



## **DID YOU KNOW? – August 2009**

### **This month includes:**

- **Green Practices in the Cabinet Industry**
- **Granite Myths – Part Two**
- **Need a Conference Room? Call Us!**

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## **Green Practices in the Cabinet Industry**

With the increasing awareness and interest in environmental issues, cabinet manufacturers have proactively worked to reduce their environmental “footprint.” The Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA) created the Environmental Stewardship Program to encourage and acknowledge manufacturers using environmentally friendly materials and production processes. In addition, the program recognizes companies working to minimize the impact on local communities by recycling waste and using low emission coatings.

To achieve certification, cabinet manufacturers must meet specific criteria in five categories of environmental performance. The Environmental Stewardship Program certification must be renewed on an annual basis. The categories measured by the program are:

- Air Quality: Recognizes the use of plywood, particleboard, and medium density fiberboard with low emission levels and use of finish materials (e.g., stains) which comply with all local and federal hazardous air pollutant regulations.
- Product Management: Encourages the use of particleboard and medium density fiberboard made from recycled and recovered fibers. In addition, the industry strives to utilize hardwood lumber grown through a sustainable forestry program.
- Process Management: This category credits cabinet manufacturers for recycling wastes and actively reducing them. Manufacturers also work to use by-products to generate alternate energy services, including electricity and steam used in the manufacturing process.
- Environmental Stewardship: Recognizes manufacturers with a firm commitment to environmental quality, documented environmental policies, and practices to manage their environmental impact. The certification also encourages companies to review the environmental practices of their suppliers and vendors.





- Community Relations: Acknowledges a company's efforts to support their communities through service and charitable organizations

The KitchenWright is pleased to let you know that all of our cabinet lines ... Wood-Mode, Brookhaven, and Merillat ... are certified members of the KCMA's Environmental Stewardship Program. This helps ensure your beautiful new cabinets are also "Green" cabinets.

## Granite Myths – Part Two

Myth #5 -- Granite is Difficult to Maintain: Maintenance for granite is virtually non-existent. Routine cleaning with mild soap and water, as you would do with any countertop surface is all that is needed. There are many products on the market today made specifically for granite that will clean, polish, and shine all in one.

Myth #6 – Heat will Crack Granite: Granite is able to withstand exceptionally high levels of heat, allowing you to move dishes straight from your oven to the countertops without a problem. The heat from pots and pans won't cause any damage to a granite countertop. Meals cooked at over 400 degrees will scorch other countertop surfaces, including plastic laminates and synthetic solid surfaces. Granite, on the other hand, has no constituent materials capable of burning at temperatures under several thousand degrees.

Myth #7 – Granite Harbors Bacteria: Records maintained by the Center for Disease Control confirm that there is no evidence of granite harboring bacteria. Additionally, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, as well as the Hospitality Industry, give granite a clean bill of health. Granite is no more or less sanitary than any other surface.

## Need Conference Room Space? Call Us

The KitchenWright is pleased to offer the use of our conference room and showroom to local organizations or non-profit groups in need of space for meetings or gatherings. There is no charge for the use of the facility. For more information, or to schedule a time, please contact Curt Wible at 317-848-1111 or [curt@thekitchenwright.com](mailto:curt@thekitchenwright.com).

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We hope you find our newsletter helpful. If you have any questions about Universal Design, the latest trends or would like to talk about a kitchen, bath, or home office redesign, please give us a call (317-848-1111), stop by our showroom in Carmel Indiana, or send us an email at [info@theKitchenWright.com](mailto:info@theKitchenWright.com).