HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

What Homeowners Should Know About Advances in Window Technology

(NAPSA)—Although there have been many significant improvements in insulating glass (IG) window technology in the last decade, buying a window today still comes down to a few basic needs that every homeowner desires:

- See clearly through windows
- Maintain a comfortable environment that protects your family
- Save energy
- Long lasting windows that require little maintenance

There have been recent advances in each of these areas, which have resulted in better looking, more energy-efficient windows that keep the homeowner comfortable year-round.

New Technologies Help You See More Clearly

Low-e and tinted glass allows the maximum amount of visible light to pass through, while reflecting heat back toward its source. The property is known as VT or Visible light Transmittance. The higher this number, the more clearly you will see through the glass; however, this may also reduce the heat energy reflectance of the glass, thereby reducing its emissivity (the "e" in Low-e).

Warm-edge spacers prevent condensation. Condensation is another major factor in obstructing your view. It's caused when moisture in the air collects on the window surface. Condensation can be reduced by improving the insulating properties of the spacer between the glass panes. The most effective type of spacer you

can use is warm-edge. Warm-edge spacers provide for reduced heat transfer around the perimeter of the IG unit.

For example, TruSeal Technologies produces a family of warm-edge, flexible spacer technologies including Swiggle® Seal, DuraSeal™ and Insuledge™, which offer protection against moisture and condensation, the leading causes of mold.

Look for New Ideas that Can Make Your Family More Comfortable

That cold, uncomfortable feeling you experience when you stand next to your windows or patio doors on a damp or wintry day is caused by heat energy being drawn from a source, such as your body, toward the glass. Flexible warm-edge spacers provide for reduced heat transfer to create a warmer more comfortable home.

On those same wintry days, you may also notice a draft next to the window. This may be caused by air leakage, or it may be caused by convection. Convection occurs when the cold glass surface cools the warm air next to it, which creates a current that flows down the glass and off into the room. Again, the use of Low-e glass and flexible, warm-edge spacers, along with properly installed weather stripping, will reduce this effect.

Save More Energy… and Money

In cold regions, heating is the biggest demand on home energy consumption. Windows should be chosen to let as much solar energy in as possible. Glass should also have the lowest possible emissivity to reflect as much heat energy as possible back into your home.

In hot or temperate regions, cooling is the biggest demand on home energy consumption. Although Low-e glass can help, its impact on keeping heat energy out is minimal in these zones. Tinted glass is the most common type of solar control used to block the sun's heating effect.

Little Maintenance for Long-Lasting Windows

Look for low-maintenance framing materials, such as PVC and metal-clad wood frames, in your windows. These materials reduce routine maintenance. Also, look for glass with proven warm-edge spacer systems and sealants that meet North American certification standards with energy demands as low as possible.

For more information on window technology, visit www.truseal.com.