

# Insulation *from the* Garden

BY GARY TALBOTT

**Every now and then, there comes along a new buzzword. The latest in the building industry is “green.”**

While the exact meaning varies slightly across the board, “green” is often used to refer to material of natural content, as well as energy efficient products that reduce the demand on fossil fuels. When it comes to building products, “green” refers to materials that carry a minimal negative environmental impact. Some products are considered green because they are alternatives to conventional products that are considered hazardous.

**...there are emerging new building products that are TRULY green.**

As some of the most environmentally sensitive people in the country, Californians are the prime demographic to embrace this green movement. (Being one of the first states to ban smoking in the workplace indicates the direction the state prefers to take.)

Using green products has many advantages. For example, using a product that gets some of its ingredients from a farm grown renewable product not only helps the American farmer but also reduces the demand on oil.

With all that said and done, there are emerging new building products that are TRULY green. That is, they are products that are both natural AND rapidly renewable. There are straw-based board products, straw bales to build walls, as well as cork, bamboo, and, of course, wood. In addition to these, there are other products that don't quite meet up with the definition of real green, but are still considered to be green due to their minimal environmental impact. Products such as recycled concrete and recycled plastic do not have a green element, but are still considered to be green. And fiberglass claims to be green because it has some recycled glass.

## The Garden Variety of Green

Now even insulation can make a claim of being green with the advent of Spray-Applied Insulation products made from renewable agricultural resources. The Spray Polyurethane Foam Industry has emerged as the leader in using renewable agricultural resources technology.

The use of Spray Polyurethane Foam Insulation in the building industry is nothing new. The top energy efficient builders have long recognized Spray Polyurethane Foam's ability to eliminate air infiltration, which is the greatest area of energy loss. Spray Polyurethane Foam goes on as a liquid and expands 100 to 1, providing a monolithic air barrier that is airtight and unaffected by water.



What is new, however, is that High Performance Spray Polyurethane Foam Insulation is now being manufactured with renewable agricultural resources. Sugar cane, sugar beets, corn, and soybeans are part of the ingredients now being used in the formulation of Spray Polyurethane Foam Insulation. While the exact amount of the agricultural content of specific products is proprietary, its average is usually about 20 to 30%.

Now you and your new house can have its daily-required minimum of vegetables.

*For more information on Spray Polyurethane Foam Insulation made with renewable agricultural resources, contact Five Star Performance Insulation at (916) 383-7590 or visit them on the web at [www.5StarPerInsul.com](http://www.5StarPerInsul.com).* ❖

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