



A New House That Saves



A New House That Saves

Moving into your new home should be the experience of a lifetime.

That's why Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan's) Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) developed the EnerGuide rating service to provide independent expert advice on energy-efficient home construction to homebuilders and new home buyers.

How does an energy evaluation help me get a more efficient house?

The EnerGuide evaluation begins before your first visit to your builder's model home. Builders offering the EnerGuide rating service have their house plans evaluated by a certified energy advisor. They then work with the advisor to develop energy upgrade packages that have money-saving features you will want to include in your new home.

Together, they use NRCan's computer software to model different options, looking for cost-effective measures that will improve your comfort and lower your energy bills. They focus on ways to improve the energy efficiency of

- heating and ventilation equipment, such as the furnace
- the building envelope, such as windows and insulation levels in the attic, walls and basement

Builders will offer you options, but you make the final choice about what you would like to include in your home.



Many of the most valuable energy improvements are easier and cheaper to install while a home is being built. Investments you make in energy efficiency improvements at the building stage will start to pay you back in lower energy bills from the day you move in.

How does the EnerGuide rating service help me get value for money?

After your new home has been built, the energy advisor returns to conduct a walk-through tour of the house to confirm that the energy efficiency upgrades have been incorporated and to perform a mechanical air-leakage test on the finished house.

An energy-efficient home is

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

This final independent evaluation is for you, the homeowner. It provides you with confirmation of the EnerGuide rating of your home and information on how it will use energy over time.

Keep the EnerGuide label for your house attached to the door of your electrical panel as an official record of your home's energy performance.

What does the EnerGuide rating label tell me?

Anyone can claim that a house is energy efficient, but an EnerGuide rating label proves how efficient it is.

The label gives you an estimate of the electricity, natural gas or oil that you can expect to consume each year. But remember that energy consumption estimates are just that – estimates. The estimate for your home is based on a number of standard assumptions, such as a family of four living in the home and specific thermostat settings and usage rates for hot water, lighting and appliances.

A one-point improvement on the EnerGuide rating scale typically reduces your home's energy consumption by 3 to 5 percent. Remember to ask your builder about how to increase the energy performance of your home.

Are there any other benefits to having an EnerGuide rating?

Homeowners are aware of high energy prices and are beginning to value evidence of energy efficiency. The EnerGuide rating label gives you evidence of how energy efficient a house is. Aim for a high EnerGuide rating so that when you are ready to move on, you will be selling a home with a rating backed by the Government of Canada.

By choosing energy efficiency options, you will also be making a choice to help protect our environment. By using less energy, you reduce the greenhouse gas emissions your home produces that contribute to climate change.



Whom may I contact?

For more information on the EnerGuide rating service, visit the OEE Web site at newhomes.nrcan.gc.ca or call 1 800 O-Canada or TTY: 1-800-926-9105 (teletype for the hearing impaired).

To order more publications, call **1-800-387-2000** (toll-free).



Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency
*Leading Canadians to Energy Efficiency at Home,
at Work and on the Road*

For information regarding reproduction rights, contact Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) at 613-996-6886 or at copyright.droitdauteur@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca.

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2011

Cat. No. M144-122/2011 (Print)
ISBN 978-1-100-53103-8

Cat. No. M144-122/2011E-PDF (On-line)
ISBN 978-1-100-18214-8



Recycled paper