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J.O. Mory Uses Allied Moulded Fiberglass Products for Residential Switch and Outlet Box Applications

Robert Knecht, Marketing Manager, Allied Moulded Products, Inc.

Company History

J.O. Mory is a century old company who has concentrated on electrical, plumbing, and HVAC design and installation for Industrial, Commercial and Residential customers. In 1985, J.O. Mory entered the residential electrical contracting arena in the Fort Wayne, IN market place. With focus on delivering superior value and service through a qualified workforce, J.O. Mory made a decision to choose Allied Moulded to supply premium fiberglass electrical outlet boxes for all of their new home construction and remodel projects. This great relationship has created an unbeatable combination for residential builders and homeowners with regard to high quality and safe electrical systems.

Premium Fiberglass Box Features

J.O. Mory realized early on that premium fiberglass outlet boxes have many labor saving features. The rigid box construction and labor saving features are unmatched by thin-walled "PVC" outlet box designs. Steve Zolman (J.O. Mory's Electrical Supervisor) says, "Allied Moulded's claims of fiberglass box features are real and they do save the contractor time and money." Steve goes on to say, "Over the years Allied Moulded has been innovative in new product designs, and because of our close proximity to their plant we are able to get Allied's new technology in hand early on so we can help prove them out."

Product Line Review

Like most business-minded companies, J.O. Mory has reviewed its outlet box line in the past. According to Steve, "Builders are constantly pressing us to cut costs." When J.O. Mory reviewed other box manufacturers' PVC products in the past, Steve received numerous complaints from his electricians. "The less expensive thin walled boxes just don't offer the same rigid box characteristics as the fiberglass boxes, so in the long run we don't feel we are really saving money," claims Steve. J.O. Mory considers

their approach toward quality installation of residential electrical systems and prefers to install fiberglass boxes to prevent problems during the various stages of rough-in and trim-out.



Box Nail-up

While J.O. Mory nails up all electric switch and outlet boxes in a home per the electrical print, inevitably there are still changes with box locations requested by the builder, home owner or by the plumber/HVAC contractors. "Allied's fiberglass boxes are easily removed and due to their durable construction, can be re-used," comments Steve. "There are too many issues, including warpage and breakage, when trying to accomplish this with PVC boxes." This is one of the main areas where cost savings can be achieved by using fiberglass versus PVC boxes. Steve also mentioned, "Allied's fiberglass boxes are easier to mount on the stud because of their higher profile positioning tabs." This eliminates problems with mounting the PVC boxes crooked or too deep on the stud to remain flush with the wallboard.

Pulling Non-Metallic Sheathed Cable

Wires can be simply installed in Allied's fiberglass boxes by inserting the end of the wire through the thin fiberglass layer at the top of the knockout. "With PVC boxes you must use a tool to pop the molded-in plastic tabs which hold the knockout in place. This amount of labor is small when considering one box, but when you wire an entire house of boxes it certainly adds up", states Zolman.



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Drywall Installation

During drywall installation, a number of issues arise relating to potential damage to outlet boxes and the electrical circuit; and fiberglass boxes stand a much better chance of survival during this process. Steve says, "Drywallers inevitably will bury a box or two in every home behind the wall-board, and with Allied fiberglass boxes this seems to be less of an issue due to the ease of proper positioning with their higher profile locating tabs. The bump in the wall left by a buried fiberglass box is more easily identified than with PVC boxes and this allows the electrical contractor to be able to fix the issue without a drywall contractor callback." Another problem created during drywall installation occurs when the drywall contractor cuts box openings with a drywall router. Mr. Zolman comments, "We have to keep the wires pushed way back in the bottom of the box to make sure the cutter doesn't damage them. Allied's fiberglass boxes seem to be more easily sensed by the drywall contractor, they just don't cut through the fiberglass box wall as often as they do with PVC boxes." Should this kind of damage occur, the electrician is required to do some rework on that particular box and circuit.

Trim-out

During trim-out the electrician must install all devices and cover plates efficiently and certainly doesn't want to deal with problems that will be displeasing to the home owner. Allied Moulded's fiberglass boxes have machine tapped device holes that allow devices to be installed quickly with power screwdrivers and without the risk of hole strip out. "Device screws install so much easier into Allied's boxes than with PVC boxes. PVC box device holes need to be self tapped while installing the screws. With PVC boxes there is a higher torque required and often electricians strip out the hole. Then drywall screws must be used to replace the standard device screw," states Steve.



Current Subdivision Project

J.O. Mory has been working on projects in the Hickory Point subdivision in Fort Wayne, IN. Hickory Point has 125 lots for affordable 2000 square foot homes. In each home, J.O. Mory electricians install approximately (60) 1096-N standard single gangs, (10) 1099-N deep single gangs, (10) 2300-NK two gangs, (5) 3300-NK three gangs, (20) 9351-NK 4/O round ceiling boxes and (3) 9374-FR 4/O fan support boxes. Mr. Zolman commented, "We take pride in every detail of the electrical system right down to how each wire is marked and folded into the box. We feel that, if for some reason rework is required, we want to be able to get it done correct and most efficiently. Call backs are very expensive and we want to do everything in our power to eliminate them."

Allied Moulded Products, Inc.

Allied Moulded is the manufacturer of the "Original Fiberglass Outlet Box" and we pride ourselves in designing outlet box products with the electrical contractor in mind. Since 1958 we have supplied innovative fiberglass products to the electrical industry with a nationwide manufacturers representative sales force through long term electrical distributor partners.



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