

For Immediate Release:

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Spokane Homes Going Green

Local Home Builder Helps Customers Breathe Easier While Saving Money On Their Energy Bills

Spokane, WA – July 31, 2007 -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) studies of human exposure to air pollutants indicate that indoor air may be two to five times, and occasionally more than 100 times more polluted than outdoor air. That fact is just one of the reasons why Craftsman Homes Northwest, a Spokane home builder, recently introduced their High Performance Homes initiative. The company's first High Performance Home will be complete in early August, and they have two more High Performance Home projects currently under construction.

"As a home builder you always want to do what's best for your customers," says Michael Chadduck, President of Craftsman Homes NW. "Building High Performance Homes is great for our customers for a number of reasons. Our homes have much healthier indoor air and are more comfortable. The savings on utility bills are significant, in some cases as much as 30% or more, which puts money back in our customers' pockets. We're minimizing materials waste with our comprehensive recycling program. And we feel it's important to build homes that will help mitigate the impact of our activities on future generations."

The company's High Performance Homes initiative incorporates two certification programs: the Inland Northwest BuiltGreen™ program and the EPA's ENERGY STAR® program. The Inland Northwest BuiltGreen™ program was recently introduced in Spokane by the Spokane Homebuilder's Association (SHBA). Modeled after the Tacoma-Pierce County Built Green™ program which has been in place for a number of years on the west side of the state, the program encourages minimizing the entire range of environmental impacts and health considerations associated with home building. The program certifies homes using a checklist that is broken down into categories, and each home must earn a minimum number of points in each category, which include Health and Indoor Air Quality, Site & Water, Energy Efficiency, and Materials Efficiency. "Craftsman Homes Northwest has taken a leading role in implementing the BuiltGreen™ program in our area," says Joel White, Executive Director of the SHBA. "By building the first custom home in the region to receive BuiltGreen™ certification and by integrating green building practices into their operations, they have proven to be true innovators in our industry."

The other program Craftsman Homes NW participates in is the Northwest ENERGY STAR® program, which has been around for many years, though it's just beginning to gain traction in Spokane. ENERGY STAR® homes have healthier indoor air quality because of the construction practices that must be followed to earn certification. These homes are also more efficient and save money through the use of items such as high efficiency hot water heaters and HVAC systems, higher quality insulation, windows, and lighting. "Amid concerns about indoor air quality, energy costs and the impacts of global climate change, Craftsman Homes has stepped up to improve the energy performance of new homes by building all of their homes to high performance standards," says David Hetherington, Program Manager for the Northwest ENERGY STAR® program. "An ENERGY STAR® certified home has better indoor air quality, lowers the demand on natural resources and reduces harmful emissions, and it can also reduce your heating and cooling costs by up to 30 percent and your water heating costs by 20 percent."

For more information, visit www.craftsmanhomesnw.com. Additional information on the ENERGY STAR® and BuiltGreen™ programs can be found at www.northwestenergystar.com and www.builtgreenwashington.org.

About Craftsman Homes Northwest

Craftsman Homes Northwest is a custom home builder located in Spokane, Washington. Founded in 2002 by Michael Chadduck, the company designs and builds Craftsman style timber frame and bungalow homes throughout Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. For information, call (509) 443-8852.

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