Happy Homeowners See “Huge Difference” in Quality of Life

As Hazel Castleberry takes a visitor on a tour of her home, she proudly shows off her new oak-stained door, one of the improvements installed as a part of Inglewood’s Residential Sound Insulation Program. Castleberry’s charming one-story home is on the corner of one of the city’s busiest thoroughfares. But after her home was sound insulated last fall, even traffic noise is a thing of the past.

These days, Castleberry can give full attention to the baby and toddler in her care without the disruption of jet noise overhead or cars on the street. “I didn’t know we were talking so loudly before to be heard over all the noise!”

Moises Godinez has also noticed a huge difference in his family’s quality of life since his duplex was sound insulated last fall: “Before when a plane went by, we had to raise the volume on the TV or stop mid-conversation. Now you can continue your normal life, even with the planes flying right over the house.”

During this unusually chilly winter, both Godinez and Castleberry are taking full advantage of the new central heating that is part of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems installed by the sound insulation program. Godinez also notes that his home is far more energy efficient. “With all the new double-pane windows and acoustic doors, it stays warmer longer so I am seeing lower heating bills.”

Godinez adds that the tenants in the house that makes up the other half of his duplex are also very happy with the new quietness in their home.

Vernon Campbell is another happy homeowner. Campbell came away very impressed with the sound insulation process. “I’ve never experienced such a smooth relationship. There were no problems; everyone from the workmen on up were so cooperative,” Campbell recalls. “And the results are terrific, better than I expected in terms of the quality of work.”

“The whole experience was wonderful.” Campbell concludes. “I’m very pleased.”
Jet Noise Just a Memory for Thousands of Households

To thousands of Inglewood residents, jet noise is just a memory. So far, nearly 3,000 homes have been completed or are in the design or construction phase of the city’s aggressive sound insulation program.

“We want to keep up this momentum and bring relief to all eligible residents as quickly as our funding will allow,” says Deanna Unternahrer, program manager. The voluntary program, which started in 1998, is funded by grants from Los Angeles World Airports and the Federal Aviation Administration.

To make the homes quieter, the city’s Residential Sound Insulation Division adds features like solid-core doors and double-pane windows as well as heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. These measures, installed at no cost to the homeowner, can substantially reduce aircraft noise inside a home.

“This is so quiet, I just love it,” says homeowner Hazel Castleberry, whose house was sound insulated last fall. All eligible residents living in neighborhoods with a recorded Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) of 65 decibels or higher are invited to participate.

The division recently installed leading-edge software technology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which combines maps of parcels, noise contours and eligibility phases with links to data on the status of each parcel in terms of design, construction, and acoustical testing. This new system will assist the division in meeting the aggressive new goals set by the city for the sound insulation program.

GIS and other innovations were highlighted at the Annual National Sound Insulation Symposium held in Redondo Beach last fall. Airport officials, consultants, architects, and product manufacturers from across the country gathered to exchange information on achievements in residential soundproofing programs. A tour of Inglewood’s program area was one of the conference highlights.
Products We’ll Install in Your Home

Sound insulation can result in a remarkable improvement in your family’s daily life. To lessen the ability of outside noise to enter your home, we will be installing all new exterior acoustic doors and windows, adding insulation to the attic, and, in most cases, installing new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

When you sign up to have your residence sound insulated, you can rest assured that only the highest quality products and workmanship will be used in your home—all at absolutely no cost to you.

WINDOWS

Windows are usually the weakest part of a residence in terms of allowing in exterior noise. Noise can be reduced by placing a fairly large air gap (about two inches) between two windows of unequal glass thickness. We will either add a secondary window to your existing one or replace it with a double-pane window.

DOORS

Standard exterior doors of lightweight (hollow-core or panel) materials also allow in a significant amount of noise. These doors will be replaced with a solid-core door. In the case of sliding glass doors, a new dual-pane sliding glass door will be installed.

HEATING and COOLING

The benefits of sound insulation can only be achieved with windows and doors closed, therefore new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems will be added to your home.

ROOFS and ATTICS

Thermal insulation will be added to the attic space to absorb sound as it echoes around the attic before it enters a room.

OTHER FEATURES

Mail slots will be covered, and a damper added to the chimney. A new glass screen at the fireplace also helps reduce noise.

Home Improvement Corner

Lorene Shaw talks with considerable pride about all the recent upgrades that she has made to the three-bedroom home where she raised her six children. Like many residents, Shaw was inspired to make renovations after the city’s Residential Sound Insulation Division installed new doors and windows throughout the house she has lived in for the past 40 years.

“I decided to put in new Venetian blinds in my living room, kitchen, bedrooms and den,” she recounts. “Then I had the stucco completely redone and painted the house inside and out.”

Shaw says that her painter took her to look at homes to get ideas for colors to paint the outside of her house. She even added a brand new garage door to complete her home’s new look.

Like Lorene Shaw, Moises Godinez was prompted to take on a series of improvements to his home after it was sound insulated. He completed an addition a year ago, giving him four bedrooms in the home that he shares with his wife and three children, but waited to add new stucco until sound insulation was done. He also had his home painted inside and out. “With the fresh new paint and stucco and all the beautiful new windows and doors, it’s like a whole new home!” Godinez says.
Q: Why can’t I apply now if I am eligible?

This program has several phases, with the most noise-impacted blocks—on both the east and west sides of the city—having top priority. We will notify you when funds are available for your area and invite you to apply at that time.

Q: Will the program still be in existence when it is my turn?

All eligible property owners will be invited to participate as funding is granted; it is just a matter of time. We are trying to get to all homes as rapidly as possible.

Q: Once construction begins, how long will it take for the work to be completed?

On average the work on each individual home take just two weeks or less.

City of Inglewood

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CONTRACTOR FRAUD ALERT!

It has come to our attention that several independent contractors have approached property owners within the city of Inglewood offering to replace the homeowner’s windows with acoustic windows. These contractors claim that the city will reimburse the property owner for these costs.

THIS IS NOT TRUE! The Federal Aviation Administration and Los Angeles World Airports fund this program. Their policies strictly prohibit us from providing reimbursement of costs.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Residential Sound Insulation Division at 310/412-5289.