



URBAVORE URBAN FARM

GREEN MATERIALS SOURCE GUIDE

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Many non-toxic, recycled, and reclaimed materials were used in the development of our passive-solar earthbermed home. Let this guide be a resource for your next "green" project!



Glulam X-Beams manufactured by [Rosboro](#) were used to support the weight of our roof which holds a foot of soil. X-beams are constructed from sustainably harvested wood. Smaller pieces are laminated together to make a very strong & effective product. The adhesive is a product called Ecobind which exceeds the most stringent global emissions standards.



The operable windows on the south wall, and along the bottom of the east & west walls were manufactured by [Alpen](#). This company designs high-quality windows specifically for passive-solar homes. Ours are double paned, with specific UV coatings for both increased & decreased solar gain. These special tintings help us achieve desired temperatures in the home depending on the time of year and placement of the sun.



The larger windows on the east & west walls were reclaimed from the failed “West End” project on the Plaza. We were able to locate these windows by working with a local company by the name of [Planet Re-Use](#) . Check-out their on-line marketplace to peruse available reclaimed products & materials.



Our 10 kilowatt solar array was installed by [Ampray](#), a small local company that specializes in ground-mounted systems. Our solar panels power the home & farm at large. We produce 2 to 4 times the energy we use while feeding the community!



100-year-old barn wood from [Elmwood](#) was used for all the trim & siding on the exterior of the house as well as the interior trim. We used their most reasonably priced option which is simply old barn boards, de-nailed and kiln dried.



We removed a black walnut tree from our land and had it milled by [The Urban Lumber Company](#). Our talented friend, Jim Markley of Conscious Carpentry, took this gorgeous rough lumber and built artisan countertops & cabinetry. Check-it out! He traded for veggies...



[ReWall](#) manufactures a 100% recycled dry-wall substitute made of shredded tetra-pak (think soy milk & chicken broth cartons..the stuff you can't put in the recycling bin!). The interior walls in our home are 100% trash!



Thin-cut vintage brick from [Vintage Brick Salvage](#) covers our hearth floor, kitchen sink back splash, and bathroom wainscot. The hearth floor is red brick with flecks of flint from 200-year-old Chicago streets. The "cream city" yellow brick in the bathroom comes from old Milwaukee factories.



Our bathroom flooring is reclaimed "old school" black roofing slates. They come from [Eco-Friendly Flooring](#) at a very reasonable price.



In an effort to use non-polluting, environmentally sound products, we used [AFM Safecoat](#) paints for the interior of the home. We chose from their "zero voc" line.



"Soycrete" from [Ecoprocote](#) was used to stain the concrete walls and floors in the home. This company carries a variety of non-toxic, biodegradable, soy-based products for many applications. We also used their "acrisoy" sealer on our exterior wood trim and hearth floor.



We installed an [Envirolet](#) self-contained, waterless composting toilet.
I DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS PRODUCT!



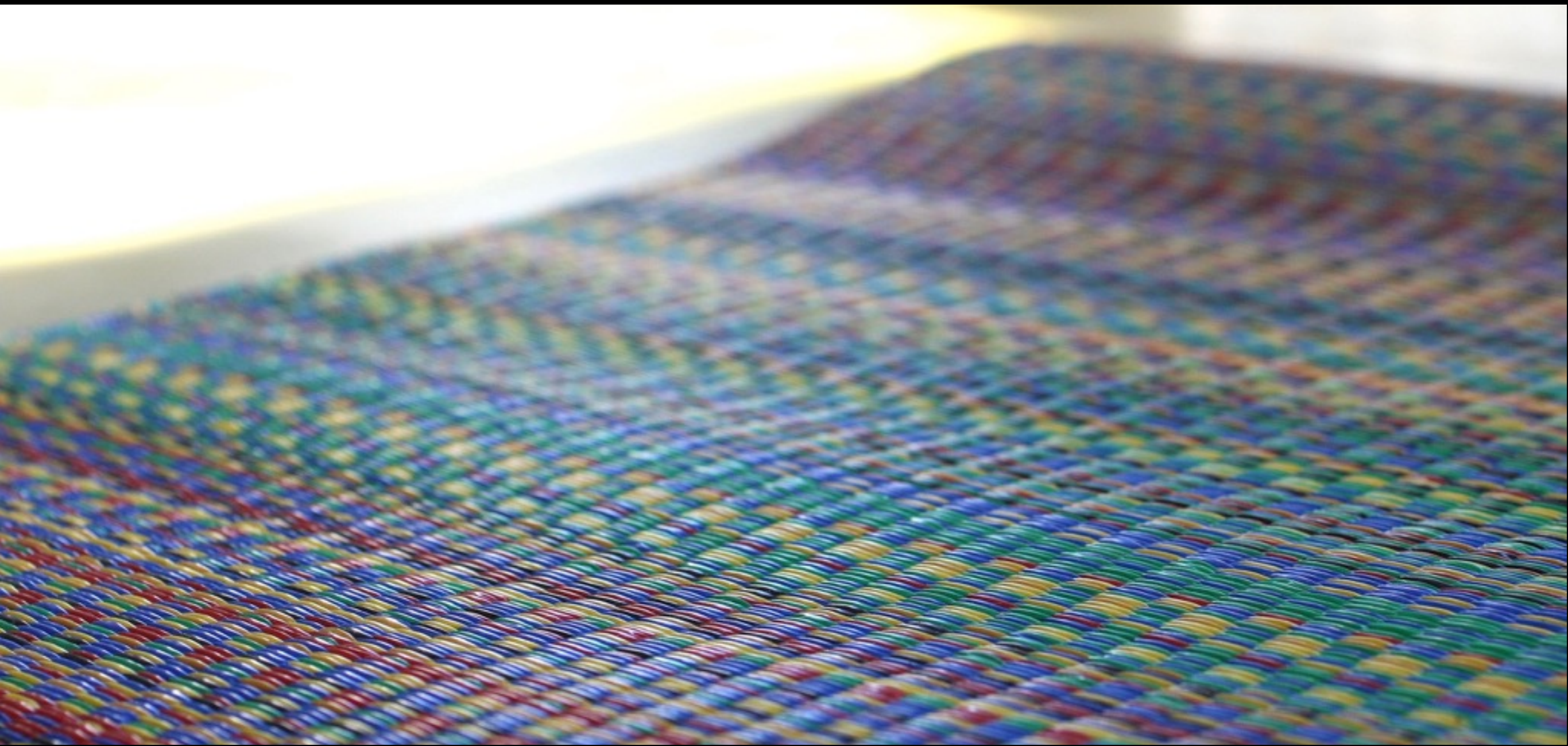
We installed a [Stiebel Eltron](#) tankless hot water heater. This German product is simply amazing. It uses very little space and heats up water in the most efficient (energy saving) manner. Instead of constantly heating a large tank of water, our tankless unit simply “zaps” the water as it comes through the pipe. We love how nicely it fits under our sink cabinet in our tiny home.



LED light bulbs are featured exclusively in our home. Although the upfront investment is more, these bulbs use far less energy and will not burn-out for many many years. LED bulbs come in many styles like the “vintage” bulbs pictured here.



We have several groovy [Mad Mats](#) throughout the house to "soften" concrete floors. They are made from 100% recycled plastic (like old milk jugs) and the company adheres to the best Fair Trade practices.



BPA-free polyethylene piping was used to run the 400 foot stretch from our pond to the cistern in our potable water system. Many would have chosen PVC which leaches toxins into the water. This is a much better non-toxic choice for water systems & farm irrigation systems alike. It is easier to install than PVC. This type of pipe can be found in most plumbing supply stores.



HOBBIT HOME

PHOTO GALLERY























