

Water Efficiency in the home .1 CEU

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Water Efficiency in the Home!

Welcome to our 1 hour Seminar!

In the 20th Century we discovered that we are not taking good care of the earth... We are depleting some of our most valuable resources – such as water! If we don't stop this process – we may not have an earth as we know it, to pass on to our future generations!

Our Economy exists within our Society which exists within our Environment and we need to have a symbiotic ie close cooperative relationship between the Economy, Society and the Environment in order to sustain life as we know it on this planet.

We have a responsibility to sustain if not enhance our earth's natural environment and our nation's economy for future generations.

This is called Sustainability. So what does Sustainability mean?

Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

One important way to do so is by limiting resource depletion; by using but not abusing our natural resources, especially our water , so that it is not depleted or permanently damaged!

The USGBC addresses 5 categories: Energy, Water Efficiency, Sustainable Sites, Materials Resources and Indoor Air Quality which need to be balanced in order to create a healthy habitat and an environmentally responsible world!

A Green Home is a Healthy Habitat and it is comfortable, durable, low maintenance, energy efficient, environmentally responsible and sustainable...

Our clients also want it to be beautiful and affordable. I believe that if we show our clients low maintenance, energy efficient, environmentally responsible and sustainable products that are also beautiful and affordable, they will purchase them

Much of the emphasis in the Green Building movement has been on energy efficiency Water-use reduction needs to be given more emphasis because of 3 reasons:

1. "Saving Water also Saves Energy"
2. Effective wastewater management is critical to the quality of life and the physical health of all American cities
3. We need to prevent current and future water shortages worldwide in order to preserve the world as we know it for our children and grandchildren

A brief history of water efficiency:

Low water consumption toilets were 1st used in the U.S. in 1968 - on trains and boats and it soon became evident that they were a great way of saving water nationally.

1972 Sweden creates the lower water consumption toilets for homes and in 1976 these toilets are 1st marketed in the U.S to help solve the problem of rural septic systems failure

In 1978 a Penn State study confirmed that low water consumption toilets were a low cost way of relieving the problem of septic systems failure

In 1982 our government created regulation ANSI 112-19.2 which included the siphon wash down (Swedish type) toilet

In 1987 Massachusetts passes the 1st 1.6 gallons per flush code which became effective in 1989. Manufacturers responded but their initial designs didn't function that well. Thank goodness they are much better now.

In 1992 the Federal Energy Policy Act of 1992 was created which requires that that all toilets manufactured for sale in the United States use no more than 1.6 g/pf and that all faucet fixtures manufactured for sale in the United States restrict maximum water flow at or below 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) at 80 pounds per square inch (psi) of water pressure or 2.2 gpm at 60 psi. This ensures that most faucet products available will offer at least minimal water efficiency benefits. We refer to this act as EPACT

Then in 2006 the government realizing that it would be better if other plumbing fixtures also consumed less water, instituted the Water Efficiency Leadership Awards as an incentive for companies to work towards creating numerous lower water consuming products and in 2007 Water Sense labeling was born.

We can help our clients conserve water by recommending that they:

1. Use Water Sense Toilets and Plumbing Fixtures

“Water Sense” plumbing fixtures use up to 32% less water than conventional plumbing fixtures and don't waste water

Some Watersense” products are:

Low flow toilets that use less than 1.3 gallons per flush

Dual Flush Toilets that use 0.8 g/pf with one button and 1.6 g/pf with another and allow the user to decide how much water they need to use for each flush.

Low flow kitchen and lavatory faucets, Low flow showers and Low flow spray rinse valves

2. Use Energy Star Appliances

such as Front loading washing machines that save 6000 gallons of water per year

3. Use Tank-less Water Heaters

Building Green is using tank-less water heaters & having hot water when you need it but not wasting energy heating it when you don't

4. Plant Native and Adaptive Shrubbery that don't need to be watered regularly because they can exist on whatever rainfall your area receives

5. Harvest Rainwater

which can be used for landscape irrigation for your or your client's home

6. Use Grey Water Plumbing Systems

Building Green is using a “Grey Water System” which means re-circulating and re using “Grey Water” or water from washing your hands – and not wasting it!

Some easy tests to make your existing home Greener

You should consider Building Green like an investment in your home's future

You pay some extra money now ...to reap the rewards of a more efficiently run and a less expensively run home in the future

Additionally, you reap the rewards of a healthier, better world which has enough water to survive in the future

So why not Just Always Build Green and save

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Biography

Beverly Vosko, Allied Member ASID, RID, CAPS, L.E.E.D Green Associate, CGP (Certified Green Professional) is a full service, Registered Interior Designer in Texas #6333. She is President and founder of both Beverly Vosko Interiors and InteriorDesign-ED; both DBA's for C. V. Design Inc. For over 25 years, she has been designing homes across the United States and Europe, specializing in creating custom residential and commercial environments, be they traditional, transitional, contemporary or eclectic, that match her design clients' every need, through her design firm, Beverly Vosko Interiors. For nearly 20 years, she has taught Interior Design: first at Rice University, then at the University of Houston, and for the last 10 years nationally, with her Continuing Education company, InteriorDesign-ED. Specifically, she has taught Interior Design, Aging in Place, Green/Sustainable Design, Lighting and Antiques. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania, studied Art History at Harvard University, received her MBA in Marketing from NYU Stern Graduate Business School, and completed Design and Antiques training from Sotheby's, the world-renowned Inghald School of Design and Houston Community College. Please view her websites, www.vosko.com and www.InteriorDesign-ED.com.