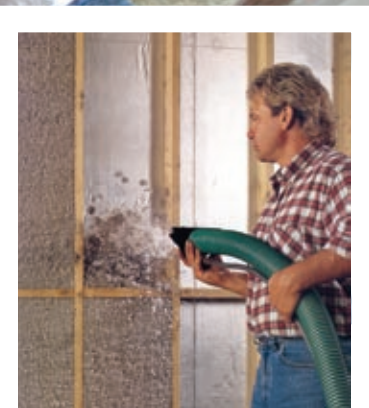


The Combination Plate



"Eco-house" photo courtesy of George Sakkestad.



BY GARY TALBOTT

California housing prices are continuing to go up faster than a speeding bullet. Oil prices are still at record numbers. Utility companies are putting out the word that increases are on the way. All this means is that it's going to cost you more to not only buy the house of your dreams but to keep it comfortable as well. It may lead one to wonder if there's any good news out there.

If you are going to build a new home, the best advice is not to look for the cheapest insulation bid you can find. The savings you might get on the outset will end up being far outweighed by costly missed comfort and savings in the not too far future.

There is an insulation process called, "The Combination Plate," that greatly reduces the usually inevitable need for future upgrade and/or replacement of insulation. Such a process will not only save you money in the long run, but it will also make your new home extremely easy to heat, cool and reduce external noise.

The Combination Plate consists of a unique combination of two highly effective insulation material applications, soy-based polyurethane foam and spray-applied cellulose insulation. The soy-based polyurethane foam goes on as a liquid and expands 100 times, making for a total air seal. This product is made from soybeans grown by American farmers making it the most environmentally responsible insulation product on the market, with no harmful emissions. It is especially effective in open architectural designs (known energy wasters) such as cathedral ceilings and sub floors and far

outperforms economy insulation (fiberglass) in these and many other more standard applications.

But "The Combination Plate" doesn't stop there. In addition to the soy-based foam, the exterior walls are insulated with spray-applied cellulose insulation. Cellulose, which is a 100% recycled paper product, is treated with Borate fire retardant, a natural mold and mildew inhibitor. Cellulose is sprayed into every wall cavity creating a custom fit application with no voids, pinches, or gaps as compared to economy batt insulation. The result is extremely effective thermal performance and unsurpassed sound deadening qualities.

"The Combination Plate" is worth the additional up front cost. It will allow you to have the money to "order dessert" when the time comes. Get that spa, pool, sport court, or vacation you want instead of having to pay high energy bills month after month after month!

Gary Talbott is the owner of 5 Star Performance Insulation, which specializes in High Performance Environmentally Sensitive and Recycled Spray Insulation Products. Gary has been an Insulation Contractor since 1970. Not only has he been an Insulation Contractor in three states, he has appeared on "This Old House" and has been featured in numerous magazines, including Builder. Gary can be reached at (916) 383-7590. ❖