

THE HOME FRONT

Imagine Homes goes even greener

Imagine Homes, the 2008 Green Production Home Builder of the Year, is stepping up its level of energy efficiency.

The San Antonio builder will be the first in the U.S. to use a foam insulation that should increase efficiency by 40 percent to 50 percent.

Imagine Homes currently uses a cellulose insulation that is essentially shredded newspaper.

The new foam insulation is more efficient because it expands to 120 times its size, sealing all cracks and creating a tighter envelope in the home. The insulation also will help turn the attic into an insulated area, which will keep the rest of the house cooler and let the air conditioner work less.

Demilec, the foam insulation manufacturer, approached Imagine Homes to pilot the new product after Imagine won its green builder award from the National Association of Home Builders.

Imagine Homes builds all of its homes to meet standards for Build San Antonio Green and the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Star programs.

Co-founder John Friesenhahn said that by further tightening the home's envelope and lowering the energy requirements of a home, it may become more practical to incorporate solar panels.

— Creighton A. Welch

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