



For Immediate Release
May 2007

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Green attributes put vinyl siding in the Traditional Neighborhood Design picture

BEES, LEED reports confirm environmental attributes

Washington, D.C. — Several of the home building industry's most respected organizations are verifying the green attributes of vinyl siding, continuing to advance the product's environmental worthiness.

And in turn, traditional neighborhood developments, such as Ft. Belvoir (Virginia), and many others across the country, are taking notice. In fact, two of the Congress of New Urbanism mobile tours at its recent conference in Philadelphia featured homes clad in vinyl siding.

Vinyl siding out-performs the majority of other exterior cladding products, including brick, in almost all of the scientific performance criteria used in recent analysis conducted using Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (BEES) software. This analysis is a recognized, approved and useful Life-Cycle Tool as cited in the latest United States Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED for Homes program report, and vinyl siding's performance qualifies it as an Environmentally Preferred Product.

In addition to the BEES analysis (available upon request), the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Model Green Home Building Guidelines award 4 points in Section 2.1.5 for using building materials that require no additional finish resources to complete application on site. Builders who use vinyl siding are eligible for these points.

NAHB has cited 'Lifetime' as the estimated life expectancy of vinyl siding on a home in its "Study of Life Expectancy of Home Components" (Feb. 2007).

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Unlike wood and fiber cement, vinyl siding requires no painting or toxic chemicals to maintain and clean, and eliminates those environmental impacts associated with some paints and cleaning products. Cleaning and maintenance of vinyl siding only requires water, mild detergent and a soft cloth or soft bristled brush.

Vinyl siding has also earned the attention of the authors of the SmartCode. The most recent version includes key edits that recognize the value and versatility of vinyl siding in TND and New Urbanist communities.

Whether developers and designers are planning to recreate the look of a historic neighborhood – or looking to blend distinctive homes, shops and other mixed-use buildings in a contemporary, new way – vinyl siding can help bring the vision to life. Local character can be preserved, or influences from around the world can be reflected. In fact, no other exterior cladding material offers the variety of profiles, finishes, colors, trim and accessories to meet virtually any architectural style.

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The Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc., is located in Washington, D.C., and represents manufacturers of vinyl and polymeric siding and suppliers to the industry. VSI is the sponsor of the *VSI Vinyl Siding Product Certification Program* and the *VSI Certified Installer Program*.