



## MILLER BUILDING COMPANY | ONE STEP AHEAD

In New Orleans, LA, Miller Building Company has taken the next step in building high performance homes in hurricane and high wind prone areas.



**Builder:** Chance Miller

**Company:** Miller Building Company

**Location:** New Orleans, LA

### OVERVIEW

Chance Miller's family has been building homes in the sultry South for four generations. New Orleans humidity in the spring and summer often clocks in at 100 percent, and construction rain delays are common as cloudbursts. Of course, builders everywhere race against Mother Nature to protect framing materials from the elements, but in states like Louisiana, she often wins.

Still, Miller has a new tool in his kit – a way to get his walls erected and protecting in one fell swoop. **He's found ZIP System® long length and wind zone sheathing to be the most effective and fastest way to guard against moisture and water intrusion.**

The ZIP long length panels comply with IBC 2009 without the need for over bracing. "I use ZIP's 10- to 12-foot structural sheet and those seams are anchored into the slab at the bottom plate and extend to the second floor," he says. "It is one continuous panel, which alleviates the need to have anchoring systems. It's structurally engineered to avoid the necessity of strapping and bolting."

# CASE STUDY

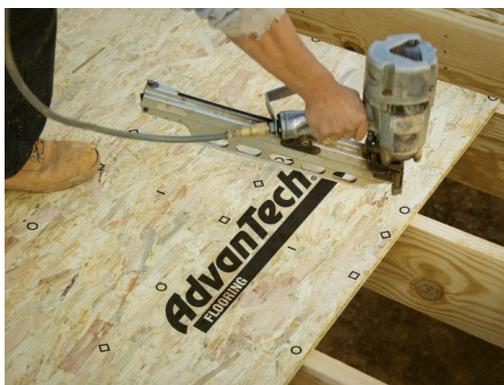
“The beauty of ZIP System long length sheathing is that once the structural panels and windows are installed and every seam has been taped, we have waterproofed the majority of the house,” Miller says.

Taping is an important step in the sealing process, and Miller uses ZIP System™ tape to create moisture resistance for seams, valleys and ridges. “ZIP System sheathing saves us a lot of time in the construction process,” he says. “Were we to opt for regular plywood or OSB panels, we’d be following with housewrap or felt that’s difficult to handle, takes more time, and can rip and tear.”

“My crews prefer the ZIP System structural panels over other products,” Miller says. “They find them easier to use, and that translates to a shorter construction period.” Simply put, Miller says he finds ZIP System sheathing to be a superior product both short-term and long-term.

Moreover, Miller says the ZIP System roof sheathing provides an additional layer of protection, which is crucial in an area prone to storms. “I use 5/8-inch ZIP System panels to achieve the same water protection on the roof. If some shingles happen to fly off during high winds, the home is still protected because of the ZIP System sheathing’s water resistant properties.” Because he is not using plywood, Miller no longer has need for hurricane clips. “Once the panels are laid on top of the rafters, we use a taping system similar to that used on the vertical walls to provide the same level of protection,” he says.

According to Miller, “There’s no other product on the market that can offer the same water resistant protection as the ZIP System long length sheathing.”



Miller also finds AdvanTech® flooring to be his favorite option for combatting the Louisiana humidity. “If I’m using regular plywood or OSB flooring and it rains before the roof is installed, those panels absorb that water and I no longer have a truly flush flooring system,” he says. “Compare that to AdvanTech flooring, which has water resistant sealing on all sides and offers a warranty just in case.”

Miller has been using ZIP System long length sheathing and Advantech subflooring for four years. “Overall, they are sturdier products engineered to make the house structurally tighter,” he says. “The project goes faster and easier, and my customers are happier. It’s an easy choice.”