



BUILT GREEN™

Home Builders Association of Kitsap County

Improving Air Quality and Value... For Your Family

Offering over 120 powerful ways to protect you and your environment.

BUILT GREEN is a network of architects, builders, subcontractors, suppliers, and real estate agents working together to improve your quality of life by providing quality homes that are cost effective to own and operate, protect your family's health and well being, and help preserve our beautiful Pacific Northwest environment.

This series of three fact sheets is intended to give a glimpse of the benefits of the 85 program features incorporated into the BUILT GREEN program.

Look for the Logo
Builders, architects, lending institutions, real estate brokers, and suppliers participating in the BUILT GREEN program display the logo in their advertising. Look for it to make sure you benefit from this national award-winning program.

Long-Lasting Quality and Value...For Your Family

BUILT GREEN Homes offer improved air quality through controlled ventilation and careful selection of low-toxic building materials. Improved air quality means you and your family can enjoy:

✓A Refreshing Environment

Paying attention to air quality in new homes is especially important with the level of air tightness required by the State Energy Code. This air tightness results in fewer air exchanges. But opening the window in the winter won't solve the problem. Controlled ventilation strategies mean you'll get more than enough fresh air throughout your home without paying an energy penalty.

✓Reduced Health Risks

According to the American Lung Association of Washington, "avoiding or eliminating sources of indoor pollution is probably the most effective way of improving your indoor breathing environment." The Association links a variety of physical symptoms, ranging from mild to severe, to inadequate or poor air quality. BUILT GREEN homes can incorporate safer alternatives and eliminate unhealthy ones.

✓Higher Resale Value

A healthier, safer home represents a better investment for homebuyers with concerns about indoor air quality and its affect on their family's health.

✓Contentment

Experience the contentment of providing your children with the extra comfort and livability of a healthier, safer home. Add to that the knowledge that by buying non- or low-toxic building materials and supplies, you'll be doing your part to build a market for these products, as well as a cleaner environmental future.

Air Quality Features Available with BUILT GREEN

The BUILT GREEN program offers a variety of air quality options which make your new home a healthier place to live. These include:

- Improved Air Filtration
- Balanced Ventilation
- Improved Air Exchange Equipment
- Spot Exhaust Fans in Home Offices
- Sealed Combustion Heating and Hot Water Equipment
- Reduced Formaldehyde Materials
- Low-VOC Paints, Sealers, Adhesives, and Solvents
- Judicious Use of Carpets
- Low Toxic Insulation
- External Insulation on all Metal Ducting



Case Study: Improving Air Quality



Health Fact

According to the American Lung Association of Washington, poor indoor air quality is blamed, in part, for the dramatic increase in the last decade in asthma, a chronic lung disease that affects nearly 15 million Americans, including 300,000 living in Washington State. Kitsap and King Counties have three times the national average rate of school children with asthma. Asthma is the number one cause of school absences attributed to chronic conditions.

Staying healthy at home

The 2,700 sq. ft. Healthy House project in Kent, Washington, sponsored by the American Lung Association in 1997 highlights many of the air quality features being promoted as part of the BUILT GREEN Program, such as reduced carpeting, low VOC paint, and sealed combustion heating appliances. The three bedroom, three bath home with other bonus features is priced at \$319,000 and is a fundraiser for the ALA.

Pediatrics Journal (June 1997) reports that the “marginal [medical] costs [for treating a child with] asthma was \$615.17/yr [in 1996].” A typical doctor’s visit for asthma in Western Washington costs between \$75 to \$100 (not including prescriptions or tests). Emergency visits cost far more. If your home’s improved air quality features eliminate just one medical visit per family member per year to treat symptoms resulting from poor air quality, this would represent significant avoided cost for health care. For a family of four, avoided cost would amount to \$400 to per year if you pay direct, or lower rates for your health insurance. This does not include the value of lost time from work or school, or added stress. (You may want to calculate those for yourself.)

(For more information about the ALA’s program to promote healthy homes, contact them at (800) 732-9339.)

BUILT GREEN Homeowner Tips

Protect the healthier, safer qualities of your new BUILT GREEN home:

- Don’t allow smoking in or near your home.
- Install rugs only where you absolutely need to. Hard surface floors are easier to keep free of dust, mold, and mildew.
- Clean your home with low or non-toxic cleaning products.
- Regularly maintain your heating and ventilation system per manufacturer’s recommendations (including changing filters).
- Use low- or non-toxic alternatives when touching up interior finishes, such as paints and varnishes.
- Make your bedroom a pollutant-free “oasis;” keep out pets, dry-cleaned clothes, or printed materials.
- In your yard, use the least toxic solution to fertilizing and pest management. You’ll track any pesticides you use into your home. (Contact Kitsap County Public Works Open Line at 800-825-4940 for tips).
- For more ideas, consult the certification checklist that was used to qualify your BUILT GREEN home.

References:

“Lung Disease Data, 1996,” American Lung Association
Healthy House ’97 Tour Guide, American Lung Association

More About BUILT GREEN

BUILT GREEN is a program of the Home Builders Association of Kitsap County that promotes the use of environmentally friendly features in new and remodeled homes. Funding for program development and implementation was provided through a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology administered by Kitsap County Public Works. Homes enrolled in the program are rated by the Association based on the number of BUILT GREEN features included in the home. Construction projects meeting program standards are awarded a 1-, 2-, or 3-star rating certificate. A 3-star rating is the highest level of achievement.

For more information: Call the Home Builders Association of Kitsap County at 360-479-5778 or visit www.Kitsaphba.com to request a brochure describing the program overall, as well as a list of participating members. If you’ve already selected a builder, let them know you’d like to use the Build A Better Kitsap program’s 120 program features to help plan the home of your dreams.

Caution: The BUILT GREEN Program is intended to promote good air quality as well as reduce health risks for occupants and installers. Please note that the program does not represent the kind of comprehensive approach that would be required for a homeowner with unusual chemical or other environmental sensitivities. If you are such an individual, consult an indoor air quality expert who will help test your sensitivities to specific products. A product labeled as non-toxic may cause no problems for most individuals, but may still cause problems for a particularly sensitive individual.