



Homes of Distinction, Built with Integrity



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In This Issue

Living for Today ... or for Tomorrow?

Tax Incentives for Energy Efficiency!

Home Maintenance Tip

Quick Links

[Company Values](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)

[Awards](#)

May 2009

[Forward this newsletter to a friend](#)

## Living for Today...or for Tomorrow?

A record-setting heat wave visited us here in California just recently. And that was *April*! With the temperatures climbing towards 100 degrees and a mediocre rain season, we're hearing the words "drought" and "water rationing" more and more on our local news. The importance of water is undeniable, yet we see it constantly being used in wasteful and over-indulgent ways. Ever seen sprinklers running in the rain? How about run-off from lawn watering and car washing running in streams down the gutter? Our regional struggle with water is only one example of the many "resource conservation" challenges we face here.



The main challenge of resource conservation is that it is related to our day-to-day behaviors. The decisions we all make with regard to how much (and what kind of) resources we use affects our loved ones, our neighbors and ourselves. With our population growing exponentially, the question of our consumption has become increasingly important. Our quest for a more sustainable society may be assisted by technology, but will mostly depend on our *behavior*. We need to question what we are using, how well we are using it and if we even need to use it at all.



One immediate way you can help is to install simple water conservation tools in and around your home: native landscaping, drip irrigation systems with timers or sensors, efficient showerheads or faucets and low-flow toilets. You can compost your yard clippings to keep material out of local landfills (some cities even provide incentives). Your use of more

natural materials will reduce the resources needed for processing and sometimes



**Build It  
GREEN**  
MEMBER



Our staff members hold the following industry certifications:

- Certified Remodeler
- Certified Remodeling Carpenter
- Certified Lead Carpenter
- Certified Kitchen and Bath Remodeler
- Certified Green Building Professional

eliminate harmful ingredients. Even retailers are now getting involved by selling more local products to keep transportation costs down and offering recycled paper bags or reuseable tote bags.

When building or remodeling, you can reuse existing materials such as flooring, cabinetry, or wood, or donate these items so they can be used by someone else (which may come with some tax write-offs). There is a whole new industry of products that uses reclaimed and recycled materials: flooring from reclaimed lumber, recycled plastic in outdoor decking, cement made with incinerator ash, and tile made from recycled glass.

We here at Chris Donatelli Builders are encouraged by the many advances in products and procedures that are popping up in our industry. To learn more about how best to conserve today's resources in your home, just call us at 408-287-4886 or go to our [website](#). We are glad to help bring about a better tomorrow!

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## Tax Incentives for Energy Efficiency!

A new administration is in the White House and we have the budget reforms to show it! The "Tax Incentives for Energy Efficiency" program offers homeowners like you tax credits on the cost of materials that increase the efficiency of your home. It's an easy and money-saving way to conserve resources! Check out [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for the details by clicking the box titled "Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency."

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## Home Maintenance Tip: Don't Forget Your Furnace

Before you turn off your heating system this year, replace or clean your furnace filter. Some filters are reusable and are supposed to be removed, washed with a hose and reinserted. A dirty filter can lower the efficiency of your heating/cooling system, increase heating costs and cause fires.

We hope you enjoyed our e-newsletter. Remember, you can use the link below to forward this to friends and family who might be interested, so they can sign up for it as well. Look for us again next month!

**Chris**

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