



Designed for Living. Built for Life

STICKS & BRICKS

Volume 3 Issue 3

Fall/Winter 2006

Controlling Indoor Air Pollution in the Winter Months

Winterizing your home with caulking, sealing, insulation, storm doors and windows is a good idea for keeping warm and reducing energy bills, but it can produce health hazards for those who suffer from allergies and asthma. If homes are too airtight and energy efficient it can result in harmful particles and allergens, such as pet dander, dust and smoke being trapped indoors with no means of escape. The air in a sealed winterized home can be two to five times more polluted, and occasionally up to 100 times more polluted, than the air we breathe outdoors.

There are steps you can take to control indoor air pollution in your home during the winter months. Here are several practical tips to get you started:

Use the Furnace Fan

Run the furnace fan continuously, regardless of the outdoor temperature. It's important to do so because the filter can only capture particles if the furnace fan is running.

Change the Filter

Use a high efficiency furnace filter and replace the filter every two to three months. High efficiency filters capture up to 30 times more



The sealed air in a winterized home can be two to five times more polluted than the air we breathe outdoors.

allergens (i.e. pollen, dust, pet dander) and particles than standard fiberglass filters.

Vent the Kitchen

Make sure gas cooking appliances are vented to the outdoors and the kitchen fan is turned on when such appliances are in use. These measures will help prevent dangerously high levels of carbon

monoxide from accumulating in the home.

Limit Firewood Storage

Never store more than a few pieces of firewood indoors. Storing firewood indoors can release harmful contaminants into the home.

Use Bathroom Vents

Operate bathroom fans, if present, to remove moisture from showers (these fans should be ducted to the outside of the home), or simply crack the window to prevent moisture buildup. Your Towne Builders recommends running the bathroom fan for approximately 30 minutes after bathing.

Clean the Vents

Check all combustion and ventilation inlets to ensure they are free of debris. If such inlets are clogged with grass clippings, dust, lint or other particles, clean them with a small paintbrush or an old toothbrush. These combustion and ventilation inlets are generally found in the basement.

Check Your Appliances

Make sure all fuel burning appliances, such as the furnace, water

Continued to Page 2

The Changing Face of American Housing...

Does Bigger Really Mean Better?



Homes built today are larger than homes of the past, however their yards are markedly smaller. Homes also have more bedrooms and bathrooms, but house fewer people.

According to the Census Bureau's 2005 survey of new housing released late this summer, the average size of a new single-family home grew by 48 percent between 1975 and 2005. Meanwhile, the typical household has gotten smaller, declining from 2.94 people in 1975 to 2.6 people in 2004. At the same time homesites have shrank by about 13 percent.

Other Changing Trends

Almost all (95%) of completed new homes last year included two full baths.

Fireplaces are falling slightly out of favor with 55% of new homes including one, compared to 67% in 1995.

Garages are getting bigger while basements are disappearing. Last year 31% of new homes included a basement compared to 39% in 1995. Consumers like their three car garages and in 2005 20% of

all new homes had them compared to only 11% in 1995.

Other favorable characteristics in new home construction included porches and patios which have both increased in popularity over the past 10 years. On the other hand decks are becoming less popular as 26% of all new homes included decks, which was down from 33% in 1995.

Does it Make You Happy

Is bigger really better? And are we really happy with what we want? Not necessarily. Twenty years ago, nearly six out of 10 home owners reported high satisfaction in their house. Last year, five out of 10 people reported feeling satisfied with their homes. 🏠

Controlling Indoor Air Pollution in Winter Months...

Continued From Cover

heater and gas range, are in working order and are examined annually by a professional.

Install Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Install a carbon monoxide detector on every floor of the house. This will help determine unsafe levels of carbon monoxide, which could be caused by a malfunctioning heating and cooling system.

Get Fresh Air

When a wood fire is present, a window should always be kept

open, especially in a tightly sealed, energy efficient house. And when weather permits go a head and open a window, a bit a fresh air will do you and your home good. 🏠

Source: American Lung Association
www.lungusa.org


Sticks & Bricks is published quarterly by Your Towne Builders, Inc. and is distributed to various individuals including customers, potential customers, business associates and Realtors. If you wish to discontinue receiving *Sticks & Bricks* please contact Lori Artz at 717-390-3080 or email lartz@yourtownebuilders.com.

Although the advice and information in this newsletter is consistent with industry standards and practices, there is no substitute for professional workmanship and experience. Your Towne Builders, Inc. recommends that all home improvements and repairs be performed by a professional. Therefore, Your Towne Builders, Inc. cannot and does not assume any liability for improvements or repairs that are not exclusively performed by Your Towne Builders, Inc.

Home Maintenance Made Easy...

Getting Ready for Winter

Unless you are an avid skier, you're probably not ready for winter. However, as a homeowner it is important to get your home ready for the cold and often snowy winter months.

The crisp, cool weather make autumn the perfect time to work on these winterizing chores. And some of the inside chores, such as caulking, can easily be taken care of during the winter months. Time spent now will lessen the time it could take to fix problems later. Use these handy lists to get organized and make indoor and outdoor home maintenance a breeze. 




Outdoors

- Inspect roof, siding, and shutters for damage
- Clean out gutters
- Properly grade your yard to move water away from your home
- Remove hoses from hose bibs and store indoors
- Protect faucets from freezing (if needed)
- Caulk exterior window & door joints
- Store outside tools, equipment & furniture
- Clean out flowerbeds & vegetable gardens
- Rake leaves, prune shrubs, plant spring bulbs
- Over or spot seed your lawn

Indoors

- Apply weather stripping to windows (if needed)
- Re-caulk kitchen and bathrooms
- Change heating system filters
- Have heating system serviced
- Replace smoke detector batteries & test
- Remove window screens & repair as needed
- Install storm windows (if needed)
- Switch ceiling fan to blow up
- Open bottom returns & close upper return vents



New Homes Available Now!

10 Cedar Chase Drive
West Hempfield Township



2505 sq. ft., 4 BRs, 2.5 baths. Many upgraded features including a 2-story great room w/ gas fireplace; huge owner's suite w/ walk in closet and ceramic tile and cherry luxury owner's bath retreat; and beautiful open kitchen w/ upgraded gas range and built in microwave. Other outstanding features include a 5 room sound system package, stamped concrete walk way and stoop and covered grilling porch. Stone, stucco, and vinyl exterior w/ copper roof accents. **A must see! Available immediately!** \$360,938.

9 Cedar Chase Drive
West Hempfield Township



2406 sq. ft., 4 BRs, 2.5 baths. This charming home is highlighted by a first floor owner's suite complete with a large walk in closet and ceramic tile owner's bath. Other features include a hard surface kitchen counter, great room with gas fireplace, huge 1st floor laundry/mudroom, hardwood floors, walk out basement and spacious wood deck overlooking the valley. **Ready now!** \$335,842

16 Cedar Chase Drive
West Hempfield Township



2184 sq. ft., 4 BRs, 2.5 baths. This fantastic home has a popular floor plan boasting a large family room w/ gas fireplace, formal dining room, living room/office with french doors and spacious bedrooms. Tons of upgrades including hardwood floors, ceramic tile, stainless steel appliances, and more highlight this affordable home. Ready in early December! **Won't last long at \$307,907!**

For more information on these available homes contact:

Lori Artz, Realtor®, CSP

RE/MAX Associates of Lancaster

717-569-2222 or 717-278-6784 - Direct

In this issue...

- Reducing Indoor Air Pollution in Your Home
- The Changing Face of Housing
- Fall Home Maintenance Made Easy
- Meet the Covington Model

Coming next time...

- Housing Market Update
- Ready Now Homes
- Around Your Towne



Designed for Living. Built for Life

2137 Embassy Drive, Suite 210
Lancaster, PA 17603
717-390-3080

Meet the Covington Model... First Floor Living and a Charming Facade



The Covington Model features a first floor owner's suite highlighted by a large walk in closet and bath with a garden or whirlpool tub. The plan boasts 2406 square feet, 3 second floor bedrooms, a large 2nd floor loft, a huge first floor laundry/mud room, formal dining room and 2 story foyer.

The Covington Model is currently offered at Cedar Chase

located in the Mountville section of West Hempfield. A newly completed Covington is available for \$335,842 and has many fantastic upgrades including a gas fireplace, hard surface kitchen counter, upgraded appliances, hardwood and ceramic tile floors and much more. For details call Lori Artz, Realtor with RE/MAX Associates of Lancaster at 717-569-2222.



1st Floor



2nd Floor