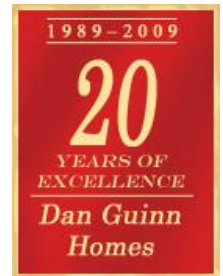


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# HOUSE WISE

February 2010  
Volume 5 Issue 2

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*I just wanted to put my  
hands on it!*

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## Inside This Issue

- 1 Tires for Flooring?
- 1 Dan's Desk

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## Tires for Flooring?

By Elizabeth Guinn

Looking for something different in the way of flooring? Looking for something durable, even commercial type durability but at the same time, something warm to the touch? Need something that can be incredibly flexible when it comes to color schemes? I have stumbled upon the flooring for you. Ceres has a line of 100% recycled rubber flooring that has really caught my eye. I have been looking at this stuff for over a month and I just love it. I even went as far as to order samples because I just wanted to put my hands on it before I wrote about it.

Ceres manufactures these floors out of recycled tires and other post consumer waste. I know you are thinking "So is the whole line of flooring black?" Some of it is, yes. There is a high ratio of black in the color palette, but the added color flecks are beautiful. I ordered several samples of my favorite colors and I was very pleased. The mostly black with deep blue flecks

## Dan's Desk

Please see *Tires* on page 2

By Dan Guinn

During an energy audit I venture into crawl areas that often times have high levels of moisture and or bulk water problems. This is often a problem that goes un-noticed for many years. The effects of this moisture can be damaging your house, is the cause of many health related problems, and causes comfort issues within the house. Many of the homeowners that I encounter with this problem have no idea that this is occurring or what the effects are from this condition.

Why do I inspect the underside of the house? It is

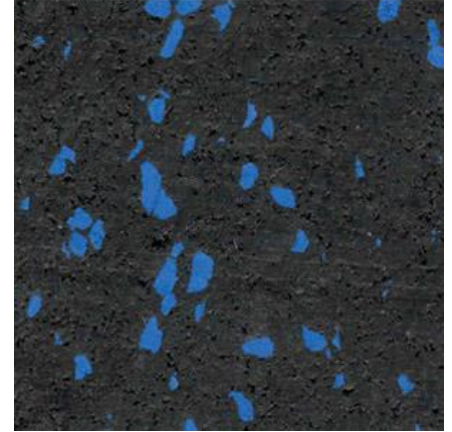
Please see *Dan* on page 3

From *Tires* page 1

(Sapphire) is even more appealing in person. The flooring comes in either rolls or two foot tiles which could lend itself to a nice contrasting pattern with two different colors. The tiles themselves are only a few millimeters thick but offer commercial grade resilience. They are easy to clean and maintain resilient, non-fatigue, insulating, non-slip, and even acoustic. I think they would be the perfect solution to my cold basement floor. I also think it would be a wonderful item in my kitchen, dropped plates wouldn't break and my back wouldn't get tired.

I am having a hard time finding a down side to this product. It is a bit pricey, about four times the price of linoleum, but you get so much more for the price. Since off gassing is such a concern of mine, I really wanted to hold it in my hands and smell it. After all, who wants their house to smell like a tire show room? I was pleasantly surprised when I opened the package and there was next to no odor. I guess the final test will have to be that I spill something nasty on it like sticky honey and see how easy it is to clean off. If you are interested in my results, drop me an email. And, as always, we love to hear from you and answer questions or try out new products for you.

932 Sapphire



Call Today to Schedule your Energy Audit

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**HERS**  
Home Energy Rating System



From *Dan* page 1

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



necessary to inspect the crawl area during an energy audit for many reasons one of which is to check for moisture problems. The reason I check for this is to ensure that I do not draw moisture into the house during the blower door testing. The blower door may draw moisture into the wall cavities and house which could increase the possibility of mold growth. The same reason I check for gas leaks and CO levels, the homeowner's safety and health is of utmost importance. To safely test houses is the mission of all properly trained energy auditors and building scientists.

The fact that moisture problems exist under your house is not that unusual in our area. What is surprising to me is that most homeowners are unaware of these problems. Don't worry if you have no desire to go under your house, you're not alone. Most people have never been under their house. This is an area though that should not be neglected.

Why do I care about moisture under my house? Excess moisture can cause rot and structural damage, pest infestation, and poor indoor air quality. What I am mostly concerned with during an energy audit is the indoor air quality, and the effects of moisture on how comfortable a house feels. If the RH (relative humidity) is above 60% then mold can grow. This mold growth and high RH, contributes to many health related problems like allergies and asthma. The effects of which can be devastating, especially for those that are sensitive to these conditions. High RH levels also can cause a house to feel cold and clammy in winter and uncomfortably sticky in summer. This condition causes the homeowner to be unhappy or dissatisfied with the performance of the HVAC equipment. This will prompt thermostat changes which can waste energy. In many instances the moisture simply needs to be removed because the lack of comfort is due to the RH, not the temperature.

Older houses are less likely to have problems with moisture because of air leakage. They allow the moisture to escape, but you have to heat and cool all that escaping air. So we have tightened our houses up to conserve energy, this traps moisture in the house. The answer to solving moisture problems is not always the same, but removing moisture from your home increases comfort, improves indoor air quality, and is directly related to energy conservation. If you suspect your house may have some of these problems, start by taking a look under your house, or better yet, give me a call. I'm more than willing to come and do it for you. I'll even take pictures so you can feel like you were right there with me.

## Elizabeth Guinn

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