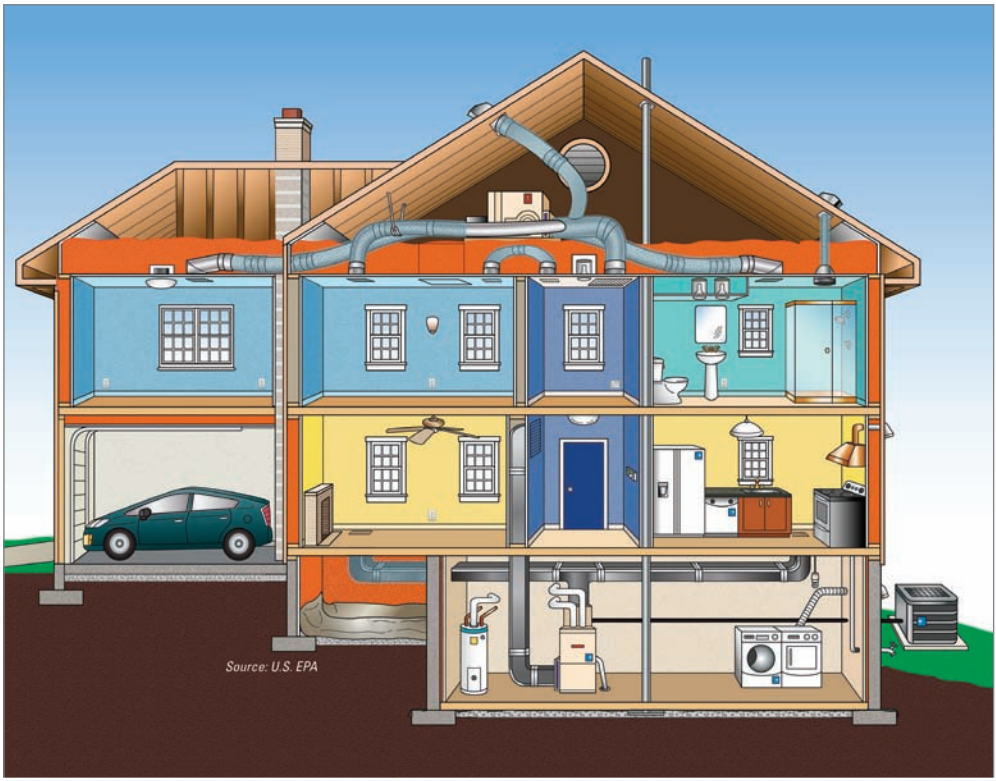
ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR® QUALIFIED HOMES

Assured Performance in Every Qualified Home



"ENERGY STAR was a smart choice for our first home. It's not just about the savings. We like that our home was built with cutting-edge technology and the environment in mind. Protecting the environment is important to us—and this gave us an opportunity to be part of the solution."

—Leona Fisher and Will Sankhla
Fontana, CA

DISCOVER THE ENERGY STAR DIFFERENCE

Buying a new home is one of the biggest purchases you'll ever make. By choosing one that has earned the government's trusted ENERGY STAR label, you can have the house of your dreams and enjoy peace of mind knowing it's been built to meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

With ENERGY STAR, you know you're making the right decision—for your wallet, for your family, and for the environment—bringing these important benefits:

- **Lower Utility Bills**

  By using less energy for heating, cooling, and water heating, ENERGY STAR qualified homes deliver approximately 20% savings on annual utility bills. Over the 7 to 8 years that a typical family lives in a home, you can save thousands of dollars in maintenance cost.

- **Enhanced Performance**

  In ENERGY STAR qualified homes, comfort is ensured with consistent temperatures between and across rooms; indoor air quality is enhanced by reducing dust, pollen, bugs, and excessive humidity; and durability is improved with comprehensive water protection, windows that block damaging sunlight, and better grade equipment.

- **Environmental Protection**

  The energy used in our homes often comes from the burning of fossil fuels at power plants. So, by using less energy to operate, ENERGY STAR qualified homes help to prevent air pollution—an added benefit for today's environmentally-conscious consumer looking for "green" choices.

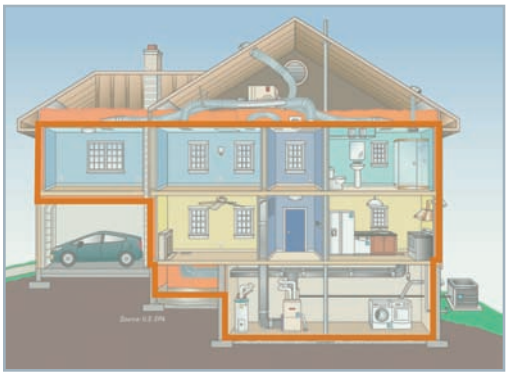
EVERY ENERGY STAR HOME FEATURES;*

1. A Complete Thermal Enclosure System
2. A Complete Heating and Cooling System
3. A Complete Water Management System
4. Energy-Efficient Lighting and Appliances
5. Third-Party Verification

*These features refer to homes using ENERGY STAR for Homes Version 3 guidelines. Until January 2012, builders may use prior versions of the ENERGY STAR guidelines. Ask your builder for more information.

1. A COMPLETE THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM

Comprehensive air sealing, properly installed insulation, and high-performance windows work together to enhance comfort, improve durability, reduce maintenance costs, and lower monthly utility bills.



- **Air Sealing**

  An average home contains a half-mile of cracks and gaps around windows and doors—along with hundreds of holes for pipes, ventilation ducts, lighting, and wiring. Sealing these cracks and holes helps reduce drafts, moisture, dust, pollen, pests, and noise. A tightly sealed home improves comfort and indoor air quality while reducing utility bills.

- **Properly Installed Insulation**

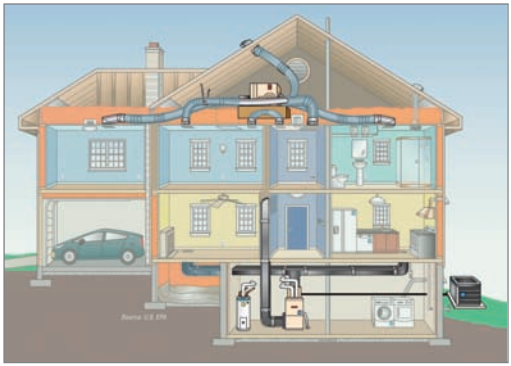
  It's not the amount of insulation; it's the quality of installation that makes all the difference. Proper installation includes careful placement to eliminate gaps, voids, and compression; complete air barriers that prevent air from bypassing the insulation; and building techniques that minimize heat flow through framing. This ensures consistent temperatures throughout the house, reduced energy use, and increased comfort.

- **High-Performance Windows**

  Advanced technologies, like protective coatings and improved frames, help keep heat in during winter and out during summer. They also block damaging ultraviolet sunlight that can discolor carpets and furnishings.

2. A COMPLETE HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM

High-efficiency systems are engineered and installed to deliver more comfort, better moisture control, improved indoor air quality, and quieter operation.



- **Efficient Heating and Cooling Equipment**

  Look for higher efficiency equipment that delivers premium performance. This equipment uses less energy, operates at reduced noise levels, and often comes with extended warranty coverage.

- **Proper Design and Quality Installation Practices**

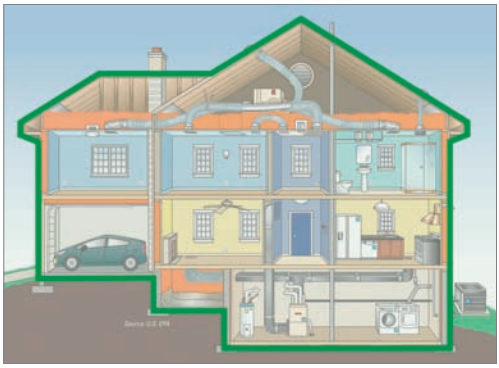
  The heating and cooling systems in ENERGY STAR qualified homes are fully engineered and tested, including sizing of equipment and ducts, sealing and testing ductwork, verifying proper refrigerant charge (for central air conditioners and heat pumps), and ensuring room-by-room air flow. This is all done in accordance with best practices established by the leading industry association and equipment manufacturers.

- **Whole-House Mechanical Ventilation**

  The living space in ENERGY STAR qualified homes has a constant source of fresh, filtered air to remove pollutants from your home.

3. A COMPLETE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A comprehensive package of best building practices and materials protects roofs, walls, and foundations from water damage and helps ensure durability and superior indoor air quality.



- **Water-Managed Construction Details**

  Tried-and-true building practices, such as flashing, moisture barriers, and heavy-duty membranes, are employed to effectively drain water from the roofs, walls, and foundations of ENERGY STAR qualified homes.

- **Building Materials**

  Proper storage and selection of materials helps prevent water- and mold-damaged materials in ENERGY STAR qualified homes.

"Choosing an ENERGY STAR home has made a significant difference for us. Our first electric bill was extremely low—we love the savings! And knowing that we have a safe, energy-efficient home we can live in for years is so comforting."

—The Costa Family, Dallas, TX

"We're dedicated to building energy-efficient homes so that families who choose our homes not only save money on their utility bills, but also enjoy the comfort and durability of a home built to such high standards."

—WGB Construction Company, South Grafton, MA

4. ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING AND APPLIANCES

ENERGY STAR qualified lighting, appliances, and fans can be found throughout an ENERGY STAR home, helping to reduce monthly utility bills, while providing high-quality performance.

- **Advanced Lighting**

  ENERGY STAR qualified fixtures and bulbs come in many shapes and sizes. This gives home buyers a wide range of lighting choices that allow them to create the atmosphere they want for their homes. ENERGY STAR lighting offers significant cost savings and longer lifetimes than standard products.

- **ENERGY STAR Qualified Appliances**

  Household appliances account for nearly 20 percent of energy use in an average house. A comprehensive package of ENERGY STAR qualified appliances can reduce energy costs, while offering improved performance, quality, and durability. ENERGY STAR qualified homes often include ENERGY STAR qualified dishwashers, refrigerators, washing machines, ceiling fans, and ventilation fans.

"We have noticed substantial savings, not only in our utility bills, but in our overall energy consumption. This is due to the added benefits of having ENERGY STAR appliances, effective insulation, and high-performance, energy-efficient windows."

—The Orrock Family
Las Vegas, NV

5. THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION

- **Climate-Specific Recommendations**

  For a home to be truly energy efficient, its design and construction must consider local conditions. Home Energy Raters are trained in climate-specific energy saving techniques, and their knowledge and field experience help ENERGY STAR builder partners select the most appropriate energy-efficient features.

- **Field Verification**

  Raters conduct onsite inspections and testing of ENERGY STAR qualified homes to ensure they meet rigorous program guidelines. The process typically includes a blower door test to measure air leakage in the house, a duct blaster test to measure duct leakage, and a comprehensive set of inspections to assure proper construction details.

- **Quality Assurance**

  Homes that earn the ENERGY STAR typically undergo significantly more systems engineering, inspections, and testing than homes built to code. This verification process helps to identify and correct mistakes before they become problems and holds builders accountable to higher standards.

- **Peace of Mind That Comes with Making a Smart Purchase**

Look for the blue ENERGY STAR label—typically located on a home's circuit breaker box. It assures you that the home has been verified by an independent Home Energy Rater to be truly energy efficient.

JOIN THE ENERGY STAR HOMES FAMILY

More than 1 million families across the country are living in ENERGY STAR qualified homes. Together, these homeowners saved more than $270 million last year on their utility bills, while avoiding greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 370,000 vehicles. By choosing ENERGY STAR for your new home, you'll join the growing number of families enjoying a better home with lower ownership costs.

LEARN MORE AT
energystar.gov

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency. Today, ENERGY STAR offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, save money, and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 17,000 organizations are ENERGY STAR partners, committed to improving energy efficiency in homes, products, and businesses.

Learn more, visit energystar.gov

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air and Radiation (6202J)
EPA 430-F10-001