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Genius: Company Will Shrinkwrap Vacant Condos

Joe Weisenthal | Jul. 7, 2009, 7:18 AM | 4,684 | 18

Tags: Real Estate, Housing Crisis, Housing

And you thought that the "repo man" business was the ultimate way to play the bust. *Please.*

Reno, NV-based company [Fast Wrap USA](#) is the king of shrinkwrapping large items like boats and sheds and gigantic piles of lumber. And now they're ready to do it with vacant condos, according to [The Real Deal Miami](#) (via [Jonathan Miller](#)).

It's perfect. These condos will have value one day, when people can get a mortgage again and want to buy a place -- if you think we've seen the last Florida real estate bubble, think again. But in the meantime, they're empty and it's not worth the upkeep. However it would be a real tragedy if, in a few years, we had to rebuild all this stuff. Enter shrinkwrap! If it can preserve food from going brown, presumably it can suspend the ravages of time on buildings as well.

Just imagine how screwed we'd be today if all the excess fiber-optic fiber built up during the first internet boom had somehow deteriorated, and we needed to rebuild it all. Fortunately it doesn't go bad, though buildings can degrade much quicker. This solves that. We're totally sold. We might even send away for franchise information.

[What's This?](#)

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18 Comments

fatcat on Jul 7, 7:45 AM said:

0 0

Better idea...lower prices and get young couples in them,so they can have babies and become consumers again.Jobs are created and people go back to work and we can begin to build another bubble.

Sounds simple.....but no,all the money went to the banks....

[Reply](#)

rob on Jul 7, 7:53 AM said:

0 0

Turn them into paintball facilities.

[Reply](#)

doug on Jul 7, 7:58 AM said:

0 0

Gee, that won't be too unsightly, especially after all the local vandals have had their go at it. In Brooklyn you might as well shrink-wrap entire blocks.

[Reply](#)

Let's Get Real on Jul 7, 8:10 AM said:

0 0

The cockroaches are going to love this.

[Reply](#)

YT on Jul 7, 8:35 AM said:

0 0

We could wall off entire communities... or heck, build a wall around the poor parts of town so that the vandals can't get out. That will fix things.

(sarcasm intended)

[Reply](#)

Lee D (URL) on Jul 7, 9:40 AM said:

0 0

I'm sure that will work just great in locales with really high humidity.

[Reply](#)

Rich H on Jul 7, 9:58 AM said:

0 0

I'm all for walling off Brooklyn. Let's run a test in Canarsie, and East NY as sample cases.

[Reply](#)

Joe Weisenthal on Jul 7, 10:07 AM said:

0 0

"I'm all for walling off Brooklyn. Let's run a test in Canarsie, and East NY as sample cases."

If I can get internet access through the shrinkwrap, I don't mind being walled off here.

[Reply](#)

js on Jul 7, 10:33 AM said:

0 0

"Better idea....lower prices and get young couples in them,so they can have babies and become consumers again.Jobs are created and people go back to work and we can begin to build another bubble. "

they'll be consumers again much quicker if they rent.

[Reply](#)

Maggie Knowles (URL) on Jul 7, 10:59 AM said:

0 0

The cockroaches will suffocate.

[Reply](#)

Mike on Jul 7, 11:28 AM said:

0 0

While I personally think shrink-wrapping vacant homes is a good idea, I doubt most condo boards or communities will want their condo values dragged down with such a visual reminder of the communitie's woes.

"Where's your home Bob?"

"Uh it's on Beaker street, right next to the three shrink-wrapped condos!"

[Reply](#)

SD on Jul 7, 11:37 AM said:

0 0

Yeah - I'm sure a crackhead can't get through plastic wrap.

I thought this was a joke until I clicked through to the article. Dumbest idea I've heard in a long time.

[Reply](#)

John on Jul 7, 12:06 PM said:

0 0

!!!

Take advantage of all of this advertising space. Lower the costs of advertising and take advantage of waves of foreclosures.

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Green on Jul 7, 4:55 PM said:

0 0

Can they please use a color that's more friendly to the eye, like green or something?! Great idea but it looks horrible...

[Reply](#)

BadIdea on Jul 7, 5:43 PM said:

0 0

Florida? I'm sure MILDEW will not be a problem.

[Reply](#)

been there done that on Jul 7, 9:14 PM said:

0 0

Mildew would be a huge problem a darker color like green would not stay tight in the heat and would raise the temperature to over 10 times what the outside would be these guys are grasping at straws this will not work. I have lots of experience with this stuff air circulation is critical and all it takes is one slice and the whole system is gone.

[Reply](#)

Sam on Jul 10, 3:53 PM said:

0 0

Genius? More like idiot.

What do you think is going to happen inside these shrink-wrapped buildings? Everything will stay clean and dry and pristine?

No. What you will have in a very short time is mold like you've never seen it before. These buildings will be teardowns after a year.

Good luck with that investment.

You'd be better off selling them at fire sale prices, before you have to burn them down.

[Reply](#)

Jon on Jul 24, 7:37 AM said:

0 0

What they need to do is install a vapour retarder / air barrier. Keeps out the elements (sort of), and still lets the building breathe.

But you guys are missing, is that when there are no occupants to create moisture (via conditioning the spaces, showers, etc.), there should be no issues. Breathability is still key however.

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