



A home from the Roofline Series by Total Home Frames.

GRETA ANDREWS-TAYLOR

A go-to material for many seeking to achieve a natural look and feel in their homes, and boasting a raft of environmental credentials to boot, sustainably grown plantation timber has a lot of ticks in its favour.

So said Total Home Frames Managing Director Chris Zencich.

“Timber uses up to 85 times less energy than other common building materials when processing,” he told *New Homes*.

“Building using sustainably

managed timber is the economical choice and can save you thousands of dollars in your end result when building a new home.”

Timber Insight Technical Manager Greg Meachem said the environmental benefits of sustainably sourced timber made its use in framing a worthy alternative to Western Australia’s traditional brick homes.

“An average-sized Australian timber-frame-and-truss house will contain about 12 cubic metres of pine, which will be regrown in Australian softwood plantations in no time,” he said.

“Through the process of photosynthesis, trees sequester carbon dioxide in standing forests. On average, half of the dry weight of wood is carbon, which is stored for as long as the building exists.

“As a rule of thumb if we replace a cubic metre of a solid material like concrete with a cubic metre of timber, this will result in a reduction of approximately one tonne of carbon dioxide emissions entering the atmosphere.”

Mr Zencich said timber’s poor conductive qualities made it a great insulator.

“Timber homes are cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, thereby reducing costs for artificially heating and cooling a home throughout the year,” he said.

“These financial savings will

continue over the dwelling’s lifespan.

Mr Meachem said those seeking to embrace timber-framed construction should look for the proper certification to ensure the material was sustainably sourced.

“Certification ensures the wood comes from legally harvested and well-managed forests and plantations, and that when a tree is harvested another – typically more than one – is planted in its place,” he said.

CONTACT

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A custom design by Total Home Frames. Image: Jamie Chester.



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