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Spotlight on Success

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Call The Drying Company/ThermalTec For a Home That's Dry and Weather Tight

By K.H. Queen

Whether you need emergency help dealing with a water disaster, want to prevent future moisture problems or desire to make your home more energy efficient, The Drying Company/ThermalTec stands ready to offer professional expertise. With improved energy efficiency and moisture levels, your home will be more comfortable, more affordable and healthier, too.

Many people call The Drying Company for the first time for emergency water removal. Pipes can freeze or burst, flooding your house. HVAC drainage pans can clog or leak. Storms can send limbs through your roof and rain into your home. Or, the problem can be something as unlikely as what one homeowner experienced while away for a weekend – a chandelier broke, fell into the sink, turned on the water, clogged up the sink and flooded the entire first floor.

"No matter how it happens, we at The Drying Company understand that a water disaster can be a very frustrating situation," said company owner Steve Tetreault. "Our trained staff has years of experience in water extraction and drying. We're qualified to deal with any water problem you may experience."

After a leak, it's essential to control the leak and dry the home out as quickly as possible. "Being able to respond in a timely manner is critical to limiting the extent of the problem. You need to get the water dried up right away," Tetreault said. "Otherwise, mold and mildew could start to grow. That's why we're available to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We have the most advanced equipment and specialized knowledge to deal with any water disaster. We will quickly assess the situation, isolate the affected area and get our equipment on site to allow the water extraction and drying to begin. Knowing that we stand ready to correct the situation no matter what time of the day or night puts our customers at ease. We have the equipment and expertise to handle any size job, commercial or residential."



ThermalTec division performing home energy testing.

The Drying Company's trained staff will remove everything that is wet and can't be repaired, dry all the framing and treat it with an anti-microbial agent, and prepare the home for new flooring and any other needed renovations. In some cases, The Drying Company will act as a general contractor to manage the entire job to completely restore your home. The company also does water remediation work on new construction; for example, if a home being built is damaged by a surprise storm before being roofed in.

Whether it's new construction or your family home, Tetreault prides himself on not being, "just another subcontractor," but a building partner working to ensure the job is done right. "Calling someone who is experienced and knows the job makes a difference," he said.

Many homeowners don't wait until an emergency to call The Drying Company for

moisture assessment and control. The Drying Company offers a free crawl space moisture inspection. "Most people are oblivious to it until there's a problem," Tetreault said. "We offer a high level of expertise to control moisture in crawl spaces. Our trained staff can inspect for moisture and moisture damage under your home in the crawl space. Moisture problems can create mold and mildew, odors, worsen indoor air quality and cause structural failures. We have the solutions to correct and prevent those problems."

Signs of crawl space trouble, which will work their way to the main level of your home, include buckling or cupping hardwood floors and musty odors. To mitigate these problems, The Drying Company can install heavy-duty crawl space liners, dehumidifiers, blowers, sump pumps, and other waterproofing products.

One solution to moisture problems is a conditioned crawl space. The crawl space is sealed and either a cement floor or a thick polyethylene liner is installed to prevent groundwater from seeping in. Special blowers and/or conditioned air from the home keeps moisture out and maintains the space at a constant temperature while keeping relative humidity below 55 percent.

The bonus is that by controlling moisture with a conditioned crawl space, you'll save about 30 percent on your heating and cooling costs because the crawl space remains a constant 55 degrees as opposed to up to 90 degrees in the summer and as low as 20 degrees in the winter. "Most HVAC ducts leak 10 to 25 percent," he said. "If they're leaking into a vented crawl space, you're losing that heat or air conditioning to the outside."

If you're looking for more ways to weatherize and better insulate your home, the company's ThermalTec division can help. ThermalTec will do a free home energy inspection to find ways to make your home more energy tight. "We'll look for inadequate insulation, duct leaks and any air leaks," Tetreault said. "You can have air leaks around light fixtures, smoke detectors, cabinet soffits."

ThermalTec will provide an estimate on sealing those leaks. "When we seal those up and stop the air from escaping, your home will be more energy efficient," he said. "We seal as many holes as possible to keep the conditioned air in your home and save you money."

To help you save even more on heating and cooling bills, ThermalTec can add additional insulation to your home. One of the leading causes of energy loss in homes is inadequate insulation. Insulation helps maintain a uniform temperature throughout your house, therefore making your home more energy efficient, he said. Insulation helps keep your walls, ceilings, and floors warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. It also acts as a sound barrier, helping to keep noise levels down. ThermalTec specializes in



ABOVE Before. BELOW After. Encapsulation of a crawl space by The Drying Company.



sprayed cellulose, sprayed polyurethane foam and fiberglass batts. Tetreault can help you consider the relative costs and benefits of each choice to determine which will work best in your home. ThermalTec also is involved with green building programs such as EnergyStar and EarthCraft Virginia and helps its customers gain certifications in these energy-saving programs.

If you need water remediation, moisture control or insulation, you want workers with a high level of expertise and commitment and The Drying Company/ThermalTec takes pride in offering that quality workmanship. "Our mission is to deliver high quality services at fair and competitive prices," Tetreault said. "We maintain the highest levels of professionalism, integrity and honesty in our relationships with our suppliers, subcontractors, professional associates and customers. We foster a work environment that encourages new ideas, innovations and growth."

High standards of quality and the strict work ethic impressed Yuri Fomin, who hired ThermalTec to install blown cellulose insulation in the home he's building for himself in Saluda. Since the job last summer, Fomin has recommended ThermalTec to three others and all have been impressed. "I'm a drywall contractor and I've seen other companies install insulation and make mistakes. You could tell their workers were there to get paid and go," Fomin said. "ThermalTec was different. They never cut corners. They did a really good job. They were taking time as if it were their own house. They did exactly what they told me they were going to do. They really work hard. It was a job well done. If I were to grade them, I would give them 100."

in focus...

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