

Interview with NKBA Expert

Q: What are local new-home buyers demanding in bath products currently?

A: Items that are really hot in bath design include comfort-height toilets, decorative grab bars, chandelier lighting over tubs, furniture-style cabinets, shower seats, rain-style shower fixtures, lighted toe-kicks and morning bars (coffee center). Energy- and water-saving appliances, fixtures and systems are also requested frequently.

Q: So, what are some cost-effective ideas builders can implement in their bath designs to save water and energy?

A: Low-flow faucets, showerheads and toilets; putting laundry centers in the bath; adding windows and skylights to vent, heat and cool passively; and using compact florescent bulbs in fixtures are all low-cost ways to save homeowners water and energy expense.

Q: Are there any energy-efficient innovations that can be great profit centers for builders choosing to offer them?

A: Radiant floors are a great example of a low-cost profit center.



ROI is huge for this valuable feature that saves heating energy use and excites the home buyer with the promise of warm bath floors on cold winter mornings.

Q: What products can you recommend to home buyers who are looking for “green” materials and products?

A: There are wheat-board constructed cabinets that come from recycled agricultural materials and emit low VOCs. Also, we recommend flooring made from quickly renewable resources like bamboo, cork and

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Design advice contributed by Ruth Ann Taylor, CKD (Certified Kitchen Designer), CBD (Certified Bath Designer). Ruth Ann is a member and the current treasurer of the Eastern Carolinas Chapter of the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA). To learn more about the NKBA or to find a certified designer in your area, go to www.nkba.org. “The mission of the National Kitchen & Bath Association is to enhance member success and excellence by promoting professionalism and ethical business practices and providing leadership and direction for the kitchen and bathroom industry.” ■



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