

Chuck Filson, (dba) Filson Construction
General Building Contractor
License B # 516406
Certified Green Professional (CGP)

Ok, this is my name and credentials, so what, and what does this mean? Why am I on ASAP's web site? Well, I'd like to think it is because the ASAP management knows how passionate I am about building the most comfortable, healthy and energy efficient homes I possibly can! To me, constructing a person's home is much more than an activity to make a living. When a client approaches me to build their home, I feel they are entrusting me with an extremely important aspects of their life like the level of comfort they will be living in for years to come. But I'm getting ahead myself here. Let me start by giving a little bit of background as related to the building industry. I am sixty years of age, have been a building contractor for over twenty years, meaning, I have been around long enough to see many changes in the construction industry, some good, some not so good. Over the years there have been numerous changes in how buildings are constructed; to make them more comfortable, larger, and more appealing to the eye, and yes, to some extent, more energy efficient compared to years past. BUT because of size, style, building components, and poor building performances, homes are using more energy than ever before and just as energy is increasing in cost!

I learned a number of years ago, the word "Green" was being used in the home building industry, this term was new to me, intrigued me and seemed to denote a "special" type of home, using construction methods and component compositions that were superior for the physical and financial health of the occupants, as well as the environment itself. In my searching for information I found a class being offered by the National Home Builders Association (NAHB) called "Green Building for Professionals". I decided to enroll in the class, and this became the beginning of a whole new mindset toward building homes. The class opened my eyes to the fact that I was building homes of sub-par performances. What I mean by this is, too much energy and materials were being wasted and lost. Homes were being built without regard to the footprint on the land, placement of home for maximum benefit of solar exposure, building envelopes that can be built tight, but also allowed to breath. I was surprised to see all the toxic materials we use in building and what the occupants are breathing during and after construction is complete. I came away with a totally different outlook on how to build homes and a feeling that I had a new responsibility as a builder. I now know that you build homes with less framing lumber, that are more energy efficient, and less toxic to the environment and to the people living in them.

I became committed to learning all that I could about sustainable building practices and incorporating them into my construction projects. I attended other courses and have read numerous books on sustainable and energy efficient homes, which led me to becoming certified thru the NAHB as a "Certified Green Professional". Armed with this knowledge, my initial thought was to offer the building "Green" ideas as an option to future clients. But, the more I thought about the entire idea of this; I realized that this kind of building activity is not an option. IT is a necessity to our future and that of future generations. I also realized that sustainable building has to start at the design stages in new construction, and an energy audit before undertaking a remodeling project. By starting with a competent team of architect and general contractor that are familiar with these practices, by incorporating solar designs, advanced framing methods with a tighter building envelope, and advanced heating, air, and ventilation systems you can significantly lower the energy you use, lower your carbon imprint, and live in a much healthier home.

I know this all can be overwhelming, but by taking one step at a time, we ALL can make this a better and safer place to live. You have already taken the first step by taking the time to read why I'm so passionate about the homes I build. If can answer questions you may have about "Green" sustainably built homes, or if I can be of service to you or someone you know, please visit my web site below, or contact me.

Thank you for taking the first step involving sustainable building!

Chuck Filson
www.filsonconstruction.com