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#### Recycling Facts

-  An estimated 80,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day, using enough aluminum foil to cover over 50 acres of space -- that's almost 40 football fields. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people realize it. Rainforests are being cut down at the rate of 100 acres per minute!
-  A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of

## Green Building Revealed

As an alternative to conventional wood frame construction, there are many green building options available. Below are some photos and a bit of information about three of those options!

### Straw Bale Homes

Not even huffing and puffing can blow these homes down. Straw makes an excellent, inexpensive building material and insulator. People have been building with straw bales for centuries, in fact, there are still straw bale home standing today in Nebraska and Wyoming that were built in the early 1800's. A properly constructed straw bale home can be up to three times as energy efficient as a standard home.

fresh water.

- Motor oil never wears out, it just gets dirty. Oil can be recycled, re-refined and used again, reducing our reliance on imported oil.
- On average, each one of us produces 4.4 pounds of solid waste each day. This adds up to almost a ton of trash per person, per year.
- A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year. That's a lot of containers -- make sure they're recycled!



Photo: Top, a straw bale home being constructed; bottom, a completed straw bale home

Bales can be covered with a variety of material, with stucco or plaster being the most popular. With proper application and construction, the owner of a straw bale home doesn't generally have to worry about an increased fire hazard or decomposition of the straw.

### Geodesic Domes

A dome home is engineered to be stronger than a box-type home, dome homes can withstand high winds, heavy snow loads, and even hold up better in the event of an earthquake. Dome homes, due to their design also use less energy and are easier, and less expensive, to heat and cool.



Photo: Top left, a modern geodesic home; top right, the frame of a dome house before the panels have all been added; bottom, a dome constructed of concrete. This particular dome is of interest because it survived a direct hit by hurricane Ivan in 2004 and survived virtually unscathed

### Cob Homes

Cob has nothing to do with corn cobs. It is a mixture of sand, straw, and clay that is sculpted in place to create the walls of a structure. These are the same basic components that are used to make adobe, but instead of making bricks and stacking them in a traditional way, a cob wall is a one solid unit, a monolithic structure. This monolithic technique gives the walls incredible strength as long as they remain dry. As with straw bale, water is the number one enemy, that's why excellent drainage, stem walls, and big roof overhangs are standard on these types of buildings.



**Photo: Completed cob home in the Pacific Northwest**

Humans have been building with cob for thousands of years. We know for certain that cob was used in northern Africa during the 11<sup>th</sup> century. There are cob homes in England that are still inhabited after more than 500 years. Cob is currently experiencing a revival and is especially popular in the Pacific Northwest.

Cob has excellent thermal mass and can regulate the swings in temperature between day and night. It keeps the house cool during the day but slowly absorbs the sun's heat and releases it throughout the night. It also allows for almost any shape imaginable.

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