New house buyers seek ways to go green

Dwindling natural resource, environmental awareness, and increased concerns about indoor air quality are just a few of the reasons more and more potential bouse huyers are asking builders to "build it green."

Just what constitutes an environmentally healthy house is currently in the eye of the beholder or more accurately the buyer. According to a recent environmental survey conducted by the Nation all Association of Home Builders, an increasing number of buyers want some environmental amenities. A majority of customers want energy-efficient applicances and building products and testing the complete survey of the broaders and environmental products and testing the complete survey conducted by the Nation all Association of Home Builders, and a Association of Home Builders, and increasing number of buyers went some environmental amenities. A majority of customers want energy-efficient applicances and building products and technologies and healthy products grown, more and more builders are developing green products. Some, little the Good Cente Environmental Content to the house of the the Good Cente Environmental contents that Home, let the buyer select from a list of environmental products and technologies and industry-wide green building stamp of approval is a complete process, and industry-wide green building stamp of approval is a complete process, and industry-wide green building stamp of approval is a complete process, and industry-wide green building stamp of approval is a complete process, and industry-wide green building stamp of approval is a complete process, and in the case in measuring recycled content has ded the Canadian Home Builders and industry-wide green building stamp of approval is a complete process, and industry wide green building stamp of approval is a complete process, and in the case of more development and the case of major

said he would like to see some sort of voluntary program for builders to certify their green building practices and products. But regulation is not the answer, he says. "As soon as we try to regulate this, we'll kill it. Right now, it's consumer driven, and it's just good business."

Although the degree and expense to which a homeowner or buyer will go to make a house green is entirely subjective, there are a few general rules of thumb to follow:

- B Use low-toxic or water-based paints or varnishes, such as linseed plant finishes, instead of volatile compounds that emit more hazardous chemicals. So Avoid use of synthetic carpets. Re-place them with natural fiber rups, ceramic tile or wood floors. Reduce the use of interior particle wood that contains formaldebyde and other glues or chemicals. So Install an outside air toxicrulate in the house.

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 Try to limit waste at the construction elte and recycle wherever it is possible.





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Resources for "Green" Building

Although there is no one clearing-house or central resource for listing and measuring the quality of "green" building products, a num-ber of different guides and directo-ries currently exist. Consumers who are thinking of building a "green" home either have to do the research themselves, hire a "green building" consultant or work with a builder who has a reputation in this area. A few of the "green" guides currently on the market include: Guide to Resource Efficient

Guide to Resource Efficient

Building Elements, Lists hun-dreds of "green" building products, including foundations, framing, panel systems, sheathing, wall-board, roofing, windows etc. Cost: \$25. Available from the Center for Resourceful Building Technology; contact Steve Loken at 406-549-5678.

7678.
Environmental Bullding Products Gulds. Guide under development by the Eco-Group Inc. will list hundreds of "green" building products. Contact: David Drummond at

602-496-0211.
Green Building Design Guide and Product Directory. A hand-assembled, three-inch, three-ring binder with actual manufacturer cut sheets and specifications. Cost: 500. Contact: David Johnson at 303-444-7044.

Shelter Supply Products Cata-

303-444-7044.
Shelter Supply Products Catalog. Description of products that reduce air leakage and control moisture. Also, ventilation systems that maintain air quality in tighter houses. Free. Contact 800-762-8399.

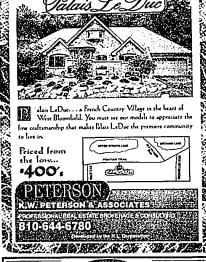


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