

## REMODELERS COUNCIL

Home Builders Association of Central New Mexico

### How to remodel Green

Be sure to have some of these features incorporated into your project.

Want to reduce your energy use? Look here for tips and suggestions to help use less energy.

#### **Water Conservation:**

- **Bathroom:** Ultra low flow or dual flush toilet, Motion sensor faucet, Recirculating pump for hot water
- **Laundry:** Front load washer uses far less water and gets clothes cleaner.
- **Landscape:** Xeriscape, Rain barrels and grey water for irrigation.

#### **Energy Conservation:**

Purchase energy star appliances, they use 30% less energy than the average appliance, and some have a rebate for efficiency.

- **Water heater:** Install an insulating blanket. Get a more efficient conventional water heater or an on demand water heater. Install a circulating pump to save water.
- **Heating:** Installing a programmable thermostat for under \$40.00 will save the cost of the thermostat in the first year. System upgrade: Higher efficiency forced air furnace, sealed, insulated ductwork, tax credits for high efficiencies.
- **Cooling:** Install a ceiling fan for air movement. Change the old cooler to a more efficient Master cool or Ultra

cool evaporative cooler. If you gotta have refrigerated, get an efficient system and collect the tax credits.

- **Insulation:** More is better (up to a point). You should have a foot of insulation in your attic, and it can be batts, or blown in, or a combination. Seal around penetrations for wiring or plumbing entering the walls with expanding foam. If your house has a crawlspace you can insulate your floor.
- **Infiltration:** The #1 source of heat loss. It's the air that exits through the poor weather-stripping around your windows and doors and the cracks along your floor. You can add weather-stripping to those leaky windows and doors, or better yet, replace them for even greater performance and energy savings.
- **Windows:** Should have a 'low e' coating on the glass which will qualify for tax credits. Lots of choices for retrofit windows, lots of styles.
- **Doors:** You can buy stainable fiberglass doors with an embossed wood grain that look good and are insulated. Insulated steel doors are also available and are very affordable. When considering a new door, it is as efficient, labor wise, to replace the door and jamb assembly as it is to hang a new door in the old jamb, in most cases. You get much better weather-stripping and seal at the threshold with the new assembly than you can replacing the door alone.
- **Lighting:** Compact fluorescent lamps use 25% of the energy of incandescent bulbs and last 5 times longer, but you have to buy the good ones. Cheap fluorescents are just that, cheap. They won't last and you probably won't like the light. The best light comes from bulbs with a color temperature of 2850k - 3100k. A halogen light is 3000k. You can get dimmable fluorescents now, and some compact fluorescent contain very little mercury. Remember, these bulbs need to be recycled and not

disposed of in the trash because of the mercury. On the horizon and not quite here are LED lights. You can buy them at the home centers but the color temperature is off and they are very directional. They use 10% of the energy of an incandescent lamp and last from 10 to 50 years. The quality varies and the cost is steep but the savings offset the cost.

- ✿ Skylights add natural light to dark interior rooms. Best are the solar-tube variety which maximize light in a small area.

#### □ **Resource Conservation:**

- Recycle some of the waste from a project, ie; cardboard, lumber scrap.
- Donate usable building materials and cabinets/fixtures to Habitat for Humanity's 'Restore'.
- Use sustainable lumber from a certified forest
- Buy locally, or regionally, or nationally, or continentally, before you buy globally
- Install a recycling center

#### □ **Environmental quality:**

- Use low/no VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) paints, finishes, adhesives.
- Specify cabinets with no formaldehyde based glues in the boxes.
- Install correctly sized low sone exhaust fans in the bathrooms and a quality vent at the cook-top.
- Clean filters regularly on a forced air heating system.
- Specify no/low VOC carpeting and pad, consider natural linoleum flooring.