

GOING GREEN -

.....OUR EFFORTS TOWARD COMPLIANCE

Remodeling is more environmentally-sound than building a new home. Even better, implementing "green" strategies throughout your renovation not only helps Mother Earth, but also can lower homeowners' energy costs, improve the efficiency of their home, and may even offer taxable benefits.

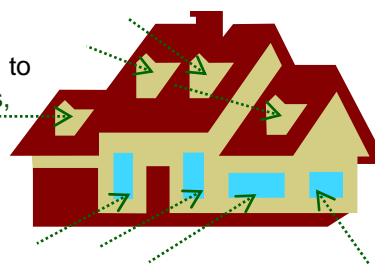
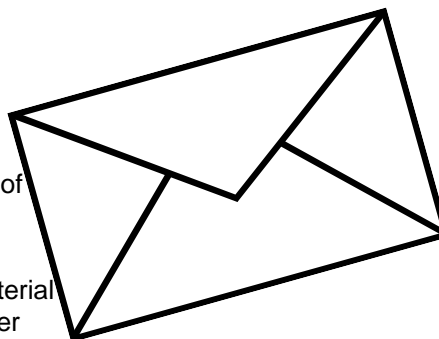
Here are a few "green" strategies that we actively employ...

Step 1: Creating an "Envelope"

Think of your home as a "package". When you wrap a package, you provide a safe enclosure covering all seals, gaps, and cracks that will protect the contents from naturally-occurring mishaps and the effects of time.

During renovations affecting exterior walls, we must first prepare our "package" for its protective wrapping. **OSB sheathing** is a framing material that provides further reinforcement to framing beams. Like tissue paper insulates your contents, we wrap your home/renovated area with a **house wrap** (such as Tyvek® or other). Both layers during the framing process work to create a more sturdy shell that also **improves your home's heating/cooling efficiency.**

We then create an "envelope" around your home from the highest ceiling to the lowest elevation encapsulating all conditioned space – filling all holes, sealing all window gaps/cracks/openings.



Step 2: Install Energy-Efficient Systems, Fixtures, & Appliances

New, more efficient HVAC systems, sized to handle added, conditioned space, are installed for Additions and Basement Renovations. While new HVAC systems add cost to your project, most find that the full cost of new systems are recouped by saving on gas costs within just a few years.

Low-E Windows provide a significant improvement to heating/cooling your home. Low-emittance (Low-E) coatings are microscopically thin, virtually invisible (transparent to visible light) and are applied to block UV rays and reduce heat flow.

For New Construction projects, proper site planning (to include the position of the home and window direction, as well as the use of erosion control measures and draught-tolerant landscaping) are important factors to efficient heating/cooling and water infiltration.

Spend a little now, save a lot later.... Homeowners can further improve their heating/cooling by replacing existing, older appliances with new, energy-efficient/Energy Star® appliances. Of course, you can improve your home's curb appeal and reduce the output of your HVAC system by adding more trees and shaded areas to your lot. Regularly replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs) and using a programmable thermostat are other measures homeowners can implement on their own to lower heating/cooling costs (thermostats can save as much as **10% annually** if consistently used).

Allergies? When remodeling, make sure your contractor plans to vent exhaust fans to the exterior and install vapor barriers under the concrete slab as both are measures to improve indoor air quality. Adding a filter system to your HVAC is also another good measure to reduce allergens inside the home.

Lower your maintenance costs and save a tree.... The use of alternative wood materials (including non-wood composites) and **lpe** (a beautiful, Brazilian walnut that is more quickly replenished than softer woods, such as pine) are less costly/timely to maintain and extremely durable. While the material cost may be higher than pressure-treated wood, the added value to your home and savings on maintenance will quickly recoup the cost difference.

Need more incentive to "Go Green"? Receive a tax credit! At www.energystar.gov / (using the "Tax Credit Under the Energy Bill" link, "tax credits are available for many types of home improvements including adding insulation, replacement windows, and certain high efficiency heating and cooling equipment". See the website for further information.