

# Myth Busting & URLS for the

Lorna Fear

REALTOR® & Certified Green Building  
Professional



## Just how green is it?

**Bamboo:** It certainly grows fast, however the manufacture of bamboo products involves many hours of human labor and the use of adhesives and sealers that aren't controlled to limit the use of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In addition, consider the amount of fuel used to ship these products from China.

**Granite:** Those beautiful stones from India, Italy, and Brazil cost a fortune in fuel to deliver. IceStone is a great and green alternative. If you must have granite, look in Utah, Arizona, and even California for some beautiful stone products.

**Shredded Denim Insulation:** Recycled it is. Because it is cotton, though, shredded denim retains moisture and can actually create problems. In addition, it's very heavy and therefore unsuitable for use in ceilings.

**Exhaust Fans:** Running more than one fan at a time, or that powerful fan over your new stove, can degrade your home's internal air quality and create potential health risks. Depending on the age of your home and how tightly it is sealed at windows and doors, you may create negative pressure, and pull in air along with tiny particles from your attic and creepy crawl space.

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## Helpful and Interesting Websites (she said, hopefully)

Bay Friendly Landscaping

<http://www.stopwaste.org/home/index.asp?page=8>

Best Building Practices for the Marine Climate Zone

[http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/building\\_america/pdfs/38449.pdf](http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/building_america/pdfs/38449.pdf)

Build It Green: Smart Solutions from the Ground Up

<http://www.builditgreen.org>

Combining federal tax credits with other initiatives for energy conservation

<http://aceee.org/pubs/e066.pdf?CFID=822279&CFTOKEN=99589325>

Green Affordable Housing Coalition

<http://www.frontierassoc.net/greenaffordablehousing/index.shtml>

Efficiency-Rated products such as water heaters and furnaces

<http://www.gamanet.org/gama/inforesources.nsf/vContentEntries/Product+Directories?OpenDocument> (scroll down the page)

Energy-efficiency mortgage programs

<http://www.natresnet.org/lender/default.htm>

EnergyStar Home Energy Yardstick

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=home\\_energy\\_yardstick.showStep2](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=home_energy_yardstick.showStep2)

Green Home Guide: unbiased reviews and advice

<http://www.greenhomeguide.com>

KQED Healthy Home Information

<http://www.kqed.org/topics/home/homeimprove/healthyhome-feature1.jsp>

Southface Energy Institute

<http://www.southface.org/>

US Green Building Council

<http://www.usgbc.org/>

Whole House Building Supply and Salvage

<http://www.driftwoodsalvage.com/inventory/onhand.html>

LORNA FEAR 650 701 1032



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1000 AVENUE SUITE 100 PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94301