

# Company Sells a Lighter, More Climate-Friendly Version of Concrete for Home Building

Back in January, in response to the destruction of the Marshall Fire, I wrote about various building techniques and materials, including concrete, that could make homes more fire resistant than today's common wood-frame tract homes.

Last week a reader shared a recent article on [Treehugger.com](https://www.treehugger.com) about AirCrete, "a foamy mixture of air bubbles and cement that is cheap to make, water-resistant, fire-proof, and [Do-It-Yourself]-friendly." I posted a link to that article at [GoldenREblog.com](https://www.goldenrealblog.com). There's a 7-minute YouTube video within that article that describes the process.

The process is the brainchild of Hajjar Gibran, the great-nephew of the poet Kahlil Gibran. His enterprise sells the tools for creating AirCrete using locally obtained cement. The only other ingredients are water and your choice of a degreasing dish detergent to create the foam using a 120V foam injection mixer which they sell for \$199 on their website, [www.domegaia.com](https://www.domegaia.com). For \$95, Mr. Gibran himself will provide a professional AirCrete consultation, or, for \$700 tuition, you can attend a 10-day workshop.

Although the organization is focused on building domes, it's clear that the process can be used to build

other types of structures. With total structural building costs in the \$2,000 to \$9,000 range, the process is marketed specifically for building "tiny homes," and would, it seems, provide an affordable way of addressing the problem of homelessness. I'd love to see it used here in Colorado!

Regular concrete has a low R-value, the common measurement of insulation — **0.1 to 0.2 per inch of thickness**. Because of the air bubbles within it, the R-value of AirCrete is **6 per inch of thickness**. This is roughly twice the insulating value of a typical 2x4 wood-frame wall filled with blown-in cellulose.

As I noted in my earlier columns, the manufacture of Portland cement is a major contributor to global warming, responsible for an estimated 7% of all greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Because AirCrete is mostly air, its use of cement is far less than an equivalent volume of traditional concrete.

According to the Treehugger.com article, "The blend creates a lightweight and low-cost building block that is fireproof, water-resistant, insect-proof, and serves to insulate the building. According to its creator, AirCrete offers many desirable attributes for use as a building mate-

rial for single-story residences, especially for the owner-builder, among them the ability to cut construction costs by a factor of 10 when compared with conventional construction."

The article continues: "Beyond its affordability, DomeGaia says their AirCrete is easy to work with, drying in just one night and flexible enough to be shaped into almost any form. You can use your standard wood-working tools to carve or drill into the material, inserting screws and nails where necessary. Since the material hardens as time passes, you can be more confident about the shape you settle on instead of being increasingly worried about future vulnerabilities."

DomeGaia's workshops sound like a variation on eco-tourism, because they involve building an actual dome home (probably in a third world country) using AirCrete. Here is an excerpt from DomeGaia's web page about the workshops:

"This is a hands on workshop, meaning most of the time spent will be outside and actively building. Though there will be some down time when instructors explain the building process and answer questions, you will still be on the build-

ing site as these explanations take place, so please come prepared against the elements.... DomeGaia workshops usually include time for yoga, guided meditations, dance, music, and exploring local attractions! Make new friends from around the world, learning, laughing and building together."

Their website invites you to sign up for a monthly newsletter so you will be notified of upcoming workshops and their locations.

My thanks to the reader who shared AirCrete with me. I welcome your input, too, and let me know if you attend a DomeGaia workshop!

## Zillow Says Late April Is the Best Time to Sell a Home

Here are the key takeaways from a report released this week by Zillow:

- ◆ Homes listed for sale in the second half of April can expect to sell for 2.8% more, or about \$9,300 on the typical U.S. home.
- ◆ The first two weeks of November are the worst time to list a home, associated with a 3.5% discount.
- ◆ The potential price difference between the best and worst times to list is 68% higher than it was pre-pandemic.

## New: Arvada Tri-Level With Finished Basement

This beautifully updated 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home at **7136 Glad-iola Street**, Arvada, is located in the desirable Shadow Mountain subdivision southeast of Indiana Street and 72nd Avenue, conveniently located near the Apex Center and the Ralston Creek trail. The main level boasts gleaming hardwood floors and renovated kitchen with custom cabinets, quartz countertops, and black stainless steel appliances. Outdoor dining is steps away on one of the levels of an expansive Trex deck. The professionally landscaped yard is a gardener's delight with raised garden beds, fruit trees, raspberry patch, mature trees, and 8'x10' shed. With no HOA, RV parking is available onsite. A true gem in a quiet neighborhood close to everything! Interior photos and narrated video tour available online at [www.ArvidaHome.info](https://www.ArvidaHome.info). To see in person, call your agent or **Jim Smith** at 303-525-1851, or come to the open house this **Saturday, April 16th, 11 to 1**.



## 4-BR Home Close to Downtown Golden for \$995,000



This patio home at **1009 19th Street**, across from the Colorado School of Mines welcome center, is ready for June 1 occupancy. See lots of photos and take a narrated video tour at [www.SouthGoldenHome.com](https://www.SouthGoldenHome.com), then call your agent or **Jim Smith** at 303-525-1851 to see it.

## Solar-Powered Home Just Listed by Ty Scrable

This four-bedroom, 4,156-sq.-ft. home at **10080 Mobile St.** in Commerce City's Buckley Ranch subdivision has it all. Ten-foot ceilings and high-end finishes welcome you into the main level with an extra large kitchen island to accommodate any size party. The home backs to open space and has a great patio to enjoy the sunrises. Upstairs you will find a large primary bedroom with an en-suite bathroom and the walk-in closet of your dreams! Three more bedrooms and a full bath sit near a great family room. The laundry is also conveniently located near the bedrooms. Downstairs is unfinished and ready for your personal touch. Only five years old, this home will require little maintenance and the fully owned solar system will keep your electricity bill low as well. Call your agent or listing agent **Ty Scrable** at 720-281-6783 today to arrange a showing, or come to the open house on **Saturday, April 16th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** You will not be disappointed! Interior pictures and a narrated video tour can be found at [www.BuckleyRanchHome.info](https://www.BuckleyRanchHome.info).



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