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Soft-Lite Among First Manufacturers Accepted Into Department of Energy's R-5 High Performance Windows Volume Purchase Program
Five Soft-Lite Window Lines Meet or Exceed DOE R-5 Requirements

(Streetsboro, Ohio, June 1, 2010) Soft-Lite, L.L.C. ("Soft-Lite"), a U.S. manufacturer of premium replacement windows and doors, was recently accepted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as one of the first participants in its new R-5 High Performance Windows Volume Purchase Program. The new DOE Program will host a government website where homeowners can find out how to save money by making volume purchases of new, high-performance, energy-efficient windows. The website will include a link to Soft-Lite's web site. Homeowners can use the link to get more information about saving energy and money using Soft-Lite's R-5-rated window offerings, and request an installation quote from a Soft-Lite dealer.

"The DOE's R-5 High Performance Windows Volume Purchase Program provides an excellent opportunity for homeowners to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes by enabling them to purchase windows rated at R-5 or greater at an affordable volume price," said Greg Irving, Soft-Lite's VP of Sales & Marketing. "To qualify, the homeowner must purchase a minimum of 15 replacement windows. This can yield a big savings in energy costs since upgrading from an R-3 rated window to an R-5 product provides nearly a 40% decrease in energy loss through the window. Our top-of-the-line window, the Elements window, offers a U-Factor of .16. That means it has an insulation value of R-6.25, far better than what the DOE considers the most energy efficient windows to be. So the Elements window provides even better insulation than an R-5 window." (As reference, R-Value is a measurement of insulating ability. U-Factor is a measurement of heat loss through a window. The R-Value and U-Factor are two different ways of saying the same thing. They are inversely proportional – in other words, as R-Value goes up, U-Factor goes down, i.e. an R-Value of 5 translates to a U-Factor of approximately .20).

"Soft-Lite's long-term commitment to manufacturing quality windows with exceptional energy efficiency helped us win an early placement in the DOE's new R-5 Program," continued Greg Irving. "The R-5 Program dictates the performance parameters that windows must attain to qualify. For fixed windows, they must show an efficiency of less than or equal to a U=.20 and for operable windows, the value must be less or equal to U=.22. Five of our window lines feature products that already meet or exceed these criteria."

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The Soft-Lite windows that meet the DOE’s energy-efficiency requirements and are currently entered into the R-5 Program include the Elements, Imperial LS, the Bainbridge, Barrington, and the Pro/Classic windows. Soft-Lite will also continue to develop new products and improve current designs, offering homeowners additional highly energy-efficient windows as the R-5 Program evolves.

“In today’s world, homeowners want their homes to be more energy efficient -- and Soft-Lite is in the forefront of helping them make that happen,” commented Greg Irving. “Soft-Lite has stayed true to our goal of maintaining a leadership position in manufacturing windows that are not only attractive, affordable, and long-lasting, but help homeowners keep their heating and cooling costs in check. Our early acceptance into the DOE’s R-5 Program is proof that we are succeeding and will continue to do so.”

Soft-Lite is a vinyl replacement window and door manufacturer headquartered in Streetsboro, Ohio. The company is a five-time winner of the Window and Door Crystal Achievement Award and is also a recipient of the Friedman Corporation Customer Appreciation Award, the Window & Door Top 10 Manufacturers recognition, and the Door and Window “Companies to Watch” recognition. For more information visit www.soft-lite.com.

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