



# ENERGY STAR® Certified Home Features

Energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

## A COMPLETE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



ENERGY STAR certified homes include a comprehensive package of water management practices and materials that help to protect your home from water damage and reduce the risk of indoor air quality problems. During construction, ENERGY STAR builder partners must meet EPA's comprehensive water management requirements to prevent rain and moisture from building up in living areas, attics, basements, crawlspaces, or behind walls. These water management requirements help ensure that—

- Water is directed off the roof, down the walls, and away from the foundation.
- Your home is built with moisture-resistant barriers to prevent water damage.
- Building materials are protected during construction to minimize the possibility of mold and rotting.

When builders meet these rigorous requirements, you get a home with a complete water management system—a better approach to building a better home.

### WATER-MANAGED CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

ENERGY STAR certified homes feature a comprehensive package of measures to ensure that water will be effectively drained away from your new home.

**Site and Foundation** – To help prevent damp foundations in moist climates, ENERGY STAR builder partners install moisture-resistant barriers to protect the foundation from water in the ground. The area around the home is also graded so water flows away from the foundation, and is coupled with underground drains for some house types. These types of water management strategies help improve the durability of the foundation, reduce the potential for water damage, and even improve the comfort and indoor air quality in your home.

**Walls and Roofs** – ENERGY STAR certified homes are built with features designed to safely drain water off roofs, down walls, and away from the home. To help achieve this, ENERGY STAR builders wrap the walls of the home from top to bottom in a continuous layer of overlapping moisture-



*The final grade slopes away from the house. Neglecting to consider exterior water management could lead to water damage.*

resistant material to create a “drainage plane.” In areas that are particularly susceptible to water problems, such as roof-wall intersections and openings around windows and doors, the drainage plane is supplemented with a second layer of protection, called flashing. Flashing consists of water-resistant material that directs water away from the areas of concern and onto the drainage plane, where it can be safely drained away.

**Building Materials** – Moisture problems in homes can start before the home is even built. Building materials that are improperly stored and exposed to the elements during construction can lead to rotting and mold growth. ENERGY STAR builder partners take steps to properly select and store building materials onsite so water-damaged materials are not used in the construction of your new home. In addition, they use moisture resistant materials in walls behind tubs and showers and avoid installing carpets in close proximity to wet areas of the home, such as in bathrooms.

## BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

An ENERGY STAR certified new home delivers better energy efficiency and so much more. An ENERGY STAR certified home is built better and built to last because the best, tried-and-true, integrated construction practices are used from the ground up. The result is better quality and durability, better comfort, better systems, a better value for today, and a better investment for tomorrow—plus a label backed by EPA. In short, better is better.

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to decrease energy consumption, save money, and help protect the environment for future generations. Nearly 20,000 organizations are ENERGY STAR partners, committed to improving energy efficiency in homes, products, and businesses.

## Proper Installation



*The below-grade concrete walls have damp-proof coating.*

## Proper Installation



*The drain slopes away from the foundation and terminates at the proper distance.*

### ENERGY STAR Certified Home Features

- A Complete Thermal Enclosure System
- A Complete Water Management System
- A Complete Heating, Ventilating, and Cooling System
- Efficient Lighting and Appliances
- Independent Inspections and Testing

**Ask your builder for more information.**

Homes that earn the ENERGY STAR® prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

