



Dickson Development Corporation
A Tradition of Innovative Quality Construction

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Welcome to our Newsletter!

Dickson Development Corporation is pleased to introduce our new company newsletter! The newsletter will be distributed twice a month to our many friends who are interested and engaged in the home building process. The newsletter is educational (not promotional) and is designed to take the mystery out of the complex home building process. We shall give you an insider's look at home building best practices, feature our local trade partners, and provide information about our current available properties. Also featured will be

A Renewed Commitment to Saving Energy

Not since the energy crisis of the mid-1970s has there been so much public awareness about energy: its availability, its cost, and its conservation. While there's been steady and significant progress in reducing a home's energy use, housing is still one of the biggest consumers of electricity, natural gas, and other energy resources.

Whatever we as builders can do to design and build homes that help our buyers reduce energy use, in turn helps our economy and its reliance on limited resources.

Increasingly, building codes require all builders to construct homes to a basic energy performance standard, mandating minimum levels of insulation in the walls (and perhaps floors and attic spaces) and proper distribution and ventilation of indoor air, among other standards. The code may also specify windows that provide better insulating value, building systems or barriers that prevent the infiltration of outside moisture and air, and more energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment.

To meet these tougher standards, manufacturers of energy-using products and systems continue to develop new and improved technologies and methods for reducing a home's energy consumption.

Some of the more advanced products help builders (and therefore homeowners) exceed building code minimums to save even more energy and further reduce energy costs. Windows with special coatings and multiple panes of glass, for instance, can save 40 percent or more of a home's energy use. Electronic or programmable thermostats allow homeowners better control of their furnace and air conditioner, and thus their energy use and costs.

In addition, independent groups and public programs, most notably the federal Energy Star program, certify the energy use and cost savings of products and even entire homes. Thousands of products, ranging from windows and appliances to consumer electronics, have earned the Energy Star certification label and are used in varying degrees by builders, architects, and homeowners to save energy.

Builders today rely on a widening range of energy-efficient building methods, products, and systems to make new homes more comfortable and help homeowners stretch their housing dollar. In addition to saving

home design suggestions for updating existing homes.

We welcome you and appreciate your feedback. If you would like to unsubscribe, simply click on the link at the bottom of the newsletter.

Building Success 101

Q: What is Energy Star?

A: Energy Star is a federally sponsored program initiated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the early 1990s to establish standards for energy efficiency among a variety of building and consumer products. Products meeting Energy Star requirements are certified and may carry the programs label, which often lists a product's annual energy savings compared to a non-Energy Star-certified product. For more information, including a list of products, go to www.energystar.gov.

their clients money on their utility bills, builders that make energy efficiency a priority not only build better homes overall, but understand the wider impact that their methods have on indoor air quality and comfort, housing value, and customer satisfaction.

This "systems approach" to building is fast becoming a mainstream method in new housing, driven by a heightened awareness and demand for more efficient energy use. For example, a higher level of insulation, both within the structure, around sealed heating and cooling ducts, and with upgraded windows and doors, can reduce the size and cost of the heating and cooling equipment. To reduce the chances for moisture-related damage and create a healthier indoor environment, today's builder employs methods to effectively shed water and block moisture away from the foundation and the home's exterior. These include drainage systems and the proper sealing of window and door openings, roof vents, and other intrusions.

Builders, product manufacturers, building code agencies, and independent groups are collaborating to further improve the energy performance of today's new homes. As a result, we're not only reducing energy use and costs, but also creating a more stable and sustainable economy and healthier and more comfortable living environments.

Warm regards,

Richard

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