

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Skylights And Windows Work Together

(NAPSA)—“Of all the building materials used in home construction, glass—and window construction in general—is usually the biggest culprit in the movement of air between the house and the outdoors.” So says Larry Stevens, writing about energy-efficient windows in *Green Builder* magazine.

Stevens provides an informative explanation of how window companies build in features to boost energy efficiency. They include double panes, argon gas-filled spaces between panes, low-emittance coatings, the use of wood, a natural insulator, in frames, and high-quality construction. These features keep the outside world out, a must-have feature in green products demanded by architects, builders, remodelers and homeowners.

High-quality ENERGY STAR®-qualified skylights from leading manufacturers share all these qualities with windows and more. Stephen Selkowitz, director of building technologies at the National Laboratory in Berkeley, California, a government-sponsored products research center, says that “in the broadest sense, being green means enhancing a home’s energy efficiency, and skylights today are the model of energy efficiency.”

The ENERGY STAR Web site points out that traditional skylights use the same technologies as windows, “but these technologies are even more valuable for skylights, which receive direct sun in the summer and greater outside/inside temperature differentials,” the site says.

Roger LeBrun, product certification engineer with VELUX America, points out that venting skylights naturally create a



Skylights and windows can work together to make homes more energy efficient.

chimney effect to silently exhaust volatile organic compounds, hot, humid, stale air and other airborne pollutants from homes.

“In addition to providing cost-efficient ventilation, ENERGY STAR-certified skylights,” he says, “can work in concert with vertical windows and doors to bring balanced natural light into homes to reduce energy bills.”

In areas where traditional skylights might not fit, passive light (light without the heat emitted by electrical sources) is available through tubular skylights. VELUX Sun Tunnel™ skylights, for example, are less expensive and easily installed. These units are utilized mostly in halls, closets, smaller bathrooms and other confined spaces.

For free information on the benefits of natural light and skylight selection, or for free house plans incorporating skylights, call (800) 283-2831 or visit veluxusa.com. For government information on window and skylight energy efficiency, visit energystar.gov, and for independent agency information, visit nfrf.org or efficientwindows.org.