

TRENDS IN

HEALTHIER HOMES

Eco-friendly consumers help grow green-home movement.

■ Green building isn't just for Al Gore. Designers and manufacturers are introducing more sustainable products and systems to keep our built environments healthier and better conserve our planet's limited resources. The product and services market for green building is expected to exceed \$12 billion this year, according to the U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org). The number of design professionals who seek its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification is also growing rapidly; LEED standards include using green roofs to capture storm water run-off and specifying local vendors to cut transportation costs to a construction site. ■ Within the home, green choices run the gamut, from rugs made from soybean plants to sound-absorbing surfaces that pare noise. The impetus for going green these days is often from owners themselves. "They're asking, 'Where is the hardwood coming from?' or 'Is the carpet recycled?'" says Orren Pickell's Lindahl. At the retail level, specialty stores such as Organic Avenue in New York City are sprouting (www.organicavenue.com). ■ "The Green House" at the National Building Museum (www.nbm.org) in Washington, D.C., through June 24, 2007, includes a prefab modular home with recycled countertops, renewable bamboo surfaces, and furniture made from automobile seat belt remnants. (See page 38)



WATER CONSERVATION



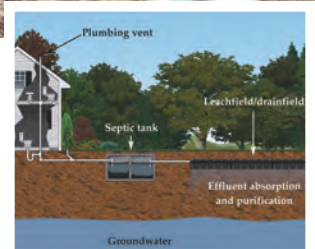
SOUNDPROOFING



RECYCLED MATERIALS



WASTEWATER TREATMENT



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TOP LEFT: Culligan International Co. offers technologies and products to monitor daily water usage and lower owners' expenses. www.culligan.com.

TOP RIGHT: Urban dwellers may love being within walking distance of a train station, but proximity can make a home noisy. Here, walls and windows are wrapped and insulated beyond green standards in a condominium complex built by Legend Homes in Hillsboro, Ore. www.legendhomes.com.

BOTTOM LEFT: Bathroom tiles in this Cambridge, Mass., multi-unit property are made from recycled glass; the counter is made of Silestone recycled quartz; and the bathroom features low-flow water fixtures. www.aediconstruction.com.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Infiltrator Systems Inc.'s on-site wastewater treatment systems protect ground water resources. www.infiltratorsystems.com.

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TRENDS IN

HEALTHIER HOMES (from page 36)

ROOF SPACE



STRUEVER BROS. ECCLES & ROUSE ©2007

NATIVE PLANTS



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TOP LEFT: Baltimore's Clipper Mill is a new mixed-use community being built with sustainable features, including a green roof atop the residential loft homes. www.clippermill.net.

CENTER LEFT: BRAC Systems offers a graywater tank that stores used shower water, filters and chlorinates it, and sends it back to a home owner's toilets for flushing. The process saves about 30 percent of the owner's water and sewer expenses. www.bracsystems.com.

BOTTOM LEFT: Conservation-minded owners can save energy with products such as solar electric panels, solar tubular skylights, solar water and air heating systems, small wind turbines (pictured), energy-efficient appliances, rain-water collection systems, and a solar attic fan. "Home owners can get the biggest bang for their buck by simply reducing energy consumption to make their home more energy efficient," says Sascha Deri, president of The Alternative Energy Store. www.altenergystore.com.

TOP RIGHT: Native drought-resistant plants catch and store rainwater for future use, cutting owners' water bills and conserving precious water. Landscaping by Legend Homes, a division of Matrix Development. www.legendhomes.com.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Engineered hardwood is an environmental alternative to solid hardwood, offering five to six points toward LEED certification. www.floorworks.ca.

GRAYWATER



SUN/WIND



ENGINEERED HARDWOOD