

SENCO - Frequently Asked Questions

CLIP-HEAD VS. FULL ROUND HEADS

Q:

Would you please explain the pros and cons of clipped-head vs. full round-head nails?

A:

The clipped vs. full round-head (FRH) nail question:

- 1) Clip-heads were the original type of collated (in a strip) nail for air tools, they were first introduced to the market in the late 1960s and they still remain a popular choice in most parts of the USA.
- 2) FRH nails came on the scene in the late 80s as a popular product in the earthquake/hurricane markets like the west coast states and the coastal areas in the gulf and east affected by hurricane threat. Building inspectors started to discriminate against the use of the clipped-head nail. It was felt the FRH would help prevent an overdrive into shear wall (structural sheathing).
- 3) Today, it seems the FRH nails are the dominant format on the West Coast, Florida, and the South Atlantic regions. Again, FRH is the product of choice in the earthquake and hurricane prone markets.
- 4) Independent lab research results yield no significant difference in performance between both nail types. Even more important, today's tools offer a depth-of-drive control feature, so it's easier for the operator to properly set nails when driving plywood or other sheathing products.
- 5) FRH nails come in the strip or coil format. The FRH strips are collated with a plastic material; the coils are collated with wire. Clipped-head nails are only available in a strip format and are collated with paper and adhesive.