



MEDIA RELEASE

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THE NGEWANA FAMILY GET TO GRIPS WITH GARBAGE

Recycling, composting and worm farming leave little for the landfill on My Green Home

Why was rubbish strewn out in the Ngewana's garden recently? And what was the family doing, picking through it? This wasn't a search for a missing earring. It was one of the most revealing exercises on their My Green Home journey.

As anyone can see from the new video 'webisode' available on www.mygreenhome.org.za, the family discovered that a big majority of what they used to send to the landfill could actually be recycled or composted. And they considered the impact. Inside landfills, rotting waste biodegrades into methane, a potent greenhouse gas. And recycling not only conserves landfill space that we all pay for, it can also save energy and create jobs.

The rubbish truck doesn't collect much from the Ngewanas to haul to the landfill these days. They separate out all glass bottles, plastic containers, tins and paper with the help of their recycling bin from Postwink. Even their vegetable peels are converted into compost and fertilizer in their new worm farm from Wizzard Worms.

The Ngewanas don't want their home environment poisoned, either. The family is breathing easy in their newly painted house, knowing that the no-VOC Breathecoat paints on their walls don't contribute to asthma or smog. And they have stocked their cupboards with non-toxic and biodegradable cleaning products from Better Earth and EcoSmart.

This coming week's theme at My Green Home is Waste and Toxics. The website shows how to follow the Ngewanas' path towards a cleaner, greener lifestyle. In addition to the 'webisode', it offers no-cost, low-cost and invest-to-save ideas on reducing waste and toxics as well as saving energy and water at home.

My Green Home is led by the Green Building Council South Africa, with main co-funding from the German government through the South African-German Energy Programme (SAGEN). It's also supported by the 49M campaign, Karebo Systems, the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) and a range of product sponsors and partner organisations.

Those who participate in My Green Home stand a chance to win green prizes, including the grand prize: their own 'green home makeover'. Anyone who submits a 'selfie' photo of their home-made compost, recycling, or smallest weekly bag of rubbish to the website or via Twitter (@mygreenhomesa) by 12h00 on Monday 23rd June is eligible for this week's prizes in a random draw, as well as the grand prize in early August.

Ends. – But see Note to Editors below

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