

Hello from Howard Lamcke. Summer is in full swing. Our subject this quarter is whole house fans. The timing seems right, because it sure is starting out to be a hot one! The construction industry certainly hasn’t cooled off. The city of San Jose is back up to 5 days to schedule an inspection. Sigh! We are not complaining though; it’s great to be busy and to see so many of our regular customers again.

Turning to another subject, I wanted to express my opinion again about earthquake insurance. I have advised many of you privately to not pay for this added coverage. In print I have at least presented both sides. A recent article in the home section of the SF Chronicle confirmed my private opinion. For conventional wood framed homes the prospect of damage is minimal. Combined with high deductibles the odds of ever collecting anything are virtually nil. So you are hearing it from me in print, you will never use your earthquake insurance.

**New Product Alert-Whole House Fans**

Hot days with cool nights are some of the great pleasures of living in the bay area. One of the best ways to take advantage of the weather is by installing a whole house fan. We have discussed this before in our letters. The fan brings in cool evening air through open windows and blows it out though the attic vents. Whole house fans cost under $300 and usually require a dedicated electrical circuit. We have installed many of them over the years, and they have performed wonderfully. The only complaint has been the noise, which has been compared to a helicopter taking off in your living room! This makes it hard to leave on for extended periods; especially when sleeping. But now we have discovered a terrific new product called Quiet Cool.

We put in several Quiet Cool whole house fan systems recently and the results are incredible. The difference between Quiet Cool and a standard fan is its astounding energy efficiency and its jaw-dropping sound level. The fan is actually remote from the grill and suspended in the attic. It pulls less than 300 watts and can receive power from existing electrical circuits. It operates at around half the sound level of standard fans. That means you can leave it on all night, Quiet Cool fans came in a number of sizes. There are several types of switching available, and you can even get a remote. Of course, all this improved technology comes with a price tag and the fans start around $700. Installation starts at $850 and goes up depending on the electrical sources and whether or not we need to increase your attic ventilation. Is it worth it? One of them is in our house right now and it has changed our lives. I leave it on all night and love the cool fresh air!