



Energy-efficient New Homes – Choose the Right Builder



When it comes to purchasing a comfortable and energy-efficient new home, choosing a builder that participates in a government-supported energy efficiency program makes sense.

Builders participating in programs such as R-2000 or ENERGY STAR® for New Homes know of the latest construction techniques, energy efficiency features and environmentally friendly materials that can be used in your home.

Many of these builders are very proud of being part of a network of trained and innovative builders who participate in voluntary labelling programs that promote energy-efficient new homes.

Why choose an energy-efficient new home?

By selecting energy efficiency upgrades for your new home, you will be saving on energy bills and choosing to help protect our environment.

Energy-efficient new homes benefit not only buyers and occupants but also the world we live in. When you use less energy in your home, you save money, but you also reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change.

Construction techniques that improve the energy efficiency of a house often provide improved comfort. For example, when you improve the air tightness of a home and install mechanical ventilation, you will experience fewer drafts, better air quality control and overall better performance of the home after it is built. And when you are ready to move out, a home with proven energy efficiency and an energy rating backed by the Government of Canada may have a greater resale value.

There are also several incentive programs available to homebuyers who choose energy efficiency upgrades for their new homes.



Visit newhomes.nrcan.gc.ca for more information on incentive programs.

An energy-efficient home is

- less expensive to operate
- more comfortable to live in
- more environmentally friendly

Programs available for the new housing industry

In support of the Government of Canada's overall commitment to reduce GHG emissions, the Office of Energy Efficiency of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) supports three energy efficiency initiatives for new housing, as part of the ecoENERGY for Buildings and Houses Initiative:

- EnerGuide Rating System
- R-2000 Standard
- ENERGY STAR for New Homes

EnerGuide Rating System

The EnerGuide Rating System (ERS) is NRCan's well-established rating system for the energy rating and labelling of products – mostly appliances – but also homes.

New home builders participating in the ERS initiative work with an energy advisor to develop energy efficiency upgrade packages that they can offer you before construction of your house begins. After a house is completed, the energy advisor visits the home to verify that the energy efficiency upgrades were included as planned. The homeowner is then provided with the evaluation report and official label that shows the EnerGuide rating of the home.

An EnerGuide rating shows you (and future buyers) exactly how energy efficient your home is at the time of construction. The rating is calculated based on standard operation assumptions so that you can compare the energy performance of one house against another.

Type of house	Typical energy efficiency ratings
Typical new home in 2006	65-72
New house with some energy efficiency improvements	73-79
Energy-efficient new house	80-90
House requiring little or no purchased energy	91-100

R-2000 Standard

The R-2000 Standard (R-2000) is a technical performance standard for energy efficiency that also promotes improved indoor air tightness and environmental responsibility in home construction. R-2000 certified homes offer attention to construction, comfort, health and environmental benefits. They are also some of the most energy-efficient new homes on the market. Houses built to the R-2000 Standard typically exceed the energy performance requirements of the current building codes by at least 25 percent.

R-2000 homes are constructed by licensed and trained builders; evaluated, inspected and tested by independent third-party inspectors; and certified by the Government of Canada. The homeowner receives a certificate, label and report confirming the status of the house in the program.

ENERGY STAR for New Homes

The ENERGY STAR for New Homes initiative promotes guidelines that builders use to construct energy-efficient new homes. This initiative is available in many regions across Canada.

ENERGY STAR qualified homes are assessed by independent certified energy advisors who verify that the built homes meet the required technical specifications.

ENERGY STAR is a well-recognized and respected brand, and an ENERGY STAR label on a new house indicates lower energy demand and better overall performance of the home.

The homeowner receives an ENERGY STAR label for the home, certifying the status of the house in the program.

Finding a builder who builds energy-efficient homes

If you are interested in buying or building a new energy-efficient home or want to learn more about the federal initiatives for new housing and financial incentives for homeowners, visit newhomes.nrcan.gc.ca or call **1-800-O-Canada**.

To find participating builders or service organizations in your area, use the service provider search tool at newhomes.nrcan.gc.ca/findaparticipant.

To order brochures about energy-efficient new homes, call **1-800-387-2000**.

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Did you know?

Today, 17 percent of the energy consumed in Canada runs our homes.

Residential energy use produces 15 percent of GHG emissions in Canada.

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