

# Hints for Homeowners

## Energy-Saving Features Mean Long-Term Savings And Comfort

(NAPSA)—Building a new home can be an exciting and rewarding experience for you and your family. Throughout the design process, you'll make a lot of important decisions—one of them being the measures you'll take to ensure that your home can keep you cool in the summer and warm in the winter. What insulation should I use? Should I install energy-efficient windows? Furnace? HVAC?

Increasing your new home's energy efficiency will have a significant impact on its long-term operating cost and provide a more comfortable living environment with preferable temperatures and fewer drafts. When you consider that U.S. homes account for 21 percent of our nation's energy use, it's clear that an energy-efficient home is also a key ingredient to responsible growth as our population and the size of new homes increase.

Approximately 1.2 million new single-family homes are built in the U.S. each year, with the average new-home size increasing significantly, from 1,645 square feet in 1975 to 2,434 square feet in 2005, according to the National Association of Home Builders. As we continue to build and as our homes get larger, so will the increased strain on our wallets, our energy supply and the environment.

There are several ways to build your home to ensure that it efficiently keeps temperatures com-



**Fiberglass spray-in insulation can help make a home more energy efficient for long-term savings.**

fortable. One of the most cost-effective ways of doing so is by properly insulating your home with the latest insulation technology to maximize its energy efficiency potential.

"The most effective insulation products on the market today completely fill wall cavities, eliminating all gaps and voids where energy can escape," suggests Dean Johnson, host of the national home improvement show "Hometime." "Homeowners should also use insulation that doesn't contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as formaldehyde, which may have long- and short-term adverse health effects. In tighter-built, more energy-efficient homes, indoor air will not mix as fre-

quently with fresh outdoor air, so it's important to remove sources of formaldehyde from the home to reduce the potential for poor indoor air quality."

One example of an insulation product that is helping homeowners realize significant savings on heating and cooling bills, without sacrificing indoor air quality, is the Johns Manville Spider Custom Insulation System. Spider is a formaldehyde-free fiberglass insulation and is ideal for new home construction because it sprays into wall cavities and fills all nooks and crannies to provide a superior insulation barrier. Spray-in products such as Spider are installed by a professional and will significantly reduce heating and cooling costs, saving a typical household an average of \$300 per year.

Properly insulating your new home will continue to save you money for as long as you own it and may also increase the resale value of your house. Building a home is a big investment of your money and your time. Doing it right the first time around will make the entire experience—and the time you spend in your home with your family—that much more enjoyable.

To learn more about how to properly insulate your home and the positive impact insulation can have on the environment, go to [www.jmhomeinsulation.com](http://www.jmhomeinsulation.com).