

## D&S Builders Receives Gold Rating

The Springfield Area Home Builders Association (SAHBA) is proud to announce a GOLD rating for Springfield's D & S Builders. Established fifteen years ago, D & S Builders is both locally owned and operated by Dan Schrage and Todd Dudley. Their commitment to high standards of excellence is evidenced in their newly built home located at 4408 Foxhall Lane in Springfield, IL. This home was awarded a GOLD rating based on the National Green Building Standards set forth by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). In order to qualify as a green building, builders must incorporate the environment as well as energy and resource efficiency into every step of the building process. In doing so, builders can achieve one of three standard ratings: Bronze, Silver or Gold. The highest rating level, GOLD, is not easy to achieve. In fact, D&S Builders is among the few in the Springfield area to achieve this rating. In addition, this home is not only GOLD rated, but also Energy Star certified!

For D & S Builders, green building goes beyond cost efficiency. Green homes are not only sustainable for the owners, but they offer a healthier and safer environment in which to live. When designing a GOLD standard home, D & S Builders put a lot of thought into the initial planning process, as it is the only chance to base line the efficiency of a home. Although the buyer may have more initial upfront costs, the money saved on high utility costs is endless. There are many factors that contribute to the overall efficiency of a green home. For instance, the placement of the home on the lot, landscaping, and vegetation preservation each plays a key role in the home's heating and cooling systems. Additional interior features include a radiant barrier on exterior walls behind the brick and stone, water saving faucets, energy star appliances, and recycled-content materials in insulation, carpets, tiles and concrete slab sub-grades.



While D & S Builders are very familiar with and excited about green building practices, area consumers haven't always felt the same, until now. In the past, green homes were often stereotyped as "odd-looking, solar-paneled, earth homes". However, this home clearly proves differently. Buyers are now placing energy efficiency and indoor air quality as a top priority. Consequently, Dan and Todd are more focused than ever to provide quality, eco-friendly, GOLD standard homes. As Dan Schrage stated, "For us green building increases a homes durability. It makes us think about the materials we use, the methods and practices we use in building the home and makes us strive to continuously improve each home we build. For the customer the result is a home that is not only sustainable, but healthier, quieter, safer, and more comfortable. Plus it doesn't hurt to be a good steward to the land either!"

SAHBA would like to congratulate D & S Builders on the GOLD rating with the National Green Building Standard. D & S Builders has shown that it is both sensible and cost effective to Go Green! For more information on D & S Builders visit [www.d-sbuilders.com](http://www.d-sbuilders.com) or call 217-529-6288. To learn more about Green Building, visit [www.springfield-areahba.com](http://www.springfield-areahba.com).

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