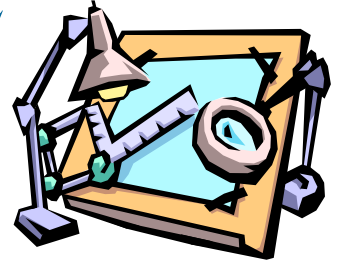


CHB SPOTLIGHT

COLORADO HOME BUILDERS —
YOUR LOCAL CUSTOM HOME BUILDER SINCE 1993



GREEN BUILDING

What Is Green Building?

Green Buildings are sited, designed, constructed and operated to enhance the well-being of occupants, and to minimize negative impacts on the community and natural environment.

Green Buildings:

- Provide a healthier and more comfortable environment
- Improve long-term economic performance
- Incorporate energy and water efficient technologies
- Use recycled content materials in their construction
- Reduce construction and demolition waste
- Bring higher resale value
- Are landscaped for water and energy efficiency
- Include renewable energy technologies
- Improve indoor air quality
- Reduce environmental impact
- Are easier to maintain & built to last

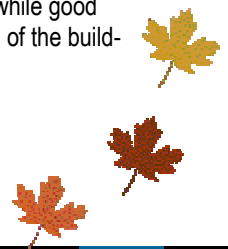


With most of us spending more than 80% of our time indoors, Green Building is the healthy, common sense choice for a better life. As it stands now in traditional construction, the quality of our indoor environment is often far more polluted than outdoors due to various building materials, inadequate lighting, and a variety of other variables. According to EPA reports, the air in new homes can be up to ten times more polluted than outside air due to volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and other chemicals used in product manufacturing. Contrarily, homes that follow green building guidelines use healthier paints and building materials, and adhere to stricter gas emission and ventilation requirements improving the quality of a home's indoor environment.

Green building can also indicate that fewer natural resources are required during construction. According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Center for Sustainable Development, buildings consume 40% of the world's total energy, 25% of its wood harvest and 16% of its water. Compared to traditional construction, a green built home takes some of this pressure off the environment.

Green building is the practice of increasing the efficiency of buildings and their use of energy, water, and materials, and reducing building impacts on human health and the environment, through better siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and removal — the complete building life cycle.

A similar concept is natural building, which is usually on a smaller scale and tends to focus on the use of natural materials that are available locally. Other commonly used terms include sustainable design and green architecture; however, while good design is essential to green building, the actual operation, maintenance, and ultimate disposal or deconstruction of the building also have very significant effects on buildings' overall environmental impact.



GREEN BUILDING (CONT)

The Benefits of Green Building - For the Homeowner

Utilizing green building products and practices in homebuilding and remodeling projects results in quality homes and financial savings for you. Even the smallest effort can make a big difference. While particular benefits will vary depending on the specific choices made by the builder and homeowner, and to what extent green building practices are employed, the general benefits are:



Financial Savings

Green building construction standards and products make homes more energy efficient by being well insulated and well sealed. Efficient windows, appliances, lighting and other household equipment also help add to the savings and keep your monthly electricity bills low. Up to 65% lower! And with energy prices rising and non-renewable fuels being depleted, an energy efficient home is an asset we can all appreciate for years to come. Water bills are also reduced through low-flow equipment and thoughtful land use.

More Comfort

Comfortable with year-round sun exposure, comfortable with ambient temperature and lack of drafts, comfortable with your utility bills - 'comfortable' can mean a lot of things. Starting with good energy design, green building helps to ensure that your home is inherently more comfortable. If you're building new, proper orientation of your home can take advantage of the sun's natural heat in the cooler months, while avoiding too much sun in the warmer ones, to save on energy costs. Tight construction also helps keep energy costs and drafts down. For everyone, better insulation and energy efficient windows, appliances, and lighting contribute to a comfortable environment while using less energy.

Healthier Living

Chemicals emitted from building materials can be a potential source of health problems if not properly addressed. Ventilation is key to keeping and maintaining indoor air quality for healthier living. Green building practices encourage well-sealed duct systems, sealed combustion gas appliances, and a balanced or slightly positive pressure ventilation system, which work together to improve indoor air quality and keep you comfortable and healthy.

Adequate ventilation is especially important in green building as it prevents mold and other potentially dangerous allergens from forming. With tighter construction of the exterior envelope, ventilation is required to allow excess moisture to escape so it doesn't get trapped in your home's living space and building cavities, causing health problems for your family and moisture damage to the building components.

Knowing You're Being Good to the Environment

Green building products and practices offer you the assurance that you are following environmentally friendly guidelines that help preserve our natural resources.

Farther reaching than your home itself, green building promotes the use of local products and materials that help stimulate local businesses and a diverse economy. This keeps your dollars working in your neighborhood and reduces energy consumption because there are less transportation costs. Materials like engineered wood products are encouraged because they efficiently make use of waste wood pieces, reducing environmental impacts of the wood industry. Recycled-content products productively use materials that would otherwise need to be hauled to landfills, and also reduce costs and impacts of producing products from virgin materials.

RESOURCES & ADDITIONAL READING:

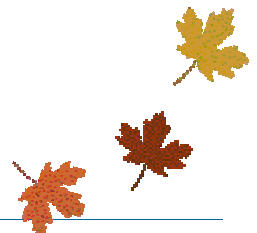
www.builditgreen.org
www.greenbuilding.com
www.usgbc.com



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield.

~Warren Buffett~



Q&A SECTION



We have included this section where you can ask any questions you might have in regards to construction, home inspections, remodels, renovations, additions and DIY projects. Your questions will be answered in our newsletters.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO: coloradohomebuilders@yahoo.com

PLEASE PUT "CHB SPOTLIGHT QUESTIONS" IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

Question:

What should I do to clean and maintain my hardwood floors?

Answer:

There are many products on the market today for cleaning nearly everything. However you do not need to spend the money on a special cleaner for your hardwood floors. A safe product to use that works well and that you most likely already have at home is white vinegar. Add 3-4 ounces of white vinegar to a bucket of clean cool water. Use a tightly rung out mop or cloth to wipe the floors. The vinegar will clean the floors well and not harm the finish. Do not use paste waxes on your floors. They do still sell them however they require a lot of work to apply and maintain. The biggest draw back to paste waxes is removing it from your floors.

If you have a 3/4" thick plank floor that was site finished it is important to monitor the finish on your floors. If you allow the finish to wear off it may require that the floors be completely sanded and refinished. We recommend having the floors screened, (abraded), and a new coat of finish applied every 5-years or as needed. This will keep your floors looking great while protecting them from damage. The costs of doing this is slightly more than the costs of a quality carpet cleaner.

If you have a laminated engineered floor you do not want to refinish your floor like a traditional site finished floor. It will most likely cause permanent damage to the floor. We always recommend having a qualified professional refinish your floors.

Tip: Never let water stand on any hardwood floor. If you have a spill wipe up the water immediately. Place a fan near the accident site for 2-5 days until the moisture content of the wood is less than 10%.

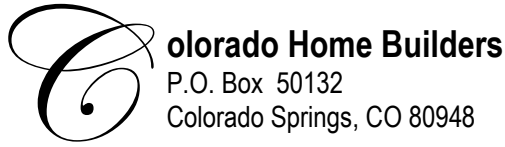
Thank you for your question.



THANKSGIVING TRIVIA

- The first Thanksgiving celebration is believed to be held by the Plymouth Pilgrims in the Fall of 1621.
- The credit for making Thanksgiving a national holiday is given to one lady magazine editor called Sarah Josepha Hale.
- The name of the ship in which the Puritans came is known as Mayflower. And the drink they had with them was beer.
- A turkey below sixteen weeks of age is called a fryer.
- Benjamin Franklin fought hard to make the wild turkey the national bird of America instead of the bald eagle, which he found to be a coward.
- A nest of turkey eggs is known as a clutch.
- When a tom turkey (male turkey) gobbles, it can be heard from as far as a mile.
- Now this one's quite a thoughtful trivia—if turkeys gobble everywhere in the world, you won't hear a turkey gobble in Turkey. The Turkish say that turkeys glu glu.
- Firkee is the Native American name for turkeys.
- It's often said that turkeys make a 'turk turk turk' noise when they are frightened. So they are called 'turkeys'.
- Turkeys have outstanding visual precision, a great hearing and taste. But are famously poor on smell.





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TIP'S FROM THE PROFESSIONALS -
STEVE'S HIGHLIGHTS

SWITCH TO CFLs TO SAVE

There's an easy affordable way to save energy and money this season; simply switch your light bulbs from the hot, high use traditional bulbs to compact fluorescent lamps.

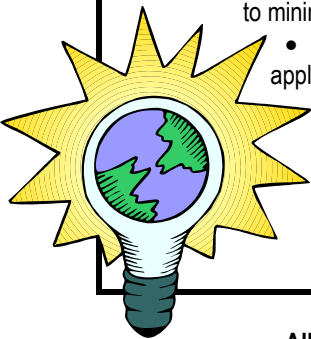
Every CFL you install:

- Saves \$30 or more in energy costs over its lifetime
- Use 66 to 75 percent less energy
- Last up to 10 times longer
- Generate 70 percent less heat.

QUICK TIPS

- Make a quick trip to the hardware store or home improvement center for a hot water insulation kit to wrap your water heater and save on water heating costs.
- Run your washer, dryer, and dishwasher only with a full load.
- Clothes washers use energy to both clean clothes and heat water, so to save on energy costs, wash your clothes in cooler water. Consideration should be given to the newer front load washers. They use about 1/3 of the water & energy required from the standard conventional washers. Utility companies offer rebates for energy efficient appliances helping to minimize the impact of the costs to your bank account.
- Upgrade your refrigerator if it is 10 years old or older. Refrigerators use more energy than any other appliance in your home. Garage refrigerators which are usually old refrigerators, consume usually much more than the newer version in your kitchen. It would be more cost efficient and energy wise to purchase a new refrigerator. You will realize the savings immediately.
- Caulk around exterior windows and doors and fill exterior penetrations

"Incandescent lamps are most common for today's home lighting needs, however compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) are 75 % more efficient, give you up to 10,000 hours of life and come in many shapes and colors"



All material contained within was written and compiled by the Colorado Home Builders team.