



Homes of Distinction, Built with Integrity



Chris Donatelli Builders, Inc.

534 Horning Street San Jose, CA 95112

PH: (408) 287-4886 FX: (408) 289-8714

email: info@dcbuild.com

www.dcbuild.com

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A Few Simple Things That Will Put Money in Your Pocket



I am sure many of you have heard the saying "something is only as good as the sum of its parts." This is especially true when considering your home. A basic philosophy of green building is to look at a home as a system - a group of interacting or interdependent components that form a unified whole. This applies to major green building goals such as energy efficiency, indoor air quality and resource conservation. An energy-efficient forced-air furnace will not function to the best of its ability if the home has improperly installed insulation or leaks

too much air (in or out). The advantages of using low VOC paint to create better indoor air quality will be offset by high VOC floor finish or cabinetry containing plywood with formaldehyde binders. In short, you can't just look at one part and expect to have a complete picture.

Our owner, Chris Donatelli, has been certified as a "Green Building Professional" and as a "Green Point Rater" by Build It Green (a green industry-leading, non-profit organization based in Berkeley, CA). Chris also obtained his "Green Certified Professional" ranking from NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry). So, once he became an expert in green building, its technology and its application, it seemed logical for Chris to then apply these ideas to his own home.

Knowing that his recently replaced heating unit was efficient (92%) and in good working order, Chris decided to concentrate on sealing the home as well as resealing the furnace unit. He double checked his heating duct connections and sealed any problem spots. This included boot connections and the connection of the boot to the sheetrock at the register. Under the home, he covered the ground of the crawlspace with "stego" wrap (a 10-mil thick plastic). This prevents moisture and air from entering the home and keeps home temperatures stable.

Chris and his wife used the PG&E chart to compare their current energy usage to that of the same period





**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

last year. They were delighted to see a significant difference, with this year's gas usage lower than last. Not only did they save energy, but now the home has a more even temperature and therefore a better comfort level. Note that part of the process does include keeping your thermostat at a reasonable temperature and using a "set back" programmable thermostat.



Chris Donatelli Builders would like to help you experience the benefit of increased home efficiency through our "system approach." Our certified staff can offer "Home Performance Test" capability, showing where problems may be happening. Combine that with our experienced construction knowledge, and we are able to offer solutions custom tailored to each homeowner's needs. Just call us or go to our [website](#) to find out more.

Home Maintenance Tip: Education and Safety Go Hand in Hand

Take some time this month and familiarize or re-familiarize responsible family members with the location of your home's gas main valve, water main valve, and fuse box. Make sure charged flashlights can be found easily should the power go out unexpectedly.