

The House That GREEN BUILT



The Home Builders Association of Greater Little Rock (HBAGLR) is constructing its first ever GREEN BUILT model home.

The house is located in west Little Rock's Woodland's Edge, the 2009 Green Development of the Year. The project is a sustainable construction set to ANSI-approved National Green Building Standards. The standards state: "a builder, remodeler or developer must incorporate a minimum number of features in the following areas: energy, water, and resource efficiency, lot and site development, indoor environmental quality, and home owner education."

Traditionally, new homes have been treated for termite control prior to construction. Chemical soil treatments have been used around the perimeter of buildings to eradicate termites attempting to gain entry into the building. This treatment is usually done with an insecticide using gallons and gallons of termicide. The GREEN BUILT home will use the services of The Bug Man and a green product known as Bora-Care.

Grant Sigler is the termite department manager with The Bug Man. "All pesticides are toxic; they are all meant to kill at varying degrees. They are not dangerous to adults, and a homeowner would never come into contact with them."

Typically, termicide has been applied to new construction through soil treatment. The Bug Man no longer uses this method. "We treat new constructions with a borate termicide. Borate is a mineral found in nature and used in many products. Traditionally, termiticides have used synthetic formulas," Si-

gler said. "For instance, a 1,500-square foot home would need roughly 200 gallons of chemicals that would be used to treat the ground surrounding the house. Using Bora-Care, the name brand of a borate-based product, for the same house, we'd use about 4 gallons of product."

Sigler said this product is an insecticide and a fungicide, which retards the growth of fungus and mold. The Bug Man applies the treatment to the wood of the home.

"When the GREEN BUILT house is framed and wood sheathing has been placed around it, we'll go out and treat it on the inside of the house and inside the wood sheathing on the exterior of the house, two and a half feet up from the slab, creating a ring, of sorts, around the perimeter of the house," he said.

They also add a yard dye, which eventually fades, to the solution to mark the wood so the technician may treat the wood thoroughly. This also assures the builder, who may not be present during the time of application, that treatment has taken place.

Because the Bora-Care is contained within the home, it will not break down as traditional treatments outside the house do, which is due to the exposure to the elements.

For more information, log onto bugman.com or call (501) 663-9464.

For more information about the GREEN BUILT home, log onto hbaglr.com for more information. ■

