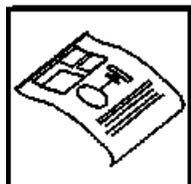




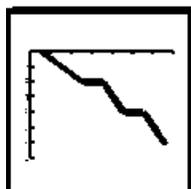
Better Homes through Improved Comfort

Builder Guide



DESCRIPTION

The materials and construction techniques used to increase energy efficiency in homes can also significantly increase thermal, acoustic, and visual comfort. This combination of energy efficiency and greater comfort is your opportunity to offer a better home to home buyers.



BENEFITS

Look for home buyers to appreciate the value of a more comfortable home with the ENERGY STAR label.

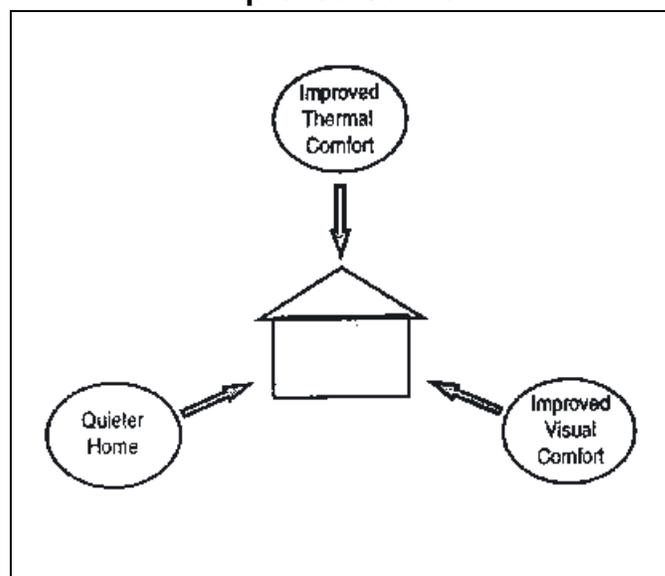
An ENERGY STAR labeled home has improved thermal comfort.

A well insulated home, tightly sealed, with high-efficiency windows, provides warmer interior surfaces in winter and cooler interior surfaces in summer. Thus, the mean radiant temperature based on temperatures of adjacent surfaces is much improved. Because mean radiant temperature has the largest impact on interior comfort, the home has improved thermal comfort year-round. In addition, with right-sized mechanical systems and ducts, home buyers can look for more uniform heating and cooling distribution throughout the home.

An ENERGY STAR labeled home has improved acoustic comfort.

Right-sized mechanical systems and ducts are also less noisy, providing for greater acoustic comfort. Acoustic comfort in energy-efficient homes is also improved where better insulated walls and windows are more effective in blocking undesirable exterior

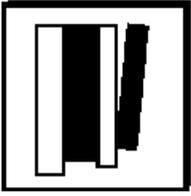
Benefits of Building for Improved Comfort



noises. In addition, central ventilation systems are much less noisy than individual bathroom fans. Finally, fluorescent lights with electronic ballasts have much less background noise than fluorescent lights with less efficient magnetic ballasts.

An ENERGY STAR labeled home can also offer improved visual comfort and convenience.

Visual comfort is improved with more efficient lighting systems. High efficiency lighting can provide more lighting with less wattage lamps, and improved color rendition. Motion and occupancy sensors can add convenience, by eliminating the need to fumble for the light switch in a darkened room (especially when using both hands to carry something) or to remember to turn off the lights when leaving the house. In addition, exterior lighting operated by motion sensors is also much more convenient, avoiding the need to go indoors to operate a switch.



RESOURCES

- For more information on the ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes program, call 1-888-STAR-YES; or access the ENERGY STAR labeled homes web page on the Internet at:
<http://www.energystar.gov/homes>.