

Great Green Home Improvement Projects

(ARA) - Tired of old, leaky windows or drafty doors? There's no better time than the present to start that renovation project you've put off for years.

And while you're at it, make "green" environmentally-friendly choices that will have an impact for many years to come. Pella Windows & Doors, the 2007 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year for windows, offers these home improvement ideas.

1. Consider replacing worn out carpet or laminate flooring with bamboo floors. Bamboo, which is actually a grass that gets pressed into flooring, is a renewable source and a highly durable material well-suited for kitchens and other heavy traffic areas of the home.

2. Improve indoor air quality, reduce noise and save energy by replacing old windows with triple-pane wood windows that feature the blind or shade protected between panes of glass. Pella triple-pane windows and patio doors with shades between the glass are rated No. 1 for energy efficiency among top national brands and are proven to help reduce exposure to certain indoor air allergens, according to ongoing research by the University of Iowa's Department of Occupational and Environmental Health.

3. Switch out electronics to green products with items like ENERGY STAR ceiling fans to circulate heat and air conditioning, programmable thermostats and motion sensor light switches.



4. Adding a new room? Add new windows in key locations for an important green technique - daylighting. Windows allow for natural daylighting which reduces or eliminates the need for artificial lighting, saving on energy costs. Choose Low-E glass to help keep your home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer and help protect interior furnishings from fading. Strategic placement of windows and shades helps maximize daylighting and minimize heat gain.

5. Add a storm door. A new storm door will improve the look of your home's entry and create improved airflow in the spring and summer months. Plus, adding a storm door may help save on energy costs.

For more information on how energy-efficient windows and doors can improve your home, call your local Pella Window & Door expert at (888) 847-3552 (84-PELLA) or log on to www.Pella.com. Courtesy of ARAcontent