

Growing Green

As environmental awareness has been rising, there has been a burgeoning movement among builders and suppliers to operate in a more eco-friendly fashion. There are countless resources, and organizations dedicated to providing assistance in everything from waste disposal, material recycling, and renewable energy. A E Talley has implemented a two-pronged strategy in an effort to "green" both our daily operations and construction projects.

Environmental issues such as conserving our natural resources, developing alternative energy sources, and shrinking the size of our environmental footprint have never been as important as they are today. For those of us in the construction field, these concerns bear particular significance, considering that over half of the solid waste generated in this country comes from construction and demolition debris!

INTERNAL OPERATIONS: A E Talley makes a conscious effort to use environmentally sensitive practices during daily operations in our home and field offices. While this may seem trivial, we believe that every bit counts. Steps we have taken include the following:

- Converting to energy-efficient appliances and light sources;
- Purchasing recycled materials, and recycling materials internally when able;
- Pursuing ongoing development and training in environmentally friendly building practices;

DESIGN AND BUILDING: During the course of any remodeling project, A E Talley can assist you in greening your existing home. Whether you are looking for a healthier living environment, hoping to lower utility bills, or reducing your carbon footprint A E Talley has consultants and other resources to advise you on the most effective ways to achieve your goals. While "green remodeling" is often more expensive, it does not necessarily need to be. "Going green" does not happen all at once, but we encourage our customers to explore the possibility of including one or two green ideas with green products in their remodeling project. There are countless websites with webinars that explain in detail steps we can take. Some areas to implement green building are the following:

- Enduring design and robust building practices ensure a product which will last for years in your home — not in the landfill;
- Placement and installation of renewable and recycled core building materials where possible;
- Placement and installation of green finishes, such as low VOC paints, cabinetry, tile, flooring and trim;
- Placement and installation of energy-saving subsystems such as insulation and heating/cooling systems;
- Placement and installation of energy-efficient light sources and appliances;
- Incorporating formaldehyde-free products;
- Practicing deconstruction as opposed to demolition whenever possible;
- Recycling and donating deconstructed materials;