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**ENERGY SAVING TIP #1**

*An insulated home can lose up to 35% of heat from the ceiling, up to 25% through walls and up to 20% through floors (Commonwealth of Australia, 2007).*



# Story of the Month

## Turning over a new leaf ... being energy efficient in 2012

It's February so most have gone back to work, slipped back into routine and are starting to experience the benefits of pursuing their new years resolutions. For some, a resolution might have been to be more energy efficient this year. With marketing campaigns everywhere about saving the planet, its hard to ignore the issue much longer.

People building homes are starting to gain awareness and lean toward clever and economical designs. They're building due to energy efficiency ratings. Not only is this movement making people feel better about themselves while they are helping the environment, but it is also becoming very cost efficient too. Things people have considered in their building designs are thermal massing, lighting solutions and the correct orientation of their home. People are also choosing to use solar panels in their building designs. Government incentives to utilise solar power really simplify this decision.

Another great new and efficient way of reducing power usage is the 'G-Switch'. It is a tool that can be used in the home which allows all non-essential items to be turned off with the flick of one switch. The power consumption dilemma starts with rising electricity costs, then the introduction of solar panels to make power and put the max back into the grid during the day when power is not used, but the g switch saves from the inside out which will maximise the benefits of a solar system or simply save on power consumption.

## More about the 'G-Switch' ...

The G-Switch is fully customised so that there is power in the right areas of the home when it is needed. It will save money for things that are left on accidentally, but are not actually being used. Non-essential power can be controlled so household items won't be chewing up power whilst on stand-by mode. It also provides the option of turning off utilities and lights based on the light levels in the home and external natural light.

The G-Switch should be turned on whenever the house is left unattended, this way the appliances that have been selected to power-down turn off automatically.



## Client Profile

**Michelle Natoli** and husband **Sonny** recently built with Costa. They were very happy with the finish of the home's features and the whole building process that took place.

**What do you love most about your home?**

The design of the house is perfect, because it is our own. We chose from many different plans which all gelled together into one we loved. My favourite part of the house is the pool. Dean and Tony designed it perfectly. And we were actually convinced to change our mind on the original plan, because of design faults we didn't initially see. I'm very glad Dean helped us with that because with young children, it suited our lifestyle much more.

**Has it been designed to suit your lifestyle?**

Yes, it definitely was. The separate living areas are perfect. The kids have their own little living room too.

**What is your favourite room of the home and why?**

Our bedroom is my favourite. It is massively open and the way it was designed made it look like a really huge room. There are no walls going into the ensuite, its just the bath separating the bedroom from the ensuite. It is an island bath in the middle of the room; we just love it.

**Apart from moving in, what was the most exciting part about the building process?**

The whole lot. I love watching the building process happen. That's kind of the reason why we build so often, and I really like to be involved with it. This was mine and Sonny's first build together which was very exciting.



**How was the 'Costa' experience?**

Fantastic! It was absolutely awesome. We were really comfortable communicating with them and I really felt that I was able to approach Dean and Tony with any sort of enquiry or change to be made. They were excellent to deal with, really down to earth, and coped with my many changes very well! I wouldn't have any complaints whatsoever building with Costa.

**Was it as good in real life as you expected?**

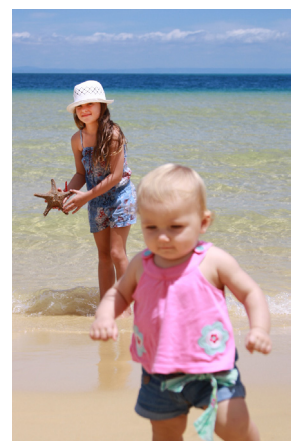
Yes, definitely. There was nothing in the house or on the plan that I would have changed when the building process began. (And when it was complete, too).

**Did Costa keep you sufficiently informed along the way and did they meet all your expectations?**

Yes, 100%. They were extremely open with the communication the whole way through. They were always really accommodating whenever I had questions.

**How many stars out of five would you rate your home and Costa as a builder?**

Definitely five stars. I would recommend others to build with Costa and I would certainly build with them again.



**Sonny and Michelle's girls: Lily and Luca loving the Sunshine Coast lifestyle.**



**Michelle & Sonny Natoli: Five Star Review**

*"They were excellent to deal with, really down to earth, and coped with my many changes very well."*

**ENERGY SAVING TIP #2**

*Make sure that your equipment is turned off at the power point at night and on weekends, and even during the day when it is not being used for an extended period of time.*





## Be Interactive!



### Connect with Costa

Would you like the chance to feature in our next newsletter? If you have travelled and seen the world, we want to share it!

At Costa, we believe a person's lifestyle is what best guides them in building their 'dream home'. Have you ever been on holiday and wished you could incorporate a little piece of it into your lifestyle back home?

Send us a photo of a significant scene from your favourite holiday along with a comment on why you would love this to be in your everyday lifestyle.



Options for submitting photo:

**Facebook:** Post it on the wall of <http://www.facebook.com/costa.constructions>

**Email:** [samantha@costaconstructions.com.au](mailto:samantha@costaconstructions.com.au)

We will choose our favourite photo and it will feature in the next newsletter!

## Industry News

**\$10,000 Building Boost:** The Queensland government have willingly approved a 3 month extension on the \$10,000 Queensland Building Boost. HIA have also warmly welcomed the extension. Builders expect this boost to increase momentum in the industry and generate activity after a long period of building disinterest. Don't forget the building boost is available to everyone!

**Renovate in 2012?** The HIA economics group maintain that over the past 25 years Australians have spent increasing amounts of money on renovation projects. There have definitely been fluctuations in renovation high times throughout particular periods but new research suggests we are currently experiencing an increase in Australian renovation investments. Now is the time to renovate. The HIA recently said that 'renovations activity is looking better than new housing' and the easing rate pressure in Australia will assist in lending for renovations.

### ENERGY SAVING TIP #3

*Energy and water efficient whitegoods and appliances, including lighting, can make a big difference to your household bills. When buying products, look for their energy and/or water rating.*





## Supplier Profile

### 1) What do you like about working with Costa?

We get to contribute our work into some pretty interesting projects. The level of finish is often higher in a Costa build so we get the opportunity to be creative. In the display home 'Vee', our cabinetry is on show which is a great advantage for our business as it lets potential clients see the scope of our work at ease. Costa are very good builders and most importantly they know what they want. Which makes it easier for us to deliver what's required.

### 2) What sets your business apart from others in the building industry?

We offer customers the opportunity to easily visualise their cabinetry needs. The use of 3D modelling, a full showroom and an expert team of fabricators makes it a complete service. Our team are craftsmen, not just tradesmen.



**John Englert**  
- Cabinetry  
Solutions

### 3) How does Cabinetry Solutions work in conjunction with Costa to bring buildings to life from beginning to completion? Where does Cabinetry Solutions fit in?

The clients come in to us with their building plans, which have been done up by Costa and MRA designs and we take those plans and start modelling a 3D perspective of each different room with the cabinets. This way the client can look at their finished product before it actually goes to the job site. For example they can see your kitchen design and colour scheme before building has even commenced.

### 4) As a business, what are the key elements you continuously aim to implement into the building designs? Why is this so important?

We strive to be upfront with the latest innovations, technologies and trends. We also try to keep in touch with the architects and designers throughout the building process because they lead us in the industry and come up with the new designs.

We always try to be cutting edge with our

### *Khye Slockee: Cabinetry Solutions*

Cabinetry Solutions is a company specialising in quality cabinetry, kitchens, bathrooms, and built in furniture needs. They have been working in association with Costa for two and a half years and have been in operation on the Sunshine Coast since 1991. Cabinetry Solutions have gained many prestigious industry awards in that time.



cabinetry, because it makes us leaders in the industry.

### 5) How do you get job satisfaction from what you do?

Fifty percent of it is the finished product. The other part is being able to work with the likes of Costa, the designer, and most importantly the clients because you can see their satisfaction of the finished product.

### 6) Do you, or have you ever worked for other builders? Does Costa do anything differently or better in the building process?

Yes, there are quite a few differences that I've noticed are better with Costa. They are very detailed in what they expect of us and they hold a high standard as opposed to other builds where 'near enough' can be 'good enough' and they just want to get the job completed and move on to the next project. It seems to me that with Costa, each project of theirs is just as good as the last. I think that's because they're a customised builder.

### 7) What's it like working with Dean Costa?

Dean's a very good operator. Again, he knows what he wants and he's not shy in saying what he needs. If there's anything that needs to be redone or changed with the client's request he'll keep us on deadline with that. Everyone at Costa are very upfront.



**Multi-award-winning Cabinetry Solutions.**

*"With Costa, each project of theirs is just as good as the last."*

*"Everyone at Costa are very upfront."*

*"The level of finish is often higher in a Costa build."*