

Remodel It!



Spring, 2006

A publication of tips and trends for remodeling your home.

Did you Know?

Compact florescent bulbs use less energy than incandescent bulbs and last longer.

You can save 3% on your heating cost for every degree you reduce the temperature below 70 degrees during the heating season.

Your home can cause twice the greenhouse gas emissions of a car.

If you have a forced-air heating system you should clean or replace the filter monthly.

Is Your Home Energy Efficient?

With increased fuel costs, energy consumption is a hot topic with consumers. Fortunately, there is also a wealth of information on reducing energy costs.

Provisions of the Energy Tax Incentives Act of 2005 provide tax credits for homeowners who purchase energy-efficient products. These include: exterior windows, skylights, exterior doors, roofing materials, insulation, HVAC and solar energy systems, fuel cells, and cars.

What is Energy Star?



ENERGY STAR is a government-backed program helping individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. Not only can energy-efficient choices save families about a third of their energy bill, but there are similar savings of greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, these savings occur without sacrificing features, style, or comfort. When considering new household products, choose those that have the ENERGY STAR label. They meet strict

energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and US Department of Energy.

Replacing your windows?

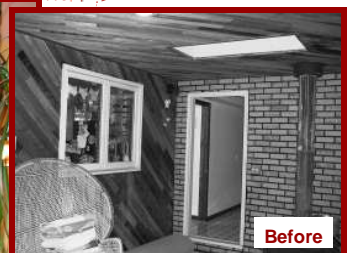
Homeowners can receive a tax credit of 10% on the cost of their windows (up to \$200.00) when purchasing energy-efficient replacement windows in 2006-2007.

- ◆ To qualify for the tax credit the home where replacement windows are installed must be the homeowner's primary U.S. residence.
- ◆ Homeowners can claim the credit on their tax returns in 2006 and/or 2007. Besides a \$200.00 tax credit, your new energy-efficient windows will also save on heating and cooling bills throughout the entire year.
- ◆ The maximum allowable credit for all energy-efficient improvements is \$500.00 over the two year period. Not all products with the ENERGY STAR seal qualify for a tax credit.

For more information on ENERGY STAR products and a summary on tax credits visit www.energystar.gov

Project Spotlight

This kitchen reflects an amazing transformation! Crafted with exceptional quality, the beautiful birch cabinets in Pennsbury stain set the tone for a warm and inviting space. The gorgeous Corian® countertops, in both Tumbled Glass and Rainforest, add to the ambiance while defining separate work areas. Also complementing the color scheme is the carefully chosen ceramic tile back splash. In addition, the stepped island, highlighted with two pendants, is a focal point of the room and provides additional work surfaces, storage, and seating. Lastly, a built-in dining booth provides the room's main seating while serving as a special spot for the children to create their artistic masterpieces. Updating the kitchen significantly increases the value of the home – perhaps promoting a joy of cooking.



Bamboo Flooring Gains Popularity



Courtesy of Teragren LLC

Pictured above is Teragren CRAFTSMAN wide plank line in Flat Grain Caramelized Bamboo Flooring.

Environmentally correct, sustainable bamboo is emerging as a "green" alternative in flooring, tableware and even fashion design. Bamboo flooring is an attractive alternative to wood or laminate flooring. Botanically, bamboo is not a wood at all, but rather a grass. There are about 1,200 species of bamboo, which is among the most widely used plant on earth. Bamboo is attractive as a building material because it is very hard, strong, and dimensionally stable.

Environmentally, it's hard to argue with a wood-substitute that matures in three years, regenerates without need for replanting, and requires minimal fertilization or pesticides. Proper harvesting causes no more harm to the plant than mowing does to a lawn. And because it is a grass, bamboo is free of knots, which affect the stability of wood. Certain sub-tropical species can grow from a foot to more than three feet per day, and it's not unusual for them to reach 100 feet. In fact, these larger species of bamboo have been used in construction for thousands of years, and even in modern Asian cities. It's not uncommon to see a large concrete building being constructed from bamboo scaffolding.

Product testing has revealed that laminated bamboo resists dents better than oak, the most typical wood flooring, and as well as hard maple, the toughest domestic hardwood flooring used in the U.S. Depending on the type of laminated bamboo used, it can even be more resilient than oak and maple.

Bamboo flooring retails for about \$4 to \$8 a square foot and comes in a natural state resembling freshly milled maple, or is carbonized in a heat treatment that changes its color to caramel.

Common thicknesses for bamboo flooring products are 1/2, 5/8, and 3/4 inches. Widths range from 3 to 4 inches and lengths range from 2 to 6 feet. It comes unfinished and pre-finished. Profile options include strip panel and tongue and groove. Warranties vary by manufacture. Typical warranties on the finish are 5-25 years and 25 for structural.

You can find more information on Bamboo Flooring at www.teragren.com



Questions?

Do you have a question about remodeling or building?
Comments about our newsletter?

Simply e-mail your questions or comments to customer-care@redoakremodeling.com or call us at (717) 244-4711

Thanks to You!

We greatly appreciate the many referrals you continue to send our way. Recently recommending **Red Oak Remodeling** to new customers were: Jo Kibler, Deb Bortner, Kurt Nenstiel, Ruth and Bill Sabey, Susan Ostman, Cathy Frysinger, Mike Landis, Sandra Fissel, Frank Hill, and Ralph Scurfield. As our way of saying thanks for referring a friend or family member (who becomes a new customer*) to Red Oak, you will be awarded \$50.00.

*Contract must be signed and over \$1000.00.



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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

The annual **Remodeling Tour**, formerly scheduled in the Spring, will be held in conjunction with the **Parade of Homes** this year.

The 2006 tour will showcase remodeled homes on the first weekend that the Parade is held.

**Saturday & Sunday
September 23rd & 24th, 2006**