

What Makes a Home Qualify for ENERGY STAR?

Any home three stories or less can earn the ENERGY STAR label if it has been verified to meet EPA's guidelines for energy efficiency. (ENERGY STAR Certification is a requirement of LEED)

Homes that earn the ENERGY STAR must meet guidelines for energy efficiency set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ENERGY STAR qualified homes are at least 15 percent more energy efficient than homes built to the 2004 International Residential Code (IRC), and includes additional energy-saving features that typically make them 20–30% more efficient than standard homes.

ENERGY STAR qualified homes achieve energy savings through established, reliable building technologies. Builders work with Home Energy Raters to select from a number of features when planning and building homes.

ENERGY STAR qualified homes can include a variety of energy-efficient features

- **Effective Insulation**
- **High-Performance Windows**
- **Tight Construction and Ducts**
- **Efficient Heating and Cooling Equipment**
- **Lighting and Appliances**
- **Third-Party Verification**



With the help of independent Home Energy Raters, ENERGY STAR builder partners choose the most appropriate energy-saving features for their homes. Additionally, raters conduct onsite testing and inspections to verify that the homes qualify as ENERGY STAR.

Through ENERGY STAR, builders and other home industry professionals can differentiate themselves in the market. New homes that qualify as ENERGY STAR provide greater comfort and durability for home buyers. In addition, ENERGY STAR qualified homes help protect the environment by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with global warming.

Benefits for Homeowners

- **PEACE OF MIND**

Home buying is complex enough without having to know all the details of energy-efficient construction. Instead, look for the government-backed ENERGY STAR label to easily identify homes that are truly energy efficient.

- **LOWER OWNERSHIP COST**

Compared with standard homes, ENERGY STAR qualified homes deliver \$200 to \$400 in annual savings. Over the average 7 to 8 years you may live in your home, this adds up to thousands of dollars saved on utility bills. Additional savings on maintenance can also be substantial.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

16 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are generated from the energy used in houses nationwide. Reducing energy consumption helps protect the environment.

- **BETTER PERFORMANCE**

An energy-efficient home helps ensure consistent temperatures between and across rooms, improved indoor air quality, and greater durability.

- **SMART INVESTMENT**

Confidence knowing your home will have an increasingly valued feature when the time comes to sell.

To find a 3rd party verifier, energy star builder, or energy efficient mortgage visit:
www.idahoenergystar.com