

# Flashes of Efficiency and a Legacy of Low Maintenance

*Create a Winning Multi-family Formula*





*"It's 10 times better than anything you could make yourself..."*

Nick Choate, of Bi-State Building Products

Meeting ENERGY STAR® standards and replete with resident gardens, cyber café and fitness center, Steele Creek Seniors is an affordable senior housing development in Charlotte, North Carolina. It has the amenities and good looks that Wood Partners is known for in its national portfolio of apartments and specialty housing. The new 55+ complex is just up the road from Wood Partners' Alta Steele Creek apartment complex that has its own resort-style pool, billiards room and car wash facility.

Steele Creek Seniors immediately drew high interest and a large number of applications. Providing 120 apartment units, it also features more than 4,000 sq. ft. of community space, a large rear community porch and

balcony seating areas overlooking the courtyard.

With a vibrant exterior finish and appealing architectural details, Steele Creek Seniors is the first project on which Wood Partners has used the SturdiMount® by Mid-America line of mount blocks. The three-story structure is predominantly fiber cement with brick accents and wood trim. Engineered to make fiber cement exterior applications more efficient, easier and better-looking, SturdiMounts are pre-assembled, pre-flashed blocks manufactured with fiber cement that address the critical issue of water management. Wood Partners chose SturdiMount for its waterproofing ease, low-maintenance durability and cost effectiveness.

Throughout the structure, 250 SturdiMounts were used for porch lights, dryer vents and back fan vents. "SturdiMount provides a nice, flat plane you can mount to that you can easily waterproof," says Jeff Rikard, General Superintendent for Wood Partners East. "It helps eliminate long-term maintenance issues and I intend to use it on all our fiber cement siding projects," Rikard says.

SturdiMount's built-in drip cap reduces labor necessary for waterproofing by eliminating the need for Z-flashing fabrication with a block assembly. The nailing flange also delivers a superb finish since there's no face nailing.

"It's 10 times better than anything you could make yourself, flashing-wise," agrees Nick Choate of Bi-State Building Products, a SturdiMount supplier who works with Wood Partners projects. "James Hardie® actually talks about SturdiMount in all of its literature, so it's the easiest way





to make sure you're in compliance," Choate adds.

In addition to carrying the Recommended by James Hardie logo, SturdiMount is also recommended in the James Hardie Best Practices Guide. Steele Creek used SturdiMount's primed Universal mounts. Split, Receptacle and Oversized mounts are also offered, providing solutions for everything from hose bibs to receptacle outlets and carriage lamps. Along with the primed products, mounts

are available in 11 finishes, including exact color matches for James Hardie fiber cement.

Prior to SturdiMount Wood Partners was using treated wood blocks that would split and wouldn't always be sized correctly, leading to maintenance issues.

Some contractors, Choate adds, will try to install mount assemblies for fiber cement exteriors with other products. "They end up not looking as good and

not working as well, whereas SturdiMount makes their job easier."

Used throughout the Southeast, SturdiMount is also found on multi-family, production and custom homes across the country, from Louisiana to Oregon, making fiber cement siding applications simpler.

"I've found that if you get in front of a contractor or builder and show them the SturdiMount, especially regarding the Hardie warranty, it's really going to sell itself," Choate says.

"You've got a prefab piece that's flanged in. You know your measurements are going to be the same and all the edges are going to be completely square. You can rely on that consistent quality."

**SturdiMount**  
by Mid-America

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