



Energy-efficient New Homes

Choose the Right Builder



Did you know?

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

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

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

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

Choose an energy-efficient new home

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 improve comfort. For example, when you improve the airtightness of a home and install mechanical ventilation, you will experience fewer drafts, better air quality control and overall better performance of the home.

Benefits of an energy-efficient new home

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



What's available?

In support of the Government of Canada's commitment to reduce GHG emissions, Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) supports the following energy efficiency initiatives for new housing as part of the ecoENERGY Efficiency Initiative:

- ENERGY STAR for New Homes
- R-2000 Standard

ENERGY STAR for New Homes

ENERGY STAR is a well-recognized and respected brand for high energy efficiency. An ENERGY STAR label on a new home indicates lower energy demand and better overall performance of the home. Homeowners have the confidence of knowing that the home has been given the government-backed ENERGY STAR label from a builder who participates in the ENERGY STAR for New Homes initiative.

ENERGY STAR qualified new homes are designed and built to meet a very specific set of technical specifications. Homes built to the ENERGY STAR for New Homes Standard are, on average, 20 percent more energy-efficient than those built to the building code in your province or region.

R-2000 Standard

R-2000 certified homes are some of the most energy-efficient houses on the market. R-2000 has been a best-in-class energy efficiency label for 30 years. Not only has it helped pave the way for increases in energy efficiency in typical construction practices but also established the benchmark for building energy-efficient new homes in Canada.

Every R-2000 home is constructed by a licensed and specially trained builder; evaluated, inspected and tested by an independent third-party energy advisor; and certified by the Government of Canada. R-2000 certification ensures state-of-the-art building techniques and a home that provides exceptional comfort, increased energy savings and health benefits.

Typical energy efficiency ratings

NRCAN also manages the EnerGuide Rating System, a well-established brand for the energy rating and labelling of products – mostly appliances – and homes, too.

The R-2000 and ENERGY STAR for New Homes initiatives both use this system to measure the levels of energy efficiency in homes. Builders registered in the EnerGuide Rating System are able to choose the most beneficial and cost-effective upgrades for energy efficiency for your new home during the planning phase.

After your home is built, the builder provides you with an official label and evaluation report that show the home's EnerGuide rating, which allows you to learn more about how energy-efficient your home is.

House type	Rating
New house built to building code standards	70–76
New house built to energy code standards	77–80
High-performance, energy-efficient new house	81–90
Net-zero or near net-zero house requiring little or no purchased energy	91–100

Choose a builder

If you want to buy or build a new, energy-efficient home and want to learn more about the federal initiatives for new housing or financial incentives for homeowners, visit newhomes.nrcan.gc.ca or call **1 800 O-Canada** or **TTY: 1-800-926-9105 (teletype for the hearing-impaired)**.

To find a participating builder 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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