

The Informer



Construction Trades

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Nails, Steel, and Big Ambitions: Inside the Tiny Home Build

Just over the hill and around the corner, a group of Crossland High School Carpentry students rolled up to Croom High School, ready to get their hands on the long-awaited tiny house project. After hearing so much about it, they were eager to see what really goes into building a small—yet surprisingly complex—structure.

They completed it with focus and care.

Once the joists were sealed, the group moved on to installing the subfloor. Using ¾-inch tongue-and-groove oriental strand board, they secured each panel with self-tapping screws designed for steel framing. Piece by piece, a solid floor began to form—giving students their first visual milestone of the project.

Watching his students work, Mr. DiNatale couldn't hide his pride. He said he's especially excited for the next phase: framing the walls, a step that will really test their precision and teamwork.



Students sealing the steel framing members.



The ¾ inch tongue-and-groove decking is installed over the joists.

Their instructor, Mr. DiNatale, led the team through the first steps of the build. With the steel framing already completed, students were able to jump straight into phase one: protecting the foundation. Their initial task was applying flashing tape to the steel joists—six-inch, waterproof, self-adhering tape that keeps moisture from collecting where the metal meets the wood. It's tedious but essential work, and the students han-

With energy high and progress already visible, the tiny house project is off to a strong start. Stay tuned—we'll be following these CTE students from Prince George's County Public Schools as they continue to bring this innovative build to life.