

See our fabulous living room Makeover of the Month p. 70

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Expert Tips, News and Happenings from Atlanta's Home Improvement Community

COMPILED BY KALI MALLARD AND GRACE THORNTON



Deadline Approaching for Energy Efficiency Savings

Time is running out to take advantage of certain tax credits and rebates on qualifying Energy Star products and home energy efficiency improvements, expiring Dec. 31, 2011. These include:

- **Federal tax credits**
Homeowners can receive a 10 percent tax credit on

purchases of insulation, metal or asphalt roofs, doors and skylights up to \$500 and up to \$200 on replacement windows. Tax credits of \$30 to \$500 are also available on purchases up to \$500 for HVAC equipment, non-solar water heaters and biomass stoves. For more information, visit www.energystar.gov.

- **Georgia Power rebates** Georgia Power customers can save up to \$2,200 in rebates on whole-house energy efficiency upgrades and up to \$700 in rebates on individual projects. The maximum rebate for all incentives is 50 percent of the cost. Qualifying improvements include the purchase of select Energy Star clothes washers and refrigerators; new insulation, programmable thermostats and energy-efficient water heaters; and professional air-sealing and duct-sealing services. For more information, visit www.georgiapower.com. Find other incentives expiring soon at www.energystar.gov.



New Office Manager Joins Pinnacle Custom Builders

Home builder and renovator **Pinnacle Custom Builders** welcomes their new office manager, Jodi Laumer-Giddens, to the team. Jodi brings a variety of skills to the job including being a registered architect with a special interest in green building. Pinnacle looks forward to integrating Jodi into the company to help make it even stronger. Reach out to Jodi by emailing her at: jodi@pinnaclecustombuilders.com. ▶

Expert Q&A

Q: What are the latest remodeling trends?

A: For the current owner market, we are seeing more landscape/hardscape projects that include an outdoor kitchen. The outdoor kitchen does not have to be an elaborate, full-featured kitchen. Simple, budget-friendly versions incorporating a grill, electrical outlets for additional kitchen appliances, two burners and a sink are often enough to satisfy. In the new owner market, whole-house renovations are replacing the lack of new construction. This trend is prevalent Intown, where the availability of vacant land and speculatively built homes is limited.



—Jim LaVallee,
Epic
Development