

E8 | Homes & Southwest Living

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The NetSolar Construction home at 3602 San Clemente Ave., which aims to be LEED platinum certified, is on track to be completed by the end of October.



The home at 3638 San Clemente is being constructed to the same LEED standards as the company's house down the street.



Las Cruces Bulletin photos by Beth Sitzler

Oscar Covos of Ontiveros Insulation installs the spray foam insulation on the ceiling, a process that will take two days to complete.

# Another step to LEED platinum

NetSolar homes take shape with efficient materials

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

*Editor's note: This is part of a series following the construction of two homes aiming for LEED platinum certification. The homes are being built by NetSolar Construction in the Metro Verde area.*

New homes on the once vacant lots at 3602 and 3638 San Clemente Ave. have now taken shape, with the framework and roofing recently completed.

NetSolar Construction, which is building the properties to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design platinum certification, has made great strides in reaching its complete date, set for the end of October.

"Right now we're putting in the

insulation on the roof," said Javier Cabrera, who owns the construction company with his cousin Emmanuel Dominguez, on Thursday, Oct. 11.

The duo is using an open cell, spray foam insulation along the roof, which seals all cracks and gaps that may be in the framing and parapets to keep the home airtight. Installed by Oscar Covos of Ontiveros Insulation, the spray foam insulation will have an R-30 value.

"A home this size – 2,500 square feet – will take two days to do," Cabrera said.

The insulation will help separate the garage from the conditioned space to prevent air leakage and maintain the indoor air quality of the homes. An exhaust fan has also been placed in the garage, as well as the bath-

rooms, to enhance the air quality.

This is the final step in completing the multilayer roofing. The final layer of the roof, Cabrera said, is a reflective coat with ceramic granulars that will reflect the heat of the sun.

"It's also known as a cold roof, because it will be 20 to 30 degrees colder than a conventional roof," he said, adding that this will help the air conditioner run for less time and use less power.

Cabrera said each house contains a transfer duct system for each bedroom, which will equalize the air pressure between the private and commons area, preventing that tight, suction feeling from occurring.

Dominguez said another benefit to the homes' future electrical bills are the skylights, which include solar tubes. Because of their design, the

skylights let natural light in during the day and can be used as a light fixture at night.

Wanting to include the latest technology, the NetSolar team has installed smart panels in the homes on San Clemente, which combine telephone, television cable and Internet in one cable. Cat 6 cables have been used and provide homeowners with faster Internet speed and a better high definition signal.

"Metro Verde is the first subdivision in New Mexico to have fiber optics," Dominguez said.

Dominguez said the alarm system is also high tech. Known as an umbrella mesh system, the alarm features a faster response time by sending signals in a fraction of a second as well as a key chain that turns it on and off, rather than having to punch in a code. Motion sensors have also been included in

each room.

After the spray foam insulation is installed, the next step on the homes will be to install the sheet rock, after which the first coat of stucco will be applied.

"We will have an elastomeric coat with a trowel finish," said, Cabrera, adding that as with the roof, this will help keep the home cool.

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