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Environmentally-Friendly Vinyl Windows and Doors Save Energy

PARKERSBURG, W. VA. – According to the Green Building Resource Center out of Santa Monica, Calif., vinyl windows and doors meet two of the organization's five categories to be considered a green building product. The first qualification vinyl windows and doors meet is that they help save energy by reducing heating and cooling loads in a home (especially if ENERGY STAR® qualified windows are installed). The second qualification met is that vinyl windows and doors contribute to a safe, healthy indoor environment by not releasing significant pollutants into a structure.

"There are many considerations when evaluating if a product is environmentally-friendly," according to Christopher Burk, product manager for Simonton Windows®. "Vinyl windows and doors easily meet qualifications set forth by several organizations that determine the 'green aspect' of building products.

"Our research shows Simonton's vinyl products meet five specific GreenSpec® criteria as set forth by BuildingGreen, Inc. First, our products are made with pre-consumer recycled content. Second, our windows and doors are exceptionally durable and have low maintenance requirements. Third, Simonton's vinyl products help reduce heating and cooling loads. Fourth, our products do not release significant pollutants into a structure. And finally, some Simonton impact-resistant and high-design pressure windows and patio doors help with noise control. Meeting these five criteria illustrates how vinyl windows and doors can be environmentally friendly."

Manufacturing Green

Simonton products also meet two areas identified by Vinyl by Design™ that showcase how vinyl windows and patio doors can be environmentally friendly. The first critical area is recyclability and disposal. Simonton operates SimEx®, a West Virginia-based vinyl extrusion company that uses recycled pre-consumer vinyl generated within the company's own extrusions process and at Simonton's various manufacturing facilities.

SimEx sells any vinyl waste that can not be used in its own products to other extruders for re-use in the manufacturing of pipe materials. During the window and patio door construction process at Simonton, the company manufactures products with multi-chambered construction and fusion-welding that offers superior energy efficiency capabilities once the products are installed in homes or buildings. Finally, Simonton products can be safely disposed of by incineration or in a landfill, categorizing them as efficiently recyclable.

Saving Energy

"The bottom line is that the creation of Simonton's vinyl frames requires less energy than manufacturing many other alternative frames," says Burk. "A lifecycle study by Franklin Associates has shown that vinyl windows require three times less energy to manufacture than aluminum windows. That's a significant manufacturing statement."

According to Franklin Associates, an independent consulting services firm specializing in lifecycle assessment, the use of vinyl over aluminum in window frames saves the United States nearly two trillion BTUs of energy each year. The number equates to enough energy to meet the yearly electrical needs of 20,000 single-family homes.

"Vinyl frames have a 'one-two' winning edge over alternative frames," says Burk. "First, it's more energy efficient to convert vinyl into frames than using other framing materials. Second, once installed in the home, vinyl windows and patio doors are virtually maintenance-free and offer superior energy efficiency capabilities --- especially when combined with a strong

News Release

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glass package.

"Quality vinyl windows and doors can help lower heating and cooling bills in the home. These products also tend to have a longer life cycle than other frames (such as wood or aluminum). The resistance of vinyl to rot, decay and insect infestations means the product will last longer in a home, requiring less frequent replacement. All these factors combined illustrate why vinyl windows are considered friendly products for the environment."

Simonton Windows produces ENERGY STAR[®] qualified replacement and new construction windows and doors, including a line of impact-resistant products. The company was ranked #1 in quality in the 2007 Brand Use Study sponsored by *Builder* magazine and has won two consecutive Best In Class Awards for being ranked "Overall Top Rated Vinyl Window Brand" in unaided industry studies.

Founded in 1946, Simonton's hallmark has been to deliver its made-to-order products in seven days or less. Part of consumer products company Fortune Brands, Inc. (NYSE: FO), Simonton has manufacturing facilities in Pennsboro, Harrisville and Ellenboro, W.Va.; Paris, Ill.; McAlester, Okla.; Lyons, Ga.; and Vacaville, Calif. Simonton is a founding sponsor of The Weather Museum and a corporate partner of Homes for Our Troops. For information, call (800) SIMONTON or visit www.simonton.com.

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RESOURCES:

- Franklin Associates – visit www.fal.com/lifecycle.htm
- GreenSpec – visit www.buildinggreen.com
- The Vinyl Institute – visit www.vinylinfo.org
- The Green Building Resource Center – visit www.globalgreen.org/gbrc.index.htm
- Vinyl by Design – visit www.vinylbydesign.com
- Whole Building Design Guide – visit www.wbdg.org
- AAMA – visit www.aamanet.org
- ENERGY STAR – visit www.energystar.gov