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## NAHB to Sue EPA Over Lead Paint Regulations

A coalition of housing industry groups has joined the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) in announcing plans to file a lawsuit against the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for removing the "opt-out" provision from its Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting rule.

The Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting rule (LRRP) applies to homes constructed before 1978 when lead paint was banned. Its opt-out provision, which expired July 6, let consumers allow contractors to bypass extra preparation, clean-up and recordkeeping requirements in homes where there were no children under 6 or pregnant women, thus avoiding additional costs.

"Removing the opt-out provision more than doubles the number of homes subject to the regulation," said NAHB Chairman Bob Jones, a home builder and developer in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. "About 79 million homes are affected, even though EPA estimates that only 38 million homes contain lead-based paint. Removing the opt-out provision extends the rule to consumers who need no protection."

The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association and the Window and Door Manufacturers Association joined NAHB in filing the petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

The group will challenge EPA's action on the grounds that the agency substantially amended its LRRP regulation without any new scientific data and before the regulation was even put into place on April 22, 2010.

"Even under the original rule, the opt-out provision was not available in homes where small children or pregnant women live," Jones said. "That shows that this change provides no additional protection to the people who are most vulnerable to lead-based paint hazards."

Remodelers' and other contractors' estimates of the additional costs associated with the lead-safe work practices average about \$2,400, but vary according to the size and type of job. For example, a complete window replacement requires the contractor to install thick vinyl sheeting to surround the work area both inside the home and outdoors - with prep time and material costs adding an estimated \$60 to \$170 for each window.

"Consumers trying to use rebates and incentive programs to make their homes more energy efficient will likely find those savings eaten up by the costs of the rule's requirements. Worse, these costs may drive many consumers - even those with small children - to seek uncertified remodelers and other contractors. Others will likely choose to do the work themselves - or not do it at all - to save money. That does nothing to protect the population this rule was designed to safeguard," Jones said.

## Have you visited Toolbase.org lately?

ToolBase Services is the housing industry's resource for technical information on building products, materials, new technologies, business management, and housing systems. The NAHB Research Center provides the services, with funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through The Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) program, and other industry sponsors. Try it. You'll like it.



## New Members

**Welcome!**

**Adam Bruggeman** of Lavigne, Mark & Rogers LLC  
 945 Main Street, Suite 208  
 Manchester, CT 06040  
 Ph 860.643.2501  
 Fax 860.645.0816  
 arbruggeman@lavigne-mark.com  
 www.lavigne-mark.com  
 Sponsored by: **Lenny Patera** of  
**The Hampton Remodeling Co. LLC**

## Join The BAEC Membership Committee

*By helping others make the most out of their BAEC membership, you will make the most out of yours!*

Increase your networking opportunities by:

- Contacting people who have expressed an interest in joining the association.
- welcoming new BAEC members at events; and by phone or email.
- Advising new members of the benefits of BAEC membership.
- Promoting membership retention through calling trees and emailing.

It's simple! It's fun! We meet for pizza at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of every month to brainstorm new ideas to promote member participation, develop member benefits and report on our assignments.

Won't you join us?

*Frank Winkler*

*Paul Stone*

*Hope Sheldon Renee Main Kelly Whipple*



## Members on the Move!

The Home Builders Association of CT office has moved to a new location. Please note the new changes:

HBACT

3 Regency Drive, Suite 204  
 Bloomfield, CT 06002  
 Ph 860-216-5858  
 Fax 860-206-8954



Russ Smith and his gang at Amity Construction & Design have a new home! A new showroom and design center located in the Old Lyme Marketplace! Stop by check it out!

Amity Construction & Design  
 PO Box 970  
 90 Halls Road  
 Old Lyme, CT 06371  
 Ph 860-434-5500  
 Fax 860-434-0830



## Get Involved!

It is estimated that on any given night, from 200,000 to 400,000 Veterans are homeless. This is a national tragedy that can, and should, be addressed!

**This Year's BAEC Annual Golf Tournament Will Benefit Homes for Our Veterans!**

Mark your calendars for  
**Wednesday,  
 September 15, 2010**  
**12PM Registration / Lunch**  
**1PM Shotgun start**



**Put some foursomes together! Help us gather sponsors for this very worthy cause!**



CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
EASTERN CONNECTICUT



## Legislative Breakfast

**Thursday, September 16, 2010  
8:30 AM**

**Holiday Inn of Norwich  
10 Laura Blvd., Norwich  
\$8.95 pp**

**(after 9/10/10 cost is \$11.00 pp)**

Express your views to the invited State Senate and State Representative candidates from Eastern Connecticut. They have all been invited! Each candidate will be given a brief opportunity to address the group.



Advance reservations are required by calling ECAR at 860.892.2595

**IT'S GOOD BUSINESS TO DO BUSINESS WITH A MEMBER!**

## BAEC Member Benefit

Take advantage of our BAEC mass mailing member benefit and put your insert of up to 2oz. in the next issue of the Straightedge. Your first insert is **FREE**



## Education Corner

Lunch Sponsorships Available!

### Upcoming EPA Lead Renovator Training Dates

Wednesday, August 4, 2010  
Bozrah Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Road, Bozrah, CT

Call the BAEC office at 860.859.3518 to reserve your seat today!

\$200 for members, \$225 nonmembers.



CERTIFIED ACTIVE ADULT SPECIALIST IN HOUSING (CAASH)  
NAHB PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION PROGRAM COURSE



### Marketing to the Active Adult

Tuesday, September 21, 2010  
Community Builders & Remodelers Association of NJ  
9 Whippany Road, Suite B2-3,  
Whippany, NJ 07981  
9am—5 pm



#### Course Description:

Marketing to those 50 or better requires a skilled approach that addresses their generational identities, needs, wants and aspirations. This course will give housing professionals a greater understanding of marketing strategies to help move active adults toward purchase. Special emphasis is placed on Internet marketing strategies that are effective in reaching and motivating active adults. The course is open to anyone interested in understanding the benefits of social networking strategies to connect with prospects and clients.

**Cost:** \$220 NAHB/BAEC member \$275 Non member

**Continuing Education Credits:** CAPS, CGA, CGB, CGR, GMB, CSP, Master CSP, CMP, MIRM

#### Instructor:

Jane Marie O'Connor, CAASH, MIRM, CAPS, CMP Jane is recognized internationally as an expert in 50+ housing. She works worldwide with developers, home builders, retirement communities and real estate companies focusing on the 50+ niche market. She is a frequent speaker at industry events, sales trainer, lead author for *CAASH— Selling to the Active Adult* and provided expert content for this *Marketing to Active Adults* course.



Space is limited to 25 people! Register today by calling 973-887-2888 or email to sharorb@cbanj.org

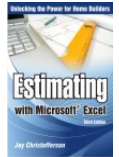
## BuilderBooks Live! Webinars

BuilderBooks is launching a series of Webinars this summer to help you ramp up your business practices as the industry and the overall economy recover. The BuilderBooks Live! Webinar series provides specialized training direct to your desktop from leading industry experts. Get the tools and resources you need to help prepare your business for the recovery. Participants will receive a free book on the Webinar topic and one hour of continuing education credit for NAHB professional designations.

### Estimating with Microsoft® Excel

Tuesday, July 20, 2010 2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

NAHB Member Fee: \$45  
Non-NAHB Member Fee: \$50



### Webinar Replay: The Lead Paint Regulation Is Here – Now What?

NAHB Member Fee: FREE  
Non-NAHB Member Fee: \$34.95

For a full list of upcoming NAHB webinars, visit [www.nahb.org](http://www.nahb.org) and click on education.

## ENERGY STAR® Qualified Homes Version 3 Specifications: All the Rules Have Changed

For all professionals involved in constructing, selling, or supplying materials for new homes: **all the rules have changed.** The housing industry is experiencing historic challenges that are not going away any time soon. In addition, there are new developments in home performance that are dramatically changing value propositions and builder liability. In this seminar, new specifications for ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes will be presented. These can substantially improve the bottom-line for home builders in this most difficult of times: significantly reduce risk; increase customer satisfaction; and provide a compelling reason to buy new vs. used homes. This couldn't happen at a better time. And it is built on one of the most successful marketing programs ever introduced for new housing, ENERGY STAR.

Today there are over one million ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes saving home buyers over \$270 million per year on their utility bills. In this class you will learn:

- The four major developments changing all the rules for the housing industry today
- Why homes work and fail
- How new ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes specifications consistently deliver homes that work
- Why 95% of your competition becomes functionally obsolete when you build to new ENERGY STAR specifications
- How leading builders can go beyond ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes

Join us at this seminar with presenter Sam Rashkin, National Director of ENERGY STAR Homes, on

Thursday, July 29, 8:30 a.m. – Noon

Check in and breakfast at 8:00

Northeast Utilities, 107 Selden St., Berlin, CT 06037 Auditorium

Enter via the entrance next to the Dutch Point Credit Union

Register online at [www.cl-p.com/register](http://www.cl-p.com/register)

Advanced registration is preferred, but walk-ins are always welcome.



Not finding the courses you are looking for?  
Contact the BAEC office and we'll set up a class in our area!

# Chili Chili Bang Bang Creates a Stir!

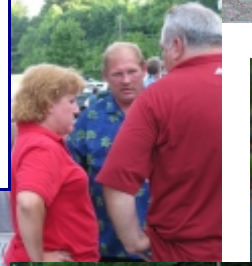
The outdoor showroom of our hosts Tim and Deb Applegate of New London County Landscaping was the perfect setting for BAEC's final meeting of the season. The Builders Association of Eastern CT held their Annual Building Officials Night on June 23, 2010 and 108 people took a break from their work and the heat to network, eat and drink with State Building Inspector, Lisa Humble and local building officials. A number rolled onto the lot in their classic cars, all polished and pampered for viewing.

Eight contestants competed in a chili cook-off which was inspected and then judged by the Building Officials. Congratulations to chili cook off winner, Mason Wheeler. He's a son of a salesman all right!

Thanks to Deb's parents for helping out. You made the evening really special!!!



**Thanks to our Sponsors!**  
*Host:*  
**New London County Landscaping**  
*Shrimp:*  
**RM Maynard Home Improvement**  
*Ribs:*  
**Smith Insurance**  
*Chili Cook Off Prize:*  
**United Building Supply**  
*Keg:*  
**United Cleaning & Restoration**



## How the World Is Spending Its Time Online

So... whatcha doin' over there on that laptop, denizens of the world? Well, according to a new study from Nielsen showing Internet usage in April 2010, 22% of the time, you're engaging with social media.



Yeah, 22% might not seem like a mammoth percentage, but you have to take into account the fact that this finding is on a global scale. Also, a few more telling takeaways from the report:

- Currently, three quarters of Internet users worldwide visit a social network or blog when they go online — that's a 24% increase over last year.
- Joe Average (the international version) spends 66% more time on these sites than he did a year ago — for example, your average user spent 6 hours on these sites in April 2010, while last year he spent 3 hours, 31 minutes.
- Facebook, YouTube and Wikipedia make an appearance among the world's most popular brands.

We've seen ample proof of the burgeoning popularity of social media in the past, just two months ago, Nielsen reported similar growth, and it makes sense. Facebook has been giving Google a run for its money when it comes to traffic, and YouTube recently surpassed two billion views per day.

We'll have to see how social media usage shakes out as Facebook continues to accrue users, and YouTube dips its toe into the newsfeed business in an attempt to become a legit news source.

In the meantime, check out a few more highlights from the study:

- Brazil boasts the largest percentage of Internet users visiting a social network -- 86%
- Australians spend the most time on social networking sites: an average of 7 hours and 19 minutes in April — the U.S. and Italy came in second and third with six and a half hours each.
- Facebook has the greatest share of the market in Italy in April 2010, garnering two-thirds of the active unique audience in April 2010. Australia, the U.S. and the UK came in on Italy's heels with more than 60% of active users visiting the site.

How much time do you spend on social networking sites? Has your hunger for social media contributed to this global increase?

## Who's Gonna Get Ya First?

One of our EPA Lead class participants spotted this ad in the New London Day at the beginning of July.

Is EPA finally beginning its outreach campaign??!?!??

NO! Look at the last paragraph. The ad was paid for by penalties imposed by the State of Connecticut!

Go on-line to the websites referenced in this ad to be sure you are aware of and comply with all state and federal regulations pertaining to lead renovation and repair. A comparison chart on Connecticut's Department of Public Health reveals that standards for EPA, DPH and HUD are all, surprise! The same. And let's not leave OSHA out of the picture. They'll want their share too!

### IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING LEAD-BASED PAINT

Are you a contractor in the construction trades? If so, you probably encounter lead-based paint all the time — perhaps without even realizing it. Failing to properly manage lead-based paint may cause health hazards for your workers and your clients, and may expose you to enforcement action, including penalties and imprisonment. As a result, you should know about these important requirements concerning lead-based paint:

**Lead-based paint wastes** must be properly tested to determine whether or not they are hazardous wastes, and the removal of any lead paint must be done so as not to violate air or water pollution control requirements. For details, go to the CT DEP website at [www.ct.gov/dep/constructioncontractors](http://www.ct.gov/dep/constructioncontractors) and look under "lead" and "renovation and demolition."

**Lead abatement activities** in dwellings where children under six live and child day care facilities must be performed in accordance with CT's Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control Regulations. For details, go to the CT DPH website at [www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph) and search under "lead poisoning."

**The EPA Lead Pre-Renovation Education (PRE) Rule** requires anyone that disturbs more than 2 square feet of painted surface in a pre-1978 house to provide the EPA lead hazard information pamphlet to the owner and the occupants of the residence, and get written acknowledgment from the owner and occupants that they received it. For Details, go to the CT DPH website at [www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph) and search under "renovators and remodelers."

**The HUD Lead Safe Housing Rule** applies to HUD-funded rehab projects in pre-1978 housing, and to maintenance activities required by the HUD Housing Quality Standards in pre-1978 HUD-assisted residences (e.g., Section 8 Housing.) For Details, see the HUD website at [www.hud.gov/offices/lead](http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead).

**Worker safety requirements** often apply to projects where lead-based paint is disturbed. For details, go to the OSHA website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov), click the "topics" button, and select "lead."

**This ad was paid for as part of a sentence in a criminal prosecution by the State of Connecticut against an individual who improperly disposed of lead-based paint wastes.**

d265380



## HBA of Connecticut News

### 2010 HOBI Applications Are Due September 10!

Winning a HOBI Award is a great marketing tool and provides a competitive edge. Only HBA of Connecticut members are eligible to enter and categories include: custom homes, spec homes, communities, and remodeling projects. Special categories include green/energy efficient homes to accessory buildings. Awards are also given for sales and marketing, home financing and community service projects.

New categories for 2010 include "Best Not So Big Floor plan" and "Best Pocket Community" (under 15 homes). If you've

never submitted a project for a HOBI Award, look over the list of categories and you'll be surprised at the options.

The application for the 2010 HOBI Awards is posted at [www.hbact.org](http://www.hbact.org). Deadline for applications is Friday, September 10. The Annual HOBI Awards Dinner will be Tuesday, November 9 at the Aqua Turf in Southington. For questions or more information, contact Joanne Carroll, JMC Resources, 203-453-5420 or [jmcresources@snet.net](mailto:jmcresources@snet.net).

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Build PAC Tournament a Success!

Once again Connecticut's Annual Build PAC Tournament held July 12 at the TPC River Highlands was a great success. The day started with a breakfast meeting with Joe Robson, immediate past-president of NAHB, to talk about industry and association issues.

After lunch and conversation in the TPC Clubhouse, 92 golfers spent the afternoon on the beautiful course then came back in for dinner and door prizes. Many thanks to the Build PAC Tournament Committee (see photo) and tournament sponsors: **B B & S Wood Treaters, Cyclone Home Systems, Fairway Rails, Kleer Trimboard, Kolteck Windows, Modern Plumbing, The Roberts Agency,**

**Rockville Bank, Sanford & Hawley, Inc., Veneziano Construction, Viking Cabinets, Yankee Gas Services, and to Platinum Sponsors: Moen Faucets and The Nordic Company.**

Money raised from the Build PAC Tournament goes to support lobbying efforts in Washington D.C., and any funds raised above NAHB's goal for Connecticut is split 50/50 with HBACT, supporting the important lobbying efforts at the state Capitol in Hartford. Connecticut's Golf Tournament proudly holds the title of the number one fundraiser in the country for NAHB's Build PAC.



Joe Robson, immediate past-president of NAHB, talks with HBACT members about industry issues at a pre-tournament breakfast.



The Build PAC Tournament Committee: Nort Wheeler, Greg Ugalde, Santo Veneziano, Jerry Effren, Bob Mariano, Ken Boynton, Bill Ferrigno, Bob Hanbury, and Larry Fiano, with Joe Robson before the start of the tournament at the TPC at River Highlands.

### Find HBACT on Facebook or Follow on Twitter



If you have a Facebook account you can become a "fan" or "like" the Home Builders Association of Connecticut Facebook page. Information and stats on home building in the state, trends and articles are posted on the page. The page has 101 fans, so join us and post information, ask questions, share information with others in the industry.



If you have a twitter account, Lisa Kidder, HBACT's director of PR, is on [twitter@hbaofct](https://twitter.com/hbaofct). Links to interesting industry articles, home building statistics and other business news are posted regularly.

Visit [www.HBACT.org](http://www.HBACT.org)

for up-to-the minute Information on what's happening at the state and local level!



## BUILDING BRIEFS

### Department of Consumer Protection Finds 54 Unregistered Businesses Offering Home Improvement

Fifty-four home improvement contractors and salespersons will pay a fine or face criminal and /or administrative penalties for not being registered with the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection as required by state law, Consumer Protection Commissioner Jerry Farrell, Jr. said today. He spoke at a press conference marking the conclusion of a five-month undercover operation, which also netted three unregistered locksmiths and five unregistered homemaker companion agencies.

"The number one consumer complaint in Connecticut each year is still home improvement, so we take our enforcement role very seriously," Farrell said. "This is our ninth 'sting house,' and we'll continue to pursue this issue until contractors get the message that working without a registration is a punishable offense." Previous sting house operations were conducted in Plainville, Ridgefield, Wilton, West Haven, Bristol, Montville, Enfield and Waterbury.

### CT Builders Push Reform of State Permit Process Into Law

The Home Builders Association of Connecticut and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association worked together this spring to develop and ensure passage of an important new bill that may make the permitting process for new construction projects a smoother process for their members.

Signed on June 9 by Connecticut Gov. Jodi Rell, the new law directs the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to review the existing permitting process, study the impact of the state's Environmental Protection Act on businesses and the environment, and report back by Sept. 10 with recommendations for reducing permit delays.

After the review is completed, DEP will be required, at a minimum, to take all reasonable efforts to review initial permit applications to determine their completeness within 60 days of receiving them. Final permit decisions are expected to be made within 180 days.

The legislation also establishes a permit ombudsman's office to expedite certain projects that are economically significant, located within established enterprise zones or brownfields, are compatible with the state's "responsible growth" initiatives or are deemed "transit-oriented."

It also seeks to exempt some small businesses from various permit requirements and to establish a "consulting services

program" that enables them to meet with DEP officials without the threat of civil penalties or violation notices.

Although the legislation only addresses state agency permitting and does not touch the local requirements, which can be equally severe and lengthy, Connecticut's efforts could serve as a useful model for other states.

"PA 10-158 is the culmination of over eight different legislative bills to make Connecticut more friendly to business and development by reforming state agency permits and approvals," said Bill Ethier, the HBA of Connecticut's CEO.

"The HBA of CT testified with the same over-regulation message six times before four different legislative committees," Ethier said. "We found champions for reform among both political parties and made regulatory reform the central theme of our annual Home Building Industry Day at the Capitol." Ethier said.

"If taken seriously by state agencies and the next governor, P 10-158 will streamline and shorten permitting hurdles faced by developers and builders. It will also help manufacturing and many other businesses grow jobs, producing more buyers for new homes. The task now is to make sure state agencies, particularly DEP, do take the reforms seriously," he added.

### Eastern Connecticut Foreclosures Slowing

The number of Eastern Connecticut home foreclosures is heading downward on a month-to-month basis, but stubbornly high unemployment is blocking a rapid turnaround, market observers say.

New London County foreclosures in June fell 18 percent to 141 from 172 in May, according to RealtyTrac Inc., a California-based firm that monitors the housing market. Windham County had a 4.7 percent increase to 89 from 85 in May, but the increase was much lower than previous month-to-month comparisons.

New London County foreclosures for the period of January through June were up 61.15 percent from a year earlier, while Windham County's climbed 56.42 percent. Yet the improving direction can be observed in that New London foreclosures were up just 13 percent, compared with the second

half of last year, and Windham was up 18.9 percent in that comparison.

In Connecticut, June foreclosures dropped more than the national rate, compared with May as the Nutmeg State posted a 9.24 percent decline and the U.S. came in 2.81 percent lower. Connecticut is ranked as the 16th most-troubled state by RealtyTrac.

The nation hasn't beaten the foreclosure crisis, RealtyTrac CEO James Saccacio warned. "The roller-coaster pattern ... over the past 12 months demonstrates that while the foreclosure problem is being managed on the surface, a massive number of properties and underwater loans continues to sit just below the surface, threatening the fragile stability of the housing market," he said in a press release.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.BAEC.NET**



Builders Association of Eastern Connecticut Inc.  
20 Hartford Road, Suite 18, Salem, CT 06420  
Phone: 860.859.3518 / Fax: 860.859.1713  
BAEC@aol.com

**Bulk Mail  
Permit No. 9  
Bozrah, CT**

*Rest is not idleness, and to lie  
sometimes on the grass on a  
summer day listening to the  
murmur of water, or watching  
the clouds float across the  
sky, is hardly a waste of time.*

~John Lubbock

 **Copies PLUS...more**  
has brought color to the BAEC world of news!

*BAEC is the recognized source of quality building services and information.  
We build neighborhoods and improve the communities in which we live and work.*

## Sunset Cruise on the Argia!

**Open to BAEC Board and  
Committee Members  
and Their Guests**

**First come, first served!  
Get your reservation in today!  
Treat yourself, your spouse,  
or co-worker to a relaxing  
evening on the water!**

**Wednesday, August 25, 2010  
5:00 pm—9:00 pm**

**\$50.00 pp & a food contribution**

**Deadline to sign up is August 13, 2010  
After this date it opens to  
ALL BAEC Members!**

**Call 860.859.3518 for more  
information or to register!**

## Calendar of Events

### August 2010

Tues	3rd	6:00 PM	BAEC Board of Directors
Wed	4th	8:00 AM	EPA Lead Training Class Bozrah Moose Lodge
Thurs	12th	6:00 PM	BAEC Membership Comm.
Tues	19th	12:00 PM	BAEC Home Show Comm. New London, CT
Wed	25th	5:00 PM	Board & Comm. Cruise On the Argia, Mystic, CT

### September 2010

Mon	6th	Labor Day	Office Closed
Tues	7th	6:00 PM	BAEC Board of Directors
Thurs	9th	6:00	BAEC Membership Comm.
Wed.	15th	12:00 PM	BAEC Golf Tournament Richmond Country Club
Thurs	16th	8:30 AM	Legislative Breakfast Holiday Inn, Norwich, CT
Wed	22nd	5:30 PM	BAEC Membership Mtg.

**For more information visit our  
calendar at [www.BAEC.net](http://www.BAEC.net)**