



THE HOUSE THAT GREEN BUILT

The Home Builders Association of Greater Little Rock (HBAGLR) is constructing its first ever GREEN BUILT model home. The house is located in west Little Rock's Woodland's Edge, the 2009 Green Development of the Year. The project is a sustainable construction set to ANSI-approved National Green Building Standards. The standards state: "a builder, remodeler or developer must incorporate a minimum number of features in the following areas: energy, water and resource efficiency, lot and site development, indoor environment quality and homeowner education."

Last month's spring-like weather afforded the builders of the GREEN BUILT home a much-needed break. The home is in frame and at press time, much of the electrical, plumbing and heating/air conditioning hookups were in rough-in. Keith Wingfield, co-project coordinator and president of the HBAGLR, said insulation and drywall should be installed soon.

Wingfield gave *AY* a tour of the site. The home will have about 2,600 square feet of living space, including a master bedroom with a large window oriented to take advantage of natural light, three additional bedrooms, three full baths, pull-down stair access to the attic and a tornado shelter by Tornado Shelter Systems. The rear will feature a covered deck.

The GREEN BUILT home has a crawl-space foundation with piers and beams that run beneath the home. Cinderblocks wrap the foundation's sides and rear, and a tour of the large storage area allows a view of the home's support system, which includes engineered I joists. "These I Joists are actually made of OSB, oriented strand board, which is actually a fairly green product," Wingfield said. "The boards are made of chips that are randomly-oriented and com-


pressed with adhesive. The chips come from small trees versus plywood, which is made of large trees."

OSB, according to the Engineered Wood Association, is "manufactured from water-proof, heat-cured adhesives and rectangularly-shaped wood strands." The chips, or strands, are obtained from smaller, fast-growing tree species making the OSB a more environmentally-friendly product. The material has the strength of plywood and that can be used, in many instances, instead of plywood.

Subflooring has been laid, and according to Wingfield, builders often apply a chemical to the wood to prevent damage due to rain and moisture. "We use a KleenWrap to protect the flooring; this eliminates the use of chemicals, which could run off and damage the surrounding ground," Wingfield said.

To minimize financial and material waste, the amount of wood and the number of cuts to be made during the framing process has been taken into account. "Often crews use the most convenient piece of wood, so a 10-foot piece may be cut out of a 14-foot or 16-foot piece. We plan our cuts, so a 10-foot piece will be cut from a 12-piece of wood," Wingfield said. Leftover wood will be given to an environmental company to make mulch.

Concrete and brick is also being accounted for — to eliminate excess waste — and leftover materials will be recycled as well. Bracing and scaffold used during the construction process will later be used in the attic.

For more information about the GREEN BUILT house, log onto hbaglr.com. 



Check *AY* each month, as we'll feature monthly updates through the completion of the GREEN BUILT home in May or June.