

http://www

# HOUSE WISE

November 2008  
Volume 3 Issue 9

Dan Guinn Homes, P.O. Box 2261, Yorktown, VA 23692  
www.danguinhomes.com info@danguinhomes.com

757-438-8624  
804-695-2578

## Blinds are Beautiful



---

*Window lose heat!*

---

Looking for ways to cut your energy bills this winter, but not interested in a huge renovation to your home? The best way of reducing your energy costs is by finding all those spots where heat is leaving your house. When looking for areas of heat loss, you can get caught up looking for small little gaps and air leaks in your home and forget all about some of the larger contributors to heat loss, your glass. We create homes that have insulation and then mess up the energy efficiency by cutting holes in the walls and installing windows and doors, what were we thinking?

Even properly installed and well insulated windows lose heat. That's why when you are designing your home you need to take into account the ratio of glass to square footage. You also need to be careful what side of the house you put most of your glass on. Wherever the glass ends up, even the best windows will lose a lot of heating and cooling.

Please see *Blinds* on page 2

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Blinds
- 1 Dan's Desk

## Dan's Desk

*By Dan Guinn*

Today is Black Friday and that means that today the Christmas Season is officially underway. It's time to make your lists, check them twice and then hit the stores. Nothing is worse than standing in the middle of a crowded store trying to find a present for that hard to shop for person in your life. Well, if that hard to shop for person likes to play with tools, I'm here to help.

I have decided to do things a little differently this year. I mentioned in the email for the last newsletter, that this year

Please see *Dan's Desk* on page 3



From *Blinds* page 1

Responding to an email question from some of our readers, Wes and Nell J., I researched solar shades that would meet there needs. Solar shades come in all shapes and sizes and can be installed on either the outside or inside of your home. Some even offer resistance to heat loss value or in short R-value which is the standard of measure for insulation. Windows are the single largest cause of loss of heat in the winter time, never mind the doors that keep opening and closing. According to the North Solar Screen website, 50% of the solar heat that enters a room and 40% of the heat that escapes a room travels through the glass windows.

North Solar Screens offers a wide variety of window treatments to solve any number of problems. They offer solutions for either the inside or outside of the window, blocking out the summer sun, reflecting the heat back out of the window. The ones that you install on the inside also help retain heat in the room during those cold winter nights, reducing the heat loss by 20%. Among other cool features, I love that these are both low VOC and formaldehyde free.

Another option is the Symphony Insulator Blackout Double Honeycomb Cellular Shades. That's a mouthful; imagine the sales rep spouting off that title in their presentation. They have a double wall of honeycomb shaped chambers to offer insulation from the cold outside air. The first row of honeycombs is foil lined to minimize the heat transfer by reflection. They are room darkening as well so they offer great UV protection. These shades actually have an R-value of 5, which is impressive for a window treatment. What makes them immensely better than shades you can pick up at your local home improvement center is the comfort track. This track runs down both sides of the window and completely seals the window reducing any drafts as well as creating an additional air pocket between your conditioned air and the outside.

There are lots of options with all of their products including motors to open and close them and even window treatments for your skylights. Since all of their products are so different and used in very different scenarios, you cannot order through the website. You must call them and talk with one of their window screen professionals who will make sure that your selection will give you the desired results you are looking for.

So whether you need something in the inside or outside of your house, to reflect heat or offer additional insulation, solar screens and shades are a great choice for cutting your energy bill without doing any major construction.

Elizabeth Guinn  
Publisher  
Editor in Chief  
GC, Inc.

Subscription Services  
[info@danguinhomes.com](mailto:info@danguinhomes.com)  
757-438-8624

House Wise is published monthly .  
Copyright 2007. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is strictly prohibited.

Articles, news items and questions are welcome. Unsolicited manuscripts and photography become the property of Dan Guinn Homes. Send to [info@danguinhomes.com](mailto:info@danguinhomes.com)



From *Dan's Desk* page 1



we will be holding a drawing for a free tool gift this year. I am asking that readers help us expand our readership by getting their friends, family members and neighbors to sign up. We prefer to only send our newsletter to those that truly are interested so, please email us their email address (after asking their permission of course) and for each email you will be entered one time in our drawing. The drawing will be held on Dec 15<sup>th</sup> and one lucky reader will be chosen to win one of our featured tool gifts. We will then contact you via email to decide how to get the gift to you in time for Christmas. So I'm not only helping you figure out what to give that hard to shop for man in your life, but I'm also giving it to you. What more could you ask for. So take 2 minutes and send in those emails by midnight Dec 14<sup>th</sup> and we will put your name in the hat!

Now on to the most important part the tools. The first tool I have for you is the set of XLGRIP Flat Bungees by Allied. I found a set of 24 of them at Sam's Club ranging in size from 15 inch to 45 inches long. The hooks are heavy duty steel and are molded onto the bungees, no knots to mess with. A guy can never have too many bungees, unless of course your wife says you have. I am constantly losing them or tying down a load on someone else's vehicle with my bungees that I never see again. I figure there must be a secret stash of them somewhere right next to all my missing socks. This is the first time I have seen these flat ones. Sure there are the black flat ones but the hooks are always missing or bent into a pretzel when you need them most. The hooks on the XLGRIP are a little larger than the standard bungee and they are coated with plastic. The entire set is only \$25.54.

The next item is the Light Glove by Mechanix. I hate getting my hands covered with small cuts and abrasions while working. These gloves protect your hands with leather like palm that can stand up to any project you can tackle. I like how the back side of the Mechanix gloves is flexible and they fit snugly. Sure gloves are not that special but, these particular gloves have a button on the back of the hand that turns on a small LED light on the fore finger. There is a light on both the left and the right glove. This way I can quit holding the flashlight in my mouth or under my arm! Grab a pair of these for around \$22.

Did you eat too much this Thanksgiving? Need to work off some of those extra calories and power your next project all at the same time? Check out the Freeplay Weza for your next project.

Contact Elizabeth and Dan Guinn at [info@danguinnhomes.com](mailto:info@danguinnhomes.com) for the free report, "Top Ten Best Ideas to Reduce Utility Bills and Spend the Savings on What You Really Want!" Just send me an email requesting a copy and I will speed one out to you!

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please email us at [info@danguinnhomes.com](mailto:info@danguinnhomes.com) and type cancel subscription in the subject line.

Please see *Dan's Desk* on page 4

From *Dan's Desk* page 3

This is an amazing leap forward in generator technology. Here's how it works. Let's say you have a shed in your backyard and you need power down there for a light and to run a few tools but the cost and the mess of trenching power down there is too costly. One small Weza would solve all your problems at a fraction of what it would cost to rent a trencher and the installation of a power line. The small generator has a foot treadle on it and after a few pumps, you've got 12V power. This little device is so powerful that you could carry it in your vehicle to use a quick jump start to get your engine going again. It is also great for charging marine batteries on your boat or RV. The great part about it is that it is so simple, quiet and clean (no messy fuel) that your kids could even handle it. If you don't feel like pumping up the treadle, just plug it into your house and you're all charged up and ready to take on the world. I know I'm pumped about this gift idea!!! ...hint...hint...hint. Now if I can only convince my wife.....



*Taking you from Dreams to  
Reality  
Psalms 127:1a*