

NKBA EXAM STUDY GROUP INFO

In September of last year, your local NKBA chapter implemented a new pilot program—a study group for kitchen and bath professionals who were interested in becoming certified. If you have been to the NKBA website, you may have questions about the certification requirements or the application process. You are probably wondering where to begin and how to prepare for the exams. The study group takes you through the application process, shows you what to study, and keeps you motivated and focused. Research has shown that the percentage of professionals who pass the NKBA certification exams on the first try is substantially higher among those who participate in a study group.

Last year's program was very successful and resulted in a record number of newly certified professionals in our area. In addition, the participants became a close-knit group who continue to meet to network and to discuss design-related issues.

At this time we are putting out a call to gauge interest in running another study group from September 2010 to February 2011 in preparation for the exams in March of 2011.

The study group is based on the 9 volumes of the Professional Resource Library: Residential Construction, Kitchen and Bath Systems, Kitchen and Bath Products, Kitchen and Bath Drawing, Kitchen Planning, Bath Planning, Business Management, Kitchen and Bath Project Management, and Design Principles. Study group participants are able to purchase the full library at a reduced price of USD\$425 (plus customs and shipping)

The study group will meet every two weeks for 2 or 3 hours, according to the attached schedule. At each session we will review one of the books in the Professional Resource Library. We have quizzes and flashcards with practice questions, and where appropriate we will also watch webinars or invite guest speakers.

One of the challenges in our chapter is that our membership is very spread out geographically. Our last study group included participants from Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, and Lloydminster. For this reason, we use a program called 'Go To Meeting,' which allows the facilitator to present information such as practice quizzes and webinars on my computer screen, which is then visible to anyone participating. As a participant, you do not require any specialized software or hardware, other than a computer with speakers and a microphone.

We will meet online on a specified day and time each week. Ideally, all of the participants in each city/town will meet in one location. Face-to-face discussion/collaboration is preferable to having each person sit alone at their computer, and one of the benefits that participants received from last year's study group was the opportunity to meet and network with other professionals. If you have an office or showroom where you could host your local group, please indicate this on the attached registration form.

As part of the study program, we may also request a Certification Prep Course for January. In addition to providing additional help in preparing for the exams, the course would also allow you to fulfill the education requirement for certification. AKBD certification requires 30 hours of education, while CKD and CBD certification require 60 hours of education. The prep course would provide you with between 24 and 40 hours of NKBA education, depending on whether you chose to attend only the first three days (AKBD portion) or the full five days (complete certification, including the design portion of the CKD/CBD exams). Whether this course is offered will depend on whether we have enough interest expressed by members of the group.

The cost to participate in the study group is \$50/person, to offset the cost of the online meeting software, webinars, meeting materials, etc.

If you are interested in participating, please complete and return the attached form. Once we hear back from everyone we will be able to set the meeting dates and times. For information please contact Jolanda Slagmolen-Flores at (403) 255-8234, or by email at casaflores@telus.net