



## The World's Largest Home Show

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The world's largest home show opens next week, unfortunately unless you are a member of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and willing to make a southern trip to Orlando, most of you are going to miss it. Fortunately, over 50 members of the Home Builders Association of Dayton are making the trip (and sacrificing themselves to spend four days in sunny Florida as opposed to February in Ohio) to learn the latest the home building industry has to offer. These hardworking professionals will be returning with knowledge that be incorporated into their businesses and the homes they build.

The show is the International Builders Show and you may be asking just how big is the world's largest home show? Well, last year over 100,000 industry professionals attended the four day event. This year, they will walk over eleven miles of aisles to see over 1,900 exhibitors spread out over two million square feet of space (to put into perspective, that's 35 football fields under roof). And they will have the option to learn from over 290 educational sessions and network at hundreds of other special events.

Some other highlights include recognizing the phenomenal growth of green building by celebrating a "Green Day".

On Green Day, the association will officially launch the NAHB National Green Building Program and will unveil the new Certified Green Professional educational designation for home builders, remodelers and other industry professionals.

A dedicated green building display will allow participants to try out a new online scoring tool which is an important component of the NAHB National Green Building Program. The scoring tool shows how green building techniques and materials will affect a new home and allows builders and consumers to select the measures and materials that are most cost effective and best meet their needs.

Also on the docket: a full day of green educational seminars on topics from market trends and consumer research to innovative design and new products. Information about the 10th annual NAHB National Green Building Conference will also be available. Noted green architect and educator William McDonough is the featured speaker Thursday morning and will also conduct an in-depth session on "Cradle to Cradle" environmentally and ecologically efficient building practices.

Four press conferences will highlight the new NAHB National Green Building Program, the National Green Building Standard and green trends, and also will offer a detailed look at The New American Home.® NAHB's official showcase home is the first show home certified by the NAHB National Green Building Program.

IBS attendees also will learn more about the upcoming introduction of the National Green Building Standard. The first-ever consensus-based green standard for single- and multifamily housing, residential remodeling, and lot and site development, the standard is expected to be approved by the American National Standards Institute and unveiled in March.

NAHB volunteer leaders and staff members plan to join the celebration as well, donning green golf shirts provided by Green Day sponsors Whirlpool and Kohler. And at last count, more than 170 companies have added their products and services to the new "green" category for IBS exhibitors.

"We're very proud that NAHB and the International Builders' Show have long been ahead of the curve in introducing innovative products and technologies to our members," said NAHB President Brian Catalde, a home builder in Southern California. "Our Green Day celebration honors these pioneering industry leaders as it launches the next steps for home builders in the United States."

Home Builder Association of Dayton members are continuously looking for ways to build a better home and over the years thousands of our association members have attended the show to help improve their businesses and the homes they build for the families in our communities.

Check back with this column in couple of weeks and we will share what was some of the many highlights of the show.