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HOUSE WISE

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Hello Blue!!!

By Elizabeth Guinn



Itchy Fiberglass Insulation not for you? Searching for something that will keep the cold out this winter but will make your attic or crawl space a little more user friendly? How about an insulation that is not only made from recycled products, but also is a no VOC (Volitile Organic Compounds) product?

Toured any new houses lately? Wondering what that over powering smell is? It's the new house smell that come from a huge amount of VOC's. Voc's are in everything from paint to carpet to insulation to plywood and even subfloor adhesives. Added together, these compounds can make for a seriously unfriendly environment for anyone with breathing problems. If someone with asthma is bothered by these chemicals, rest assured that they are having an effect on you as well, even if you aren't puffing on an inhaler just yet.

It has become fairly simple to find low or no VOC paints and even carpeting is becoming easier to find in more user friendly

*"The last thing you want
is to have the thing die
on you!"*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Hello Blue!!!
- 1 Dan's Desk

Please see *BLUE* on page 2

Dan's Desk – The Guru of all things Green

By Daniel Guinn

This is the younger Dan Guinn giving my old man a break this month. My question for you is "What do electric lawn movers and exotic plants have in common?" Well, Ed Begley, Jr., of course! I went with my team, Lego Homebotics, to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens to have lunch with Ed Begley, Jr. The picnic was the Go Green Picnic sponsored by the Retail Alliance. We listened to Mr. Begley's top ten green tips and we also

Please see *Dan's Desk* on page 3



From *BLUE* page 1

models. But what do you do when it comes to insulation. There are actually lots of options that are no-VOC, no formaldehyde solutions. You have read my articles on spray foam insulation, which would fall into this category, but what else is available? How about recycled denim?

Bonded Logic is a company that has come out with an option for insulation that is made from recycled denim material. Now, it would be even better if they were chewing up my old jeans to make this stuff, but in actuality they are using scraps from factories that make the jeans that you wear. This stuff comes in batt form, just like your old fiberglass insulation and even comes in that denim color that we all love. It is super soft to the touch, no itchy scratchy side effects here, just warm and cuddly insulation. Never thought you'd use the term 'warm and cuddly' when describing insulation did you?

Bonded Logic's product is called UltraTouch and has many other good qualities. It is a no VOC, formaldehyde free insulation. The product is also treated with a borate solution that makes in fire retardant, mold and mildew resistant and pest resistant. Borate has a lower toxicity than your table salt and is completely safe for your environment and you. The borate helps the UltraTouch achieve a Class A fire rating.

UltraTouch is rated 30% better at deadening sound transmission than standard fiberglass insulation, making it great for insulation around laundry rooms and offices that need peace and quiet. They come in big plastic bags that look just like the old fiberglass insulation and are an easy size to transport.

Bonded Logic has also come out with a roll form of their popular product that is foil backed. The foil is 99% pure aluminum and is great for retrofitting you boat, RV or aircraft. (I know that last one is a real issue for so many of us) Another cool use for it is it makes an awesome water heater blanket. It keeps things warm and toasty but you don't have to worry about the itchy insides becoming exposed because there aren't any.

So, say goodbye to pink, and hello to blue.



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From *Dan's Desk* page 1

listened as he answered questions about green topics. He was very interesting and knew a lot about every aspect of green living.

They gave away an electric mower as a door prize, I was hoping to win, but didn't. It was very interesting anyway.

Afterwards, Mr. Begley met with my friends and I outside in the gazebo and helped us with our research project for the Lego Challenge. We are working on Solving the Energy Puzzle for this year's challenge. We chose a public building, the Newport News Airport, and toured it. We did an energy audit with the help of Mark Falin, the Airport Manager.

We have been working on changes to the building to help save energy. Mr. Begley gave us some good ideas and pointed us toward some great resources. Keep watching for future news letters where we will share with you the changes we will be recommending.

Ed Begley, Jr's Top Ten Tips



Be sure to watch Living
With Ed on HGTV
Mondays at 10:30 p.m.

1. Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs - Buy some new ones with all the new hues in color and use them in light fixtures that you use a lot. They use only a fraction of the energy as the old kind.
2. Public Transportation - If you have the option, use it, you might like it.
3. Ride a Bike - This will help your health as well as the environment.
4. Compost - what you throw away today could be working to make great soil conditioners for you for the next growing season.
5. Turn off the lights! - Ed says to turn off the lights, TV, stereo, video games every time you leave the room. If you're not using it, it doesn't need to be on.
6. Buy Energy Star - the Refrigerator's you can buy today use 40% less energy than one bought just 5 years ago. So unplug that energy hog and get a new one.
7. Buy or make a solar oven - These are very simple devices made from plexi-glass, and reflective metal. A cheap way to cook dinner.
8. Rain Barrels - save your rainwater and use it on you vegetable garden. This saves a lot of water.
9. Insulation - Never buy fiberglass, look into cellulose or be like Ed and use ground up denim jeans, this also recycles an unwanted item.
10. Recycle everything! - Find new uses for old items or find someone else who can use it.



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Dan Quinn Homes

**In business since 1989, Class "A"
Contractor since 2000, Members of the
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Responsibility on the Peninsula and
Middle Peninsula, Designing anywhere.
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*Taking you from Dreams to Reality
Psalms 127:1a*