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Contact:

Molly Kersten
R/P Marketing Public Relations
(419) 241-2221
mkersten@r-p.com

Tour of Green Homes Builders, Remodelers Choose Vinyl Siding

New Orleans tour homes built to NAHB's Model Green Home Building Guidelines

June, 2008 – Washington, D.C. – New Orleans builders/remodelers KC Contractors and Olde World Builders and Remodelers relied on [vinyl siding](#) to help rebuild three homes that suffered the effects of Hurricane Katrina. As part of the Tour of Green Homes at the [National Green Building Conference](#), the projects were required to meet [NAHB Model Green Home Building Guidelines](#).

While original plans for two of the homes called for fiber cement on the exteriors, low-maintenance vinyl siding quickly became the builders' cladding of choice. Unlike fiber cement, vinyl siding does not require painting or caulking and can help builders earn points for resource efficiency and energy efficiency in the NAHB Guidelines.

In addition to meeting NAHB Guidelines, vinyl siding has the potential to contribute to achieving more points than other exterior cladding in the leading green building certification programs including the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED® for New Construction and LEED® for Homes Rating Systems and the draft National Green Building Standard™.

The selection of insulated vinyl siding by Janice Caddie, co-owner of KC Contractors, and Toni Wendel, president of Olde World, for their respective homes on the tour further validates vinyl

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siding's sustainable features of durability; ease of installation; no need for paint, adhesives or sealants; long useful life; and energy efficiency. What's more, the vinyl siding used by both builders has been certified through the [VSI Vinyl Siding Product Certification Program](#) for both product quality and color retention.

“Vinyl siding is the most popular choice for exterior cladding among builders, remodelers and homeowners in the United States and Canada, yet some seem surprised to learn that that it also is an environmentally preferable product,” said Jerry Y. Huntley, president of the [Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc.](#) (VSI). “The fact is, vinyl siding contributes less to global warming and outperforms other exterior cladding in almost all of the performance measures using *Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (BEES*[®]) software. And it doesn't use or release materials shown to adversely affect the health of manufacturers, installers or others.”

KC Contractors rebuilt two homes for the tour to replace originals that had been surrounded by up to eight feet of water brought on by Hurricane Katrina. One home featured clay-colored insulated clapboard as the dominant exterior cladding. “The vinyl siding we used was easily installed and outstanding as far as aesthetics are concerned,” Caddie says. “The homeowners are very pleased with the look.”

The other home by KC Contractors used white insulated clapboard in combination with brick – a practice that is becoming more and more popular.

Wendel says Olde World, responsible for the other remodeling project, combined two different profiles, insulated beaded and board & batten, in varying shades of beige on the front of their tour home to create a distinct finished look. The back of the house featured a darker-hued insulated board & batten. “The products are spectacular,” she says, adding that along with raising the

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homes four feet above the grade line in accordance with flood elevation requirements and using wood framing, insulated vinyl siding was an ideal choice to help the homes meet the NAHB Guidelines.

Additionally, a fourth home featuring vinyl siding was added to the tour. Originally built by modular builders Palm Harbor Homes, Inc. in Florida, the home was assembled in the parking lot of the Orange County Convention Center as part of the annual International Builders' Show (IBS) Show Home Village. The light weight of vinyl siding helped reduce transportation costs, and the home was then transported to New Orleans to take part in the Tour of Green Homes.

According to Huntley, helping builders and remodelers earn points in the NAHB Guidelines is just one of vinyl siding's environmentally preferable attributes. "Vinyl siding is the only exterior cladding with certification programs for products, colors, and the professionals who install them – all of which are administered by an accredited, independent quality control agency," she says. "This increases durability, and thus, sustainability."

More information on vinyl siding is available at www.vinylsiding.org/environment.

About the Vinyl Siding Institute

The Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc., located in Washington, D.C., represents manufacturers of vinyl and other 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*.
www.vinylsiding.org.

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