HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Go Green And Be Cool

(NAPSA)—You can be cool and "go green" in surprising ways.

For example, an energy-efficient air conditioner will cost less to operate and use less energy than a less efficient model. In addition, a home cooling system that uses R-410A refrigerant (the substance that helps remove heat from the air) will reduce the amount of ozone-depleting ingredients that leak into the atmosphere.

The good news: As of 2010, all U.S. air conditioner manufacturers will be required to use an R-410A refrigerant in all new units.

The better news: These refrigerants are on the market today and can save you money as they help you save the environment. The traditional refrigerant, R-22, has been used for many decades. As supplies decline in accordance with the Clean Air Act, you can expect the cost to increase. By selecting a high-efficiency air conditioner or heat-pump equipment that uses an R-410A refrigerant, homeowners can enjoy enhanced comfort, money savings and environmentally sound operation.

How Can You Tell Your System Is "Green"?

• When selecting a home-cooling system, you can ask the contractor if it is R-410A compliant.

• Also ask about the SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio). The higher the SEER, the

When you get a new cooling system for your home, not only can you "go green," you can save some green.

more energy efficiency the unit will deliver. The minimum SEER rating on newly manufactured units is 13.

• Once you select a system, be sure the unit is properly sized for the home.

• Finally, ask whether the individuals installing the unit are certified by NATE—North American Technician Excellence. New refrigerants, energy regulations and more sophisticated products require a knowledgeable technician. Heating and cooling technicians certified by NATE have passed a rigorous test to prove their heating and cooling knowledge.

Learn More

For more information or to find a contractor with NATE-certified technicians nearby, visit www.natex.org.