



Tyson's REMODELING News

David Tyson &
Associates Inc.

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What is GREEN?

I just completed the NARI Green remodeling course at CPCC. One of the things I learned is that we have been practicing Green remodeling techniques since I started the business back in 1982.

Green can be defined into six categories that all interrelate. Optimizing site potential; minimize energy use and use renewable energy strategies; conserve and protect water; enhance indoor environmental quality; use environmentally preferred products; and optimize operations and maintenance practices.

As a remodeler, I believe that if we concentrate on the existing housing stock by insulating them we would drastically decrease our current consumption. Every existing home and even some new ones can use

some upgrades to help our overall electrical, water and natural gas consumption. Some upgrade could cost thousands up front but save in the long life cycle of that house. Some items like CFL light bulbs have proven to have pay back in only a few months. These are very small savings; however, if everyone did this it would have a very far reaching impact.

As reported in builder magazine, 1.1 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, 60 million BTU's of natural gas and 69 million gallons of water (equal to powering Washington, D.C. for eight months and filling the Rose Bowl with water 818 times) would be saved each year if everyone who purchases a washer this year chose an Energy Star model.

One of the best things you could have done is an energy audit of your existing house.

Using a blower door and a duct blaster test, we can create a full evaluation of your home and suggest steps that you could consider in buttoning up your home and making it more efficient. These audits will look at air infiltration holes, insulation efficiency, HVAC systems, water systems and other general observations around the house to inform you of the potential corrections you should consider.

An Energy audit ranges in costs from a low of \$500 to \$600 and on up depending on the size of the house and complexity. Making even the some of the smallest corrections can save the costs of the audit very quickly.

In upcoming issues of our news letter we will continue to educate you on some of the great things you can do.

SAVE ENERGY- SAVE THE PLANET

Standby power, the juice used by all those DVD players, clocks, coffeepots LEDs, cell-phone chargers, laptops and MP3 players accounts for more than 5 percent of all residential electricity use in the U.S., a tab that costs us an estimated \$4 billion per year and pumps millions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. What are some of the solutions? A new type of charger called the Green Plug is a hub that powers multiple devices at once, but only when they need it. The

idea behind the system, due out early next year, is that software in the gadgets would tell the hub exactly how much power they need. When the battery is full, the device tells the Green Plug to cut the juice. Current chargers keep drawing a small amount of power as long as they are plugged into an outlet, which also reduces battery life.

A new power strip called the Watt Stopper Isole' IDP-3050, which costs around \$90.00 uses an infrared sensor to detect body heat, this power strip knows

when you leave your desk and turns off six of its outlets for devices like printers. Go to wattstopper.com for more information and other energy saving products they offer. Of course the simplest solution would be to turn off your computer at night, unplug your I pod or cell phone when it's done charging or put all those gadgets on a power strip for easy one touch turn off. Call or e mail us at dat@tysonrenovations.com with your energy saving ideas

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EUROPEAN DESIGNS FOR KITCHEN AND BATHS COMING WEST



Led lighting, sheet glass backsplash, cork floor, glass medallion mosaic over range, stainless steel appliances, plug mold electrical

Trends that are coming to Europe will soon have designers in the US incorporating them into kitchens and baths.

Storage ideas like oversized drawers; better utilization in sink base cabinets; touch latch systems to create a "no hardware look"; doors that move forward then slide sideways; drawers that open and close electronically; table sliding systems that hide and additional countertop or seating area and electronics being used to lift and lower complete storage sections in an peninsula or backsplash space.

Materials are available in more vivid colors and the mixing of dissimilar materials. Violet, lilac, purple combined with white is evident at many exhibits and shows. Cherry is still strong with walnut coming in vogue. A reintroduction of black and white gloss along with taupe and cream stains with glazes and lacquer

finishes are very popular.

Stainless steel is being used more for countertops as well as some cabinet doors. Black on black (both matte and gloss) naturalistic patterns on back walls.

New focus is on the shape of cabinets with curves becoming very prominent in cabinets as well as countertops. The layout now has more door styles arranged in cubes with door frames using a mix of materials creating more vertical and horizontal lines. Finger pulls give a less cluttered look.

Surfacing has now become more complicated. Stone materials are being honed, brushed and torched to create unique textures other than gloss. Very thin countertop edges with similar materials to match cabinets. Combinations of thick and thin wood edges are coming.

Appliances are changing very

fast. LED lighting is fast becoming the best way to save electricity. This style of lighting can go anywhere; under cabinets, inside cabinets with activation sensors making switches obsolete. Exhaust hoods can be made to be pulled down for operation and then lifted up to get out of the way and are becoming the focal point as sculptural pieces. Induction, steam and speed cooking devices will change the way we cook.

The focus in master baths seems to be wellness from hygiene. Showers and toilets are combined in separate compartments so vanities and tubs stand alone. Showers are incorporating rain heads, body sprays, chromo therapy and steam generators. Art pieces have hit baths with heated towel bars, sculpted one of a kind sinks, vessels and pedestals. Bath tubs are being made from exotic materials.



ADDITION WITH HARDI PLANK SIDING

FACTORY-FINISHED SIDING—25 YEAR WARRANTY?

There are wood (western red cedar) and fiber cement board siding products that if they have a factory controlled paint application process then paint failure warranties could be up to 25 years. Wow! Today's exterior paint jobs seem to only last 3 to 5 years.

The Forest Products Lab has been testing paint durability by watching paint weather for over 30 years. A study published in 1994, the lab found that the western red cedar clapboards that was not exposed to the

weather prior to being painted were in almost perfect condition.

Fiber cement siding hasn't been tested for as long as western red cedar but the product seem to have excellent dimensional stability suggesting the similar longevity.

In a factory, the humidity, of the material, the dust free environment, the right temperature and application thickness of the primers and paint can provide a paint job that will last for 25 years. It is imperative to keep

unpainted siding from any sun exposure prior to painting.

There are independently owned finishing plants all over the country that will apply most of the major brands of paint; Cabot, Sherwin-Williams, PPG, and many others.

Is it worth the costs, yes! For a typical 3000 SF. house, having a primer and 2 coats of finish paint applied in the factory added about \$3,500 to the costs of the siding. An onsite paint job might range from \$7k to \$10k.



An Award waiting to happen

NEW ADDITIONS TO FAMILY

Since graduating college two years ago, Jonathon Tyson has been working hard in the family business. He now leads a crew and is frequently called upon do ceramic tile work, which he did during the summers at college. Jonathon's skills do not stop there, he is adept at framing and

trim work too.

Daniel Campbell has been with us for a year and brings many skills to the table. He has been in this industry since leaving the Army in 1995. He is a highly capable painter along with his drywall, trim, and framing skills.

Thomas Shoe Jr. has been with us 5 months since relocating from California where he worked for a builder. His background is a lab technician for pharmaceutical companies. We are glad to have him as he has already proved to be an asset.

GRANITE SAFETY ISSUE REKINDLES

You may have read about it or even seen it on the news. The controversy over radon emissions from granite used in kitchen countertops has resurfaced in recent months with a newly formed nonprofit organization raising alarms and a established organization representing the natural stone industry again going on the defense. This controversy dates at least back to the mid 1990's when an industry publication raised the issue of radon emissions.

In response to newly expressed concerns, the Marble Institute of America (MIA) released a new study concluding that the most popular types of granites used in countertops in the United States

are safe.

The latest study, designed to determine whether radon gas sometimes released by natural stone poses any health risks, was conducted by Dr. L.L. Chyi, professor of geology and civil engineering at the University of Akron in Ohio. Included in this study were 13 of the most popular types of granites used in countertop applications, representing up to 85 percent of the granite countertops sold in the United States

The MIA has created a fund to counter what it calls "spurious allegations" and has invested \$50,000.00 in unbudgeted funds, according to Jim Hogan of Carrara Marble Company of

America and current president of MIA.

To alleviate the fears of our customers, we have purchased a radon detector and will test countertops for a \$75.00 fee which covers the cost of employee time and gas or you can purchase a one time radon kit and test your own countertop, they are available on line and at some home centers such as Little Hardware. Remember to buy 2 units if it is disposable and check your crawl space which is the biggest source of radon gas so as not to get a false reading on your countertop.

If you do get a positive reading, call us to discuss your options for remedy.



Granite countertops a popular choice, is it a new worry or just hype?

NARI/REBUILDING WORKING TOGETHER

Rebuilding Together, a nonprofit organization working to preserve affordable home ownership, and the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) where David Tyson has served 2 terms as president of the local chapter, 4 terms as National vice president of the southeast region and 4 years on the certification board at the National level, have agreed to an alliance that will allow both groups to serve low-income

homeowners, especially the elderly and disabled. Partnership elements will include local Rebuilding Together affiliate outreach and collaboration with NARI chapters, referral and information sharing and strategic alignment with other industry organizations.

Celebrating their 20th anniversary, Rebuilding Together, has accomplished more than 100,000 home renovations for those in

need, through nearly 225 affiliates nationwide. To date more than 3 million volunteers have committed time Rebuilding Together, helping to deliver more than \$1 billion in market value work to nearly 2,000 communities.

Please share this information with your local church and contact our local NARI chapter, if you know of anyone who meets the criteria.

All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence

-Dr. Martin Luther King-

LET THE SUNSHINE DO THE WORK

With the energy prices the way they are, there is a resurgence of solar energy which became popular in the 70's.

Most solar water heating systems have two main parts, a solar collector and a storage tank. The most common collector is the *flat plate collector*. It consists of a thin, flat, rectangular box with a transparent cover that faces sun. Small tubes run through the box and carry the fluid, either water or anti-freeze

solution to be heated. The tubes are attached to an absorber plate, which is painted black. As heats builds up in the collector, it heats the fluid in the tubes.

A storage tank holds the hot liquid, usually a larger and better insulated modified water heater. Systems that use antifreeze, heat the water by passing it through a coil of tubing in the tank, which is full of hot fluid.

Solar water heating can be active

or passive. Active systems rely on pumps to move the liquid between the collector and storage tank, while passive systems rely on gravity and the tendency for water to naturally circulate as it is heated.

If you have been considering saving money and energy, call us to discuss the options of installing solar water heating or solar electric power on your home.



South facing solar water collecting plates

**David Tyson & Associates
Inc.**

3718 Selwyn Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28209
Phone: 704-523-6521
Fax: 704-522-6528
Email: dat@tysonrenovations.com

Craftsman, Designer, Builder



WWW.TYSONRENOVATIONS.COM



Our Pictures



Tyson Referral Awards Program

- Jobs from \$5,000-\$10,000: Thank you card and basket of fruit
- Jobs from \$10,001-\$25,000: Thank you card and dinner for two at Manzetti's
- Jobs from \$25,001-\$50,000: Thank you card, dinner for two at Manzetti's and \$25 gift certificate
- Jobs from \$50,001-\$75,000: Thank you card, dinner for two at Lavecchia's Seafood grill and \$50 gift certificate
- Jobs from \$75,001-\$100,000: Thank you card, dinner for two at Lavecchia's Seafood grill and \$75 gift certificate
- Jobs from \$100,001-\$150,000: Thank you card, weekend for two at Grove Park Inn
- Jobs from \$150,001-\$200,000: Thank you card, weekend for two at Grove Park Inn and massage for two at the SPA
- Jobs above \$200,001: Thank you card and three day all inclusive vacation for two in Cancun Mexico: See travel details for restrictions of all inclusive packages