

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."

The run of fair weather continued this last month, granting the crews at the GREEN BUILT home much needed time to proceed with the building process. The home has been insulated using closed cell foam insulation. This new form of insulation uses foam to provide sealing to the exterior walls. Because of Arkansas' climate, according to Keith Wingfield, co-project coordinator and president of the HBAGLR, we don't get a lot of heat/cold transfer through walls except on the very coldest or hottest days.

"So, our energy efficiency is more a function of keeping the cold or hot out of the home. Closed cell foam seals all the voids that let air either in or out. We used what was needed, rather than overuse the foam, preparing for the weather in Arkansas — not extreme heat

or extreme cold conditions. Part of our goal with the GREEN BUILT Home is to show that you can build green and economically." Cellulose insulation is used in the remaining three inches of stud wall cavity to fill the void. Cellulose, a green product, is a completely recycled product made from discarded newspapers.

The home has also been wired for security and surround sound, along with the electrical wiring utilizing ENERGY STAR lighting fixtures and LED recessed cans. At press time, sheetrock was being hung in the home, to be followed by interior trim and cabinets. Construction on the exterior of the home is proceeding as well. The brick veneer, commonly used, is a green product and was furnished by Acme Brick. Solid brick has a bedding depth of 4 to 4.5 inches, Wingfield said; brick veneer has a thinner bed depth — 3 to 3.5 inches and has holes to reduce the weight.

"You may ask how is that 'green'? This product requires less energy to make as it cures at a lower temperature, and because brick veneer weighs less it requires less energy to transport it on our roads."

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

