

Guest Column,

New Home Construction, Bits and Pieces

By Ronnie Godfrey, CGB, president, R Godfrey Homes

It's been a while since I last wrote an article; home builders go on vacation too. I thought I would take this opportunity to recap an item or two from previous weeks. In most of my writings, I've stressed the need for energy efficient construction and how to get there.

First we talked about High performance Homes and defined them as; "High Performance Homes use sustainable materials, are energy efficient, and use value added green building practices that cause them to be friendlier to the environment." When considering the purchase of a new home, these qualities should be on your list.

The next few articles dealt with the specifics of getting to that level of construction. We discussed windows, insulation, doors, building green, the size of the new home etc.. For example, if you read those articles, you will recall that the windows in your new home should have a rating on them from the National Fenestration Rating Council. The scores you will need to look for are the U-value and the Solar-Heat-Gain value. Each of these should be .50 or lower. We typically use windows in the range of .30 or lower. The lower the score the better.

Another element of producing that High Performance Home is the insulation. This is critical. So many times people use barely what is required and then don't do a good job of installing it. If you want your new home to really perform well, then spend some time learning about this. We have been using blown in urethane for years. This is the best. There are other good insulation methods out there. Probably the least well performing is the old method of installing batts.

OK, it occurs to me at this point that if you have not read my articles, I may be using terms that you are not familiar with or only marginally so. If you would like a copy of any of my previous articles, email me and I'll send them to you. They are:

- 1) "A New Catch Phrase In Housing, "The High Performance Home""
- 2) "Windows, Insulation and Doors, Oh My!"

- 3) "Nothing Insulates Like Insulation"
- 4) "What Do I Mean By Building Green"
- 5) "Like The Small Town Feeling? Me Too"
- 6) "The Not So Big House"
- 7) "New Home Foundation 101"
- 8) "Home Financing- My Interview with an Expert"

Upcoming discussions will deal with floor coverings, wall finishes, plumbing, counter tops, appliances and decorating in general. If you know me, then you know that I am a cowboy kind of a guy and I will get help from a professional on decorating when I produce that article. Also if you have a suggestion for a topic that you would like explored, just let me know.

The only home that is more important is your heavenly home. See you in church on Sunday.

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