025 rose to an annualized rate of 1,320,000 units. This continuous rise depicts a positive outlook on housing starts for the upcoming months. LEARN MORE

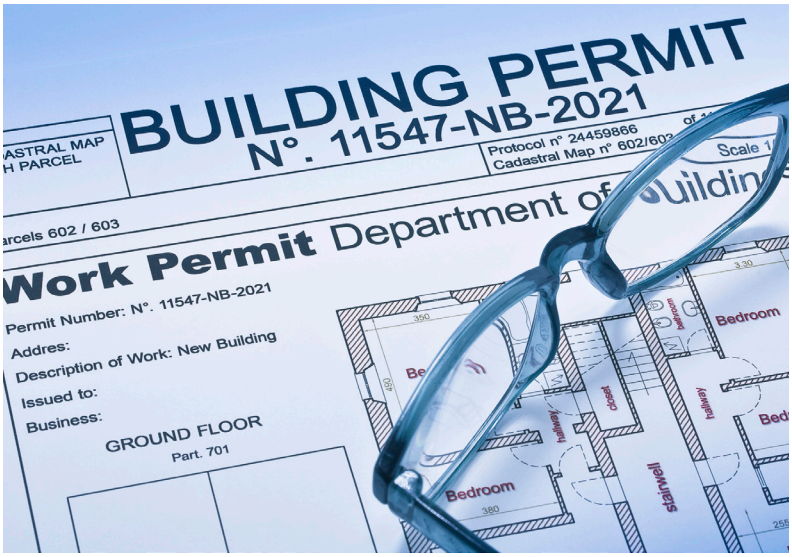
Housing Market Predictions for 2026

As written by Market Watch in July 2025, housing analysts expect the U.S. housing market to rise 1.2% in 2026. LEARN MORE

NAHB IBS 2026

Visit Alpine® at booth #W7559 at the upcoming International Builders' Show 2026 from Tuesday, February 17, through February 19 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. LEARN MORE

INTELLIVIEW® SOFTWARE 25 SERIES | BUILDING CODE



New Building Code Highlights

Updated standards for building code compliance:

- ASCE 7-22 Loading Standard for Wind, Snow & Tornado
- Out of Plane Wind Loading Analysis & Design

Improved UI for Wind and Snow Loading, plus improvements to Deflection and Web Reinforcement design.

ASCE ?

Check out the ASCE Hazard Tool

Jenai Alexis
Unit Manager of Equipment

Jenai Alexis has transitioned to Business Unit Manager of Equipment. In this role, he is responsible for driving our equipment business.

Rachel Hoops
National Sales Manager

Rachel Hoops has joined Alpine® as a National Sales Manager.

Sam Tran
District Sales Manager

Sam Tran has joined Alpine as the District Sales Manager in the Western region and will be working with CMs in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Alaska, and Montana.

Kevin Witt
District Sales Manager

Kevin Witt has joined Alpine as the District Sales Manager in the Mid-Atlantic region and will be working with CMs in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

April Burt
Customer Insights Manager

April Burt has joined Alpine as the Customer Insights Manager.

Joseph Hanson
Software Trainer

Joseph Hanson has joined Alpine as a Software Trainer. In this role, he is responsible for educating Alpine software users on the IntelliVIEW® Suite Software.

Clayton Forsyth
Help Desk Analyst

Clayton Forsyth has joined Alpine as a Help Desk Analyst. He is responsible for providing software support for Alpine Software.

Benton Dodd
Helpdesk Analyst

Benton Dodd has joined Alpine as a Help Desk Analyst. He is responsible for providing software support for Alpine Software.

Jared Lasher
Software Consultant

Jared Lasher has joined Alpine as a Software Consultant. In this role, he is responsible for providing customer support to maximize the value of Alpine software.

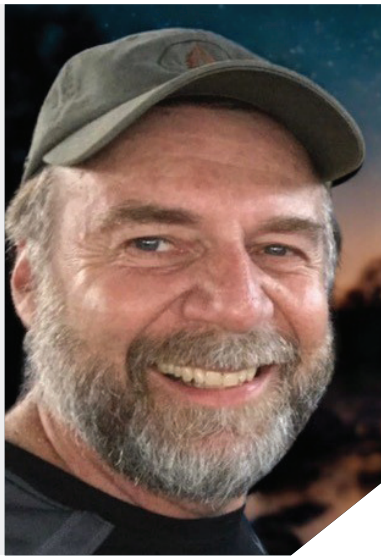
Discover your potential with Alpine®!

We're proud to promote a collaborative, inclusive, and creative work culture. Learn how you can join our team: *https://alpineitw.com/about-us/careers/*

CONGRATULATIONS

Bryan Randall

With over 25 years of experience in the component manufacturing industry, Bryan Randal is retiring from his position as District Sales Manager at Alpine®. His knowledge, motivation, and connection with customers have made a lasting impact, and he will be greatly missed by colleagues and clients alike. We wish Bryan all the best in his well-deserved retirement!



EXPLORE THE NEXT-GENERATION OF SOLUTIONS AT BCMC 2025

Alpine® will be leading an engineering educational session presented by SBCA and featuring live equipment and software demonstrations in **booth #1118**.

We are excited to exhibit at the Building Component Manufacturers Conference (BCMC) and Framers Summit (FS) in Omaha on October 1-2, 2025. Exhibiting at booth #1118, we will be highlighting the latest solutions designed to help make component manufacturers (CMs) more profitable and competitive. The booth will feature live equipment and software demonstrations with productivity enhancements – as well as a Tuesday educational session, Truss Manufacturer's Guide to Understanding 2024 IBC & IRC, delivered by Alpine's Chief Engineering Managers, William Krick, PE and David Rothweiler, PE.

"After spending 22 years in the construction industry, I've learned each year brings new challenges – challenging CMs to rethink operations and workflows to unlock efficiencies. BCMC provides a platform that pulls designers, plant managers, owners, and suppliers together to learn, network, and engage with the community as a whole" said Michael Schwitter, Director of Sales. "Alpine is committed to partnering with CMs to solve problems, our latest advancements will help push the boundaries of productivity and precision that will allow the industry to meet the demands of the market."

ALPINE SOFTWARE

"We are incredibly excited to introduce Alpine Connect™ and these powerful new features," said Rick Tilelli, Alpine Director of Software Development. "Our customers consistently ask for solutions that simplify their workflows, improve collaboration, and help them operate faster while reducing costly rework. With Alpine Connect and the latest IntelliVIEW® Suite enhancements, we directly address those needs, empowering them to operate more efficiently and collaboratively than ever before."

Alpine Connect is a cloud-based design and project management software suite designed to maximize estimating and design efficiency while fostering seamless, multi-disciplinary collaboration. "It is built to enhance the deep relationships Alpine is already known for," added Michael Schwitter, Director of Sales. "By providing a tool that improves communication and problem-solving, Alpine Connect™ reinforces our dedication to partnership while delivering value-driven solutions."

Alpine Connect™ platform includes powerful new features such as:

SBCA Innovation Grant-nominated **Plan Comparison Tool** leverages AI technology to improve floor plan review. It quickly identifies differences between plans, automatically matching pages and detecting text, structural, and visual differences. This speeds up reviews, eliminates potential errors, and facilitates better multidisciplinary collaboration by enabling users to easily share comments and tag team members.

"Alpine® remains dedicated to providing solutions that optimize plant operations and safe environments for CMs."— Jenai Alexis, Equipment Business Unit Manager

The Alpine® Team is excited to share the highlights of the new IntelliVIEW® Suite 2025 Series with attendees, as an opportunity to showcase new and improved software functionality.

New EWP Capabilities: Alpine introduces Engineered Wood Products (EWP) input improvements, which include streamlined design tools for EWP and dynamic framing modifications to improve workflows.

IntelliVIEW® Paperspace Tool: Alpine's 2D page layout environment is enhanced with templates for large layouts, linked schedules, and blocks with drawings to streamline documentation.

ALPINE EQUIPMENT

"Alpine remains dedicated to providing solutions that optimize plant operations and safe environments for CMs," said Jenai Alexis, Equipment Business Unit Manager. He continued, "The 2025 spring launch of the latest generation of the Alpine Linear Saw is an excellent example and testament to our commitment to innovation. This saw maintains the accuracy and reliability our customers trust, with engineering enhancements that maximize board footage per shift, improves the handling of small components, and added preventive maintenance capabilities." There will be live equipment demonstrations, offering attendees a firsthand look.

The unveiling of the **Alpine Linear Saw (ALS) 5.0** at last year's show provides a new level of performance. The live demonstrations will highlight the automated double-stacking infeed that improves the cutting workflow and speed, a small component delivery system to the outfeed, enhanced printing capabilities, and waste minimization. The ALS also features a new user-interface, cut optimization, and maintenance dashboard to help streamline the production process.

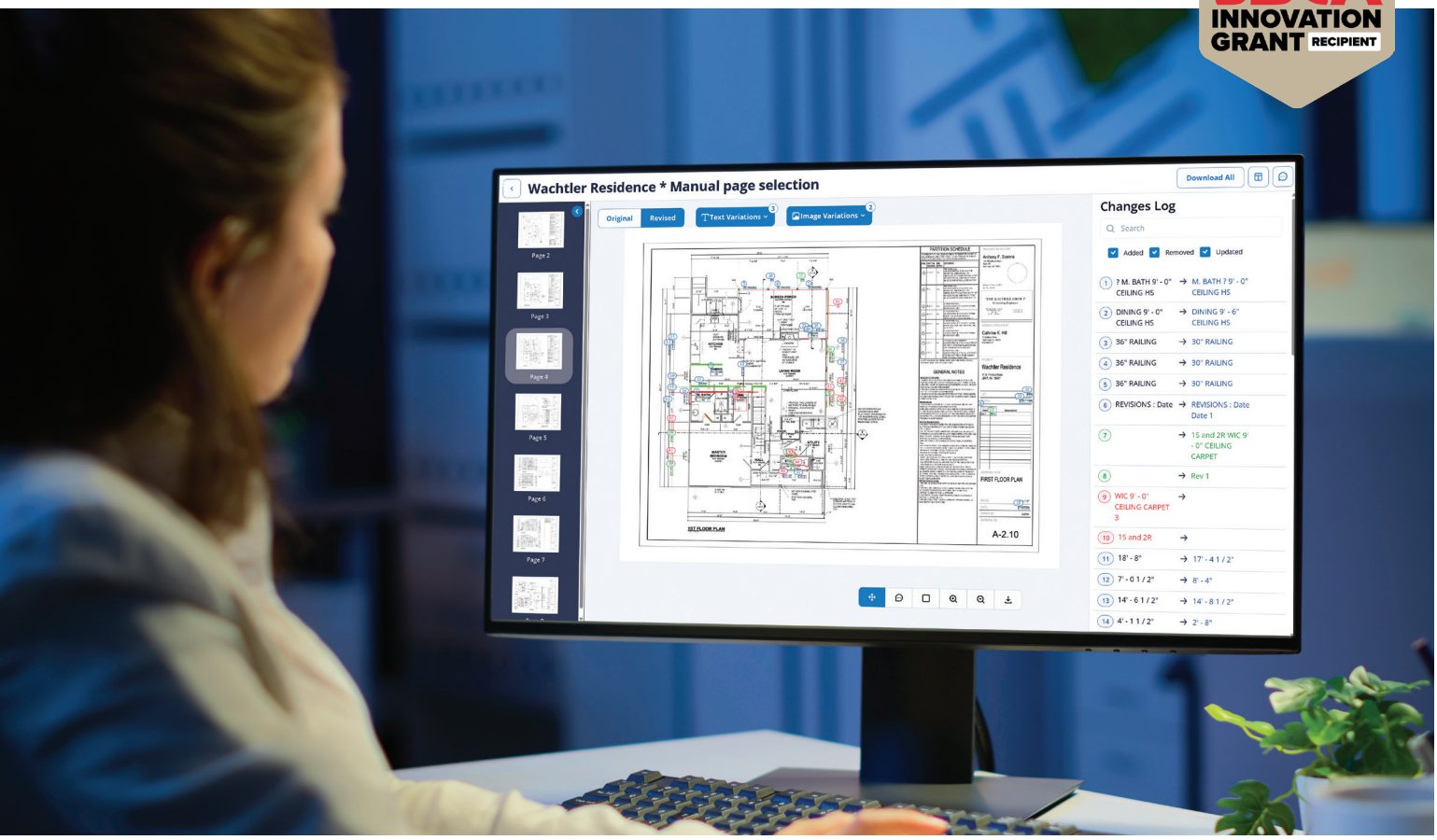
With set up in less than 25 seconds, the **Alpine AutoSet Plus Table** sets benchmarks in truss production efficiency and accuracy. This computer-controlled system is easy to learn, use, and maintain. Automated steel pucks help workers maintain a consistent workflow with higher accuracy and reduce assembler fatigue.

Book Your Private Demo

Email *info@alpineitw.com* now to book your private software or product demonstrations. Take an opportunity to see the Alpine® technology in action and how it can add value to your business – Build More.

SIMPLIFY FLOOR PLAN REVIEW

A New AI-Powered Comparison Tool



The Plan Comparison Tool shows a log of all changes made to a plan during revisions.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology is transforming design and project management workflows. By removing redundancies and automating tedious tasks, AI helps designers work faster. Reviewing architectural drawings, floor plans, and construction documents can be painful, and important changes can be missed. However, by integrating AI, this process becomes faster, simpler, and more efficient.

COMPARE PDFS WITH AI-TECHNOLOGY FOR FASTER REVIEWS

The AI-powered Plan Comparison Tool, nominated for the 2025 SBCA Innovation Grant, allows component designers and managers to quickly identify differences between plans without manually scanning PDFs for changes. At the core of this tool is Smart Compare, an AI technology that

helps to align and compare relevant architectural drawings. It automatically matches pages, preload comparisons, and detects text, structural, and visual differences, saving time. This workflow speeds up the process and eliminates the potential for costly errors while facilitating better multidisciplinary collaboration.

QUICKLY IDENTIFY CHANGES WITH VISUAL REGRESSION

The new easy-to-use tool compares plans side-by-side and clearly highlights added, removed, or altered content. Whether it's images, text, drawings, blueprints, or annotations, it provides accurate detection – quickly identifying what has been added, removed, or different to keep the review process fast. Users can filter comparisons, focus on specific areas, or select individual pages based on project needs.

COLLABORATE EASILY WITH BUILT-IN REVIEW TOOLS

Effortlessly send a PDF for approval or review with the Plan Comparison Tool. The tool enables seamless collaboration directly within the platform. Users can share, comment, tag team members, and create review documents. This provides actionable insights for teams, improving communication, and better project management alignment.

Contact your Alpine® Sales Representative to learn more about how the AI-powered Plan Comparison Tool can improve designer workflow and communication.

Partnering for a New Era.

A new cloud-based platform that simplifies workflows and enables real-time multi-disciplinary collaboration—from the field, office, or plant floor.

Experience Alpine Connect™.

IntelliSheets

Access to job information to effortlessly monitor and update progress directly from the field.

Dashboards

Real-time data visualization to quickly analyze trends and make informed decisions.

Plan Comparison Tool

Easily compare floor plan revisions with an AI-powered tool to save time and improve accuracy.

Project Scheduler

Prioritize production and shipments with ease to optimize workloads and capacity.

BUILD MORE.

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ALPINE® CONNECT

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY REHKEMPER

Rehkemper has seen multiple generations of their family contribute to the growth of the building industry – starting with roof trusses that were transported on a handmade "truck bed" trailer, and evolving into the use of sophisticated, self-designed automated machinery.

Rehkemper takes pride in their humble roots. This instills a deep appreciation for where their business is today. Today, Rehkemper has four locations, introduced project management teams to expand design capacity by 200%, and a growing fleet of trucks. These successes span five decades of trials and accomplishments.

"We've tried multiple strategies to see what was needed in the construction trade, but not every trial ended in success. There were ups and downs along the way, and we learned how to make projects more cohesive. Thanks to our fearless drive to innovate the industry, we narrowed down what really works, and our clients benefit from our trial and error," said Mike Rehkemper, Owner/President.

Rehkemper has been manufacturing trusses long before trusses were the standard in the wood framing industry. When the construction field was in the dark ages of stick framing, they led the way by hosting demonstrations to highlight the advantages of trusses, effectively showcasing how offsite construction could reduce labor and improve efficiency on job sites.

"We worked with Alpine® before it was Alpine and are grateful to have seen their continued growth and ability to adapt to the changing demands of the construction industry throughout our partnership, together. Our handprints are on the legacy of truss building; we could not be prouder of how this industry has grown over the years," stated Craig Vonder Haar, Director of Operations & Design.

Roof trusses manufactured by Rehkemper.

Rehkemper wall panel manufacturing equipment.

Everyone at Alpine® would like to thank Rehkemper for their continued partnership and with the company, a Happy 50th Anniversary.

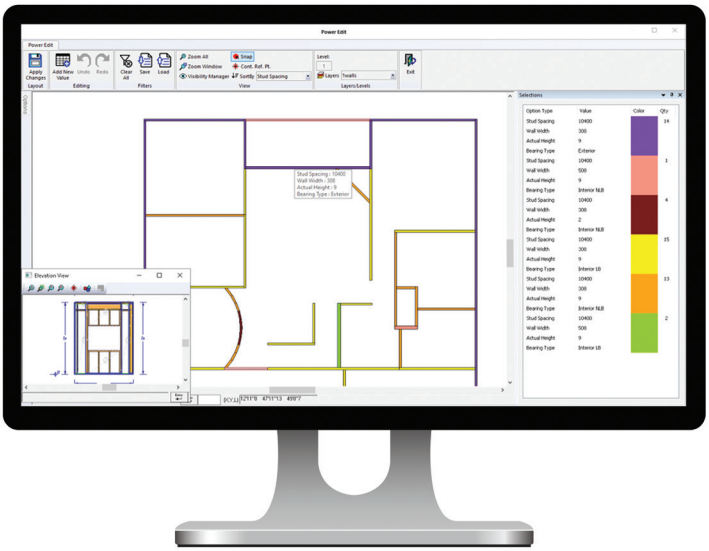
iPANEL

Design Wall Layouts, Panelize, Break, Build & Stack.

iPanel, an app within the IntelliVIEW® Suite, gives component manufacturers a comprehensive set of tools to design, detail, review, and modify wall panels. From creating wall layouts to reviewing sheathing specs, iPanel simplifies the panel design process to optimize designer efficiency while helping teams move faster and avoid potential errors.

With its intuitive graphical interface, iPanel allows designers to create and modify virtually any framing condition. Its comprehensive toolset ensures precise handling of everything from standard wall layouts to complex headers, openings, and intricate subcomponents, supporting diverse project needs. Designers can leverage iPanel's predefined libraries, intuitive parametric component creation, and shared framing rules to efficiently manage even the most specialized requirements. Walls can be designed, broken, merged, and edited easily in plan view or elevation. Openings can be managed per level, project, or builder with minimal manual effort, and fabrication rules are controlled from a central location through the iCommand® security system.

Key enhancements improve efficiency further. The Power Edit feature allows users to visually identify wall and panel properties and apply changes rapidly, while sheathing tools make it easy to create and update panel-specific sheathing. Version history ensures dynamic regeneration of panels while retaining past modifications.



Review and edit wall, panel, and opening properties.

What sets iPanel apart is how it seamlessly integrates with other Alpine® tools. Panel and Truss Designers can share layout information between iModel and iPanel. When used with eShop Panels, the workflow from design to shop production is fully connected to eliminate redundancies and reduce delays.

Whether the job calls for complex framing or repeatable builder specs, iPanel gives teams a flexible, reliable way to get it done. From design to delivery, it supports greater accuracy, faster updates, and a more efficient path to production.

To see iPanel in action, contact your Alpine® Sales Representative.

DESIGNER SHORTCUTS FOR iMODEL + iDESIGN

iModel and iDesign provide numerous tools that enhance the efficiency of designing and editing for users. The quick tips below highlight 2 features that streamline workflow – whether saving a layout on the fly or testing truss changes while saving progress.

TEMPORARY SAVE A LAYOUT OR TRUSS:

Designers often experiment with layout and truss designs to solve complex problems (e.g. enhance aesthetics, improve load distribution, or simply adapt to specific requirements). The function keys allow designers flexibility to easily change layout or truss design and, if needed, restore the previously saved file.

The F2 and F4 function keys found at the top of most keyboards will help temporarily save and restore a layout or truss. The F2 key will save a layout or truss to a temporary file that will not overwrite the working layout or truss, while the F4 key will restore the temporary layout or truss.

QUICK SAVE

Selecting the Layout button—a green roof icon located in the menu—will instantly save the current layout. This action automatically overwrites the existing file, ensuring the latest changes are saved. This is a fast, efficient method for designers to save layout changes while working, helping to safeguard work.

HOW TO QUICKLY SAVE LAYOUTS

1. The layout file is currently saved as Job123.LAY (Figure 1).

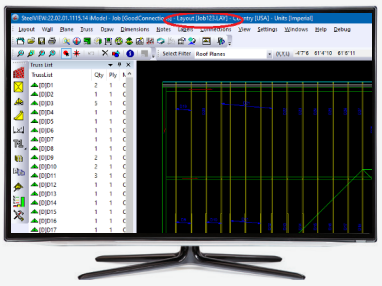
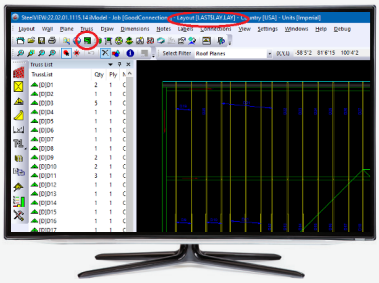


Figure 1.

2. Locate and click the Layout button in the menu to quickly save the layout and notice the file has been updated to LAST$LAY.LAY (Figure 2).

Figure 2.



F2 – TEMPORARY SAVE

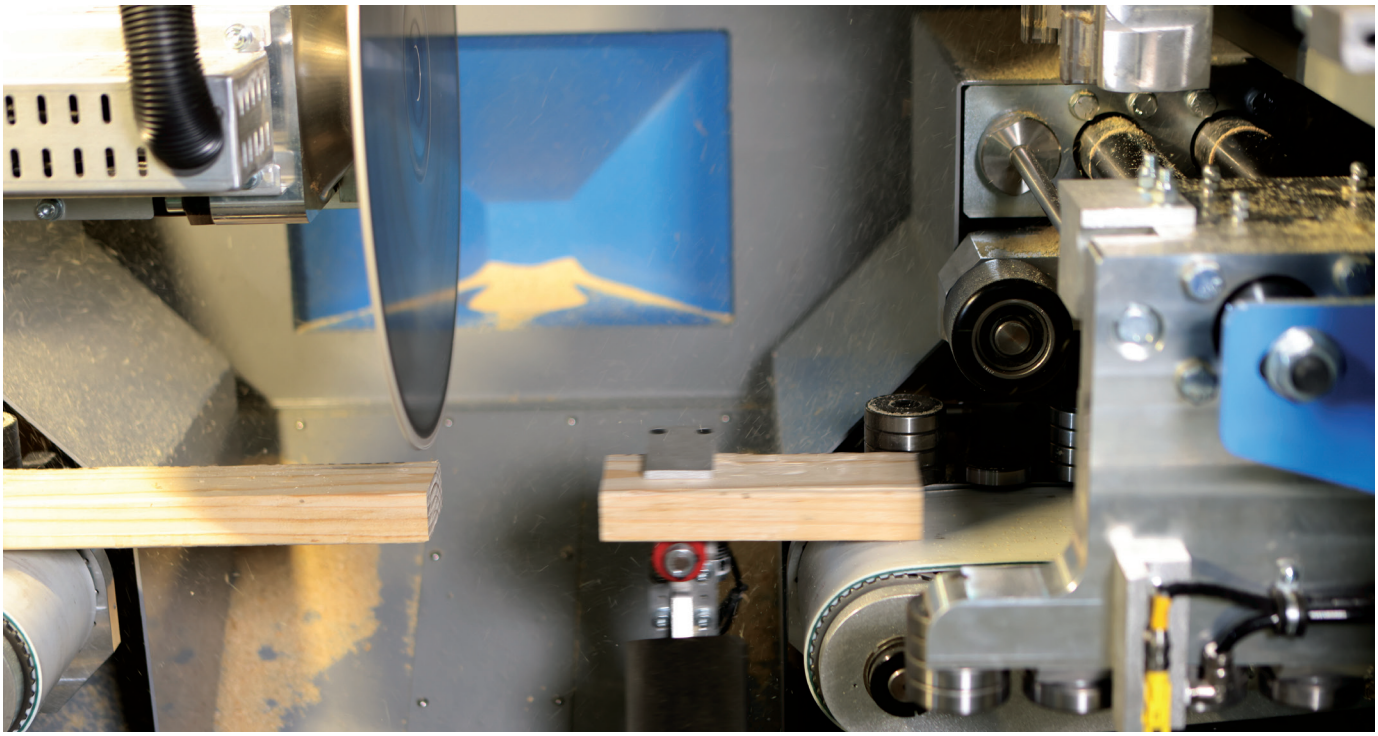
Press F2 on the keyboard. Please note that this function overwrites the previous save, it will not create multiple backups.

F4 – RESTORE

Press F4 on the keyboard > A prompt will appear asking to Restore the layout/truss > Choose "Yes" to proceed, or "No" to cancel.

ALPINE LINEAR SAW 5.0

A New Standard in Small Parts Handling



The Small Parts Handler transitioning piece to out-feeding belt.

Building on the legacy of over two decades of proven reliability and precision, the latest version of the Alpine® Linear Saw (ALS) continues Alpine's proud tradition of innovation. Designed and engineered to optimize cutting and material handling workflow, the ALS introduces a key innovation- the Small Parts Handler (SPH) – improving efficiency, accuracy, and speed throughout the cutting process. This new feature provides component manufacturers with an efficient transfer of components as small as a 6-inch-long 2x4 square cut block.

Smaller parts often disrupt production, as sawyers must manually retrieve components from a dedicated bin or waste, leading to delays in production, errors, and lost components.

SMALL PARTS HANDLER

The SPH addresses workflow bottlenecks and improves overall plant efficiency. It uses an articulated arm with a gripper and roller that operates simultaneously with the cutting process. After the leading-edge cuts are completed and before trailing cuts are performed, the arm grips the component adjacent to the saw blade.

Once the piece is cut, the arm seamlessly transfers the component onto the belt, which is delivered directly to the outfeed roll case – saving time and freeing up sawyers for other tasks, improving overall plant throughput.

ERGONOMIC IMPACT

Continuing Alpine's focus on innovation and streamlining workflow, the SPH enhancement improves plant ergonomics by reducing the need for repetitive lifting, bending, and manual sorting of small parts while minimizing risk and maintaining productivity in the plant.

Sawyers can customize the small part handling system to fit their workflow through user-defined settings to meet the plant's operating requirements.

The result is a unified outfeed system that helps simplify stacking and organization for table delivery, eliminating the need for manual sorting by using the arm to deliver small parts directly to the outfeed – keeping them separated from waste.

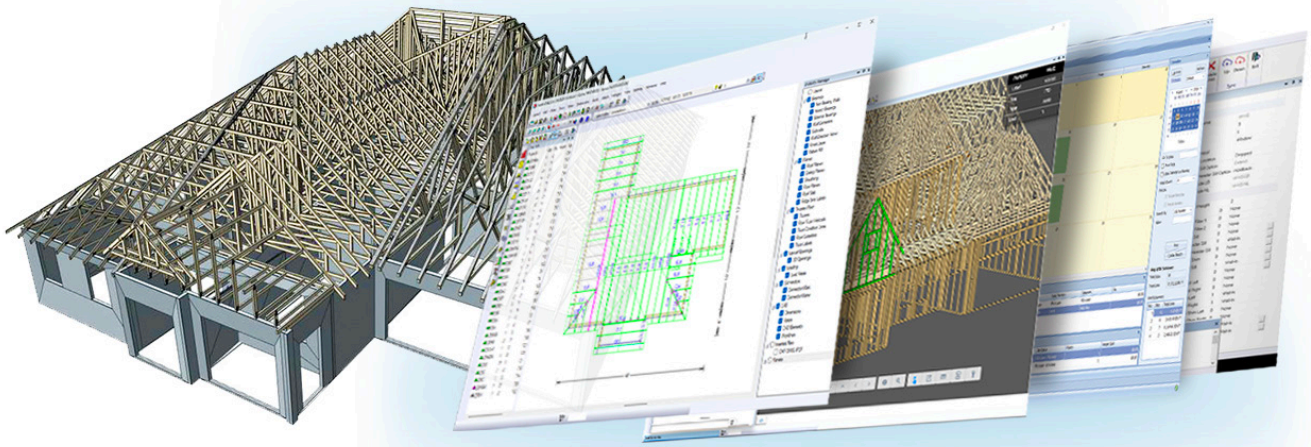
The ALS 5.0 sets a new standard in linear saw performance. Combining reliability with innovative solutions, this next-generation saw is ready to enhance productivity and improve the efficiency of the plant environment.

IntelliVIEW® SOFTWARE 25 SERIES, Fall

Enhanced Property Palette
Streamlined interface to display and modify object properties, providing centralized control, instant reflection of changes, and enhanced productivity.

IntelliVIEW® Paperspace Tool
Now with templates for large layouts, linked schedules, and blocks with drawings to streamline documentation.

Improved Load Areas Tool
Apply new load types simultaneously across a region, enhancing usability by loading multiple trusses.



New EWP Capabilities
Design tools for Engineered Wood Products (EWP) and dynamic framing modification.

DWG Performance
Optimized performance through smaller file (.lay) sizes.

Engineering Performance
Enhancements to support ASCE 7-22 requirements for more resilient, efficient designs.

Alpine® Linear Saw 5.0

With over two decades of proven reliability, durability, and accuracy, the ALS 5.0 continues our legacy of innovation. Experience a new optimized cutting workflow, improved material handling, and preventative maintenance features that improve your productivity.

Available Today.

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AN ITW COMPANY

SHOVELING THROUGH A BLIZZARD OF CONFUSION

Article courtesy of SBCA – Structural Building Components Association

Understanding the Snow Load Changes in ASCE 7-22 and How they Affect Component Manufacturers

When reviewing the 2024 version of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC), you may notice that the ground snow load figures are different than those in previous versions. So, what has changed and why? The answer is multifaceted and involves evolving design methodologies, more site-specific climatic research and data, and a more refined analysis of the ground snow dataset.

THE LOADS IMPOSED ON A STRUCTURE can consist of dead loads, live loads, wind loads, seismic loads, or snow loads. Wind, seismic, and snow loads are considered 'environmental loads' and are calculated based on factors such as a structure's location, topographic features, surrounding structures, building configuration, and the building material type. ASCE/SEI 7 Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures is the standard referenced in the building codes primarily used to determine loads, including environmental loading on structures.

Ground snow loads are the starting point used in determining roof snow loads for structural design. This is done by modifying the ground snow loads using equations and factors corresponding to the structures type, location, and configuration. To ensure the ground snow load is properly applied when designing roof trusses, it is important for the truss technician and the truss designer to understand the snow load design requirement that is being provided by the building designer.

UNDERSTANDING THE SNOW LOAD CHANGES IN ASCE 7-22 AND HOW THEY AFFECT COMPONENT MANUFACTURERS

The latest version of ASCE 7 is the 2022 version which includes changes to the snow load provisions, which is the sub- ject of this article. The table below shows what versions of ASCE 7 are referenced in the different versions of the IBC and IRC.

IBC AND IRC VERSION	ASCE 7 REFERENCE 2024
2024	7-22
2021	7-16
2018	7-16
2015	7-10
2012	7-10

UNDERSTANDING DESIGN METHODOLOGIES

To understand the rationale for the snow load changes, it is first necessary to understand the two different design methodologies used: Allowable Stress Design (ASD) and Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD). Both methods are aimed at ensuring the structural member's strength exceeds the load it is designed to support, with some safety margin factored in. Both design methods are acceptable and will ultimately provide a similar design.

ALLOWABLE STRESS DESIGN (ASD)

ASD is a traditional structural design method that compares service level loads to allowable capacities. A 'service level load' describes a load or force that a structure or component is designed to support without factoring in safety margins. Allowable stresses are determined by dividing the ultimate capacity by a safety factor. The 'ultimate capacity' describes the point at which a structural component fails and can no longer support the applied load(s). An important distinction is that ASD uses a single safety factor based on the type of load (axial, shear, moment, torsion). ASD is more efficient when the loads are well known and predictable.

LOAD AND RESISTANCE FACTOR DESIGN (LRFD).

LRFD compares reliability-targeted (strength based) ground snow load values (ultimate loads) to a maximum strength. Loads are multiplied by different load factors that vary with different load combinations, and the material strength is reduced based on uncertainties in the resistance of a structural member and the associated risk of failure under extreme events. LRFD is more efficient when there are uncertainties in the design, such as with dynamic loads like wind, seismic, or snow. **CONTINUE READING**

Click here to read the full article "Shoveling Through a Blizzard of Confusion" in SBCA Magazine

Need Help?

Solve a problem, read expert articles, watch online tutorials and access top-notch support when you need it. At Alpine®, we provide our customers with the ultimate support experience. Our passionate Help Desk team is ready to assist every step of the way to ensure you always get the most out of our software.

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