

# ENERGY STAR® Certified Home Features

Energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The simple  
choice for  
energy  
efficiency.



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## A Complete Water Management System



ENERGY STAR certified homes include a comprehensive package of water management practices and materials that help to protect your home from water damage and reduce the risk of indoor air quality problems. During construction, ENERGY STAR builder partners must meet EPA's comprehensive water management requirements to prevent rain and moisture from building up in living areas, attics, basements, crawlspaces, or behind walls. These water management requirements help ensure that—

- Water is directed off the roof, down the walls, and away from the foundation.
- Your home is built with moisture-resistant barriers to prevent water damage.
- Building materials are protected during construction to minimize the possibility of mold and rotting.

When builders meet these rigorous requirements, you get a home with a complete water management system—a better approach to building a better home.

### Water Managed Construction Details

ENERGY STAR certified homes feature a comprehensive package of measures to ensure that water will be effectively drained away from your new home.

**Site and Foundation** – To help prevent damp foundations in moist climates, ENERGY STAR builder partners install moisture-resistant barriers to protect the foundation from water in the ground. The area around the home is also graded so water flows away from the foundation, and is coupled with underground drains for some house types. These water management strategies help improve the durability of the foundation, reduce the potential for water damage, and even improve the comfort and indoor air quality in your home.

**Walls and Roofs** – ENERGY STAR certified homes are built with features designed to safely drain water off roofs, down walls, and away from the home. To help achieve this, ENERGY STAR builders wrap the walls of the home from top to bottom in a continuous layer of overlapping moisture-resistant material to create a “drainage plane.” In areas



*The final grade slopes away from the house. Neglecting to consider exterior water management could lead to water damage.*

that are particularly susceptible to water problems, such as roof-wall intersections and openings around windows and doors, the drainage plane is supplemented with a second layer of protection, called flashing. Flashing consists of water-resistant material that directs water away from the areas of concern and onto the drainage plane, where it can be safely drained away.

**Building Materials** – Moisture problems in homes can start before the home is even built. Building materials that are improperly stored and exposed to the elements during construction can lead to rotting and mold growth. ENERGY STAR builder partners take steps to properly select and store building materials on site so water damaged materials are not used in the construction of your new home. In addition, they use moisture resistant materials in walls behind tubs and showers and avoid installing carpets in close proximity to wet areas of the home, such as in bathrooms.

### Building a Better Future

An ENERGY STAR certified new home delivers better energy efficiency and so much more. An ENERGY STAR certified home is built better and built to last because the best, tried-and-true, integrated construction practices are used from the ground up. The result is better quality and durability, better comfort, better systems, a better value for today, and a better investment for tomorrow—plus a label backed by EPA. In short, better is better.

ENERGY STAR® is the simple choice for energy efficiency. For 25 years, people across America have looked to EPA's ENERGY STAR program for guidance on how to save energy, save money, and protect the environment. Behind each blue label is a product, building, or home that is independently certified to use less energy and cause fewer of the emissions that correspond to negative health and environmental impacts. Today, ENERGY STAR is the most widely recognized symbol for energy efficiency in the world. Since 1992, the program and its partners have helped families and businesses save \$430 billion on energy bills and 4.6 trillion kilowatt-hours of energy, while achieving broad emission reductions—including 2.8 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Join the millions across America already making a difference at [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

### Proper Installation



*The below-grade concrete walls have damp-proof coating*

### Proper Installation



*The drain slopes away from the foundation and terminates at the proper distance*

### ENERGY STAR Certified Home Features

- A Complete Thermal Enclosure System
- A Complete Water Management System
- A Complete Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling System
- Efficient Lighting and Appliances
- Independent Inspections and Testing

**Ask your builder for more information.**