Vent-Free Remodeling Newsrelease

November 9, 2006—As home sales cool nationwide, homeowners are looking for remodeling options to make their houses hot commodities. A growing number are installing natural gas or propane vent-free heaters, fireplaces, stoves and log sets that provide a cost-effective and sensible way to help add value and comfort to virtually any home.

“Today’s remodeling challenge is to add value to your house without breaking the bank,” said Sue Walker, Chairman of the Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance. “There’s a widely held perception that a fireplace and other heating products are costly to install. Today’s vent-free products are changing such thinking among homeowners.”

Vent-free appliances are similar to other space heating and hearth products, with one exception – they do not feature a chimney, flue or vent. Consequently, installation costs of vent-free products can be up to 60 percent less than the cost of installing vented heating appliances. No exterior walls have to be cut through, nor expensive chimney or vent system created.

Furthermore, unlike traditional vented hearth products, vent-free products can be put in virtually any room and any location in a home. On an inside wall, under a window, in a corner or in the middle of a room – any area with access to a gas line. Vent-free products can even be installed outside to provide heat for outdoor living areas.

“Vent-free hearth appliances have been one of our fastest moving heating products this year,” said Ricky Sullivan, owner of Hearth and Grill Shop in Nashville. “Many of our customers are upgrading their current homes instead of moving. Vent-free gas fireplaces, log sets, stoves and heaters have become an easy and low-cost remodeling option in existing or new spaces.”

Not only are vent-free appliances easy to install, they also provide an efficient, environmentally clean-burning source of heat. They draw in room air, then heat and re-circulate the air to provide maximum comfort. Vent-free heaters, fireplaces, stoves and log sets are 99.9% efficient and, at peak operation, a typical vent-free appliance only costs about 36 cents an hour to run. They can be installed in rooms that are used the most, enabling people to reduce their thermostat for central heat.

The public recognizes the value of vent-free hearth products. Fifty-one percent of consumers surveyed in a recent Alliance poll believe that installing a high-efficiency gas space heater, fireplace, stove or log set would help save money on their home heating energy bills.

In addition, vent-free appliances are aesthetically pleasing, generating heat with a real, open flame, and without the hassle or mess with wood or ashes.

“With any appliance other than vent-free, it takes quite a while to build up heat in a room; a vent-free heater or log set provides heat immediately,” said Ajay Gupta, president of Housewarmings in Lexington, Kentucky. “We’ve found that this is a key point for our customers, along with the 99% efficiency of vent-free appliances and all the heat stays in the room. With today’s fuel costs, that’s a big factor for our customers.”

“Heating efficiency is a positive differentiating factor when it comes time to sell,” Walker said. “This, combined with their convenience, aesthetic appeal and outstanding safety record, make vent-free products ideal heating sources for many people.”

Every vent-free appliance sold in the United States is designed for safety, featuring an oxygen detection safety sensor (ODS) – equivalent to an electrical circuit breaker. It turns the unit off if the room’s oxygen levels drop around the unit. Design-certified vent-free heaters, fireplaces, stoves and log sets have been tested independently by the American Gas Association Research (AGAR) Laboratories and shown to meet today’s most rigorous indoor air quality guidelines.

Polling results and detailed fact sheets on energy savings and vent-free appliances can be found at www.ventfree.org.

Methodology

The survey was conducted by Harris Interactive between September 8 and 11, 2006 among a nationwide cross section of 1,004 adults (aged 18 and over). Sampling error is + 3 percentage points. Harris Interactive Inc. is the 11th largest market research firm in the world, most widely known for The Harris Poll®.