

February 2002

Insulation basics

We recently had the opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Builders expo' in Madison. Two issues which garnered a lot of attention were energy efficiency, and air quality issues. These two really go hand in hand, because the more air tight a new home is built, the more likely air quality becomes an issue.

At Homes by Bill Rounds, we already pay very close attention to ventilation (see newsletter 2000, issue #3 at our website www.billrounds.com), so this month we'll talk a bit about insulation.

No matter how tight a home is built in our climate, the warm air inside wants to go out and the cold air wants in, ...it's simple physics! When the warm air from in the home comes in contact with components of the home which are chilled by the outside air, condensation occurs. That means that the smallest air leak in a home is a potential trouble spot.

Your new home places the structural components and insulation between two membranes. One a vapor permeable windbarrier, on the outside. The other a vapor barrier on the inside. Any leakage in either of these can lead to future problems.

Several solutions were offered at the expo.



One solution several of our customers have used is the blown in batt system (BIBS). In this application the stud cavities are blown full of fiberglass insulation. This allows even the smallest void to be packed tight with the chopped fiberglass. Pipes, electrical outlets and other penetrations are sealed tight,

Another method of sealing the wall cavities up tight is the Icynene system. You may have seen this system on "This Old House". In this system the stud cavities are filled with a two part foam which is sprayed into the stud cavity and expands to fill the voids. Another variant is to only partially fill the cavity by spraying 1" in the stud bay, then filling the rest with conventional fiberglass batt insulation. While the latter is less expensive, the goal either way is to reduce air flow through the wall to



zero.

Yet another method is marketed as the "Intelligent Wall". This method uses thinner exterior walls (2x4) with a one inch layer of Styrofoam for exterior sheathing. This isolates even the studs themselves from the cold and reduces the chance of condensation in the wall cavity.

For further information, you can visit the following web sites:

www.certainteed.com/consumer
www.icynene.com
www.dow.com.styrofoam

Building your new home seminar

Once again Community First Credit Union is offering their *free* seminar focusing on new home construction. Items discussed will include: financing, title insurance, lot selection, and of course all of those little questions you've wanted answered about building your home! Keynote speaker will be Past President of the Valley Home Builder's Association and "Builder Extraordinaire", our own Bill Rounds.



COMMUNITY FIRST
CREDIT UNION

The seminar will be held February 28th at the S. Oneida St. office of Community First. Time is 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Admission is *free!* See you there.

Winter Parade of Homes Feb 16th - 24th

Once again it's time for the Valley Home Builders Winter Wonderland of Homes. This years event features 43 homes! Homes by Bill Rounds is proud to present a 2400 sq ft ranch with walk out basement. Our entry (#12) is located in Combined Locks at; 122



Ombre-Rose Dr. This year's home features a master suite with large walk-in shower with glass block walls and whirlpool tub. Wooded views are right out the Great Room and dining area overlooking a ravine and creek.

You can follow the day to day progress of this home as it nears completion on our website at: www.willowbay.net

Parade hrs:

Sat & Sun 11am - 5 pm
Thurs & Fri 4pm - 7pm

Energy Star Builder

Willow Bay Builders is now an Energy Star builder. Energy star



homes are built to a higher standard than building codes. The process begins with an energy audit in the planning stage and progress's through on site inspections and a final blower door test of the completed home. While an energy star home is more expensive to build, the Energy Star audit will provide the home owner with an estimated return on investment. The home owner also qualifies for rebates, based on how the home scores on the audit

More information is available at their website: www.weccusa.org

American Dream Home Show

This years American Dream Home show will be held March 7th -10th at the old Kohl's department store in the Valley Fair Mall.

Last year saw over 150 entries and to date there have been 240 booths sold. This is a great opportunity to get a look at, and your hands on all of those products you want to incorporate in your new home.

Hours: Thurs + Fri 12pm - 8pm
Sat 10am - 8pm and Sun 10am - 5 pm. We'll be there, hope to see you too!