



High Efficiency New Homes

Built to a higher standard today, creating benefits for a lifetime

High efficiency new homes have been built to a higher standard than the code requires, and have each completed a rigorous independent inspection. These features make a new home a better value for today and a better investment for tomorrow. Each efficiency element increases comfort, reduces energy and maintains the value of the home. You'll gain:

Increased comfort: These homes are built to minimize leaks and drafts that cause hot and cold spots. Innovative insulation techniques and high efficiency equipment work together to provide year-round, wall-to-wall comfort.

Lower energy bills: High efficiency new homes are built to be at least 10 percent more energy efficient than the code requires. That can mean hundreds of dollars saved each year — and thousands more in your pocket over the lifetime of your home.

Healthier indoor spaces: Continuous fresh air, superior water management and tight insulation result in the reduction of dust, pollen, insects, allergens and mold. This additional insulation and air sealing also helps create a quieter environment.

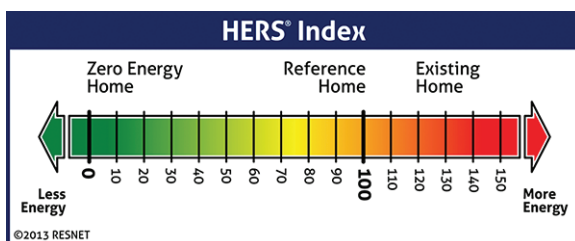
Retained value: These new homes are more durable due to high-performance windows, effective insulation and better construction techniques. Additionally, having a nationally recognized third-party rating on your home can boost future resale value.

Home Energy Ratings System

How efficiency is measured — and how this home scores

Lower score = higher energy efficiency.

HERS is short for Home Energy Rating System.® The system uses an index to create a HERS score, a measure of energy efficiency. The lower the score, the more energy efficient the home is. Typical existing homes have scores of more than 100, while standard-built new homes have scores in the range of 85 to 100. Homes built through the High Efficiency New Homes Programs often score below 70 — and may be lower than 55 — signifying the home is 45 percent more efficient than a 100-point reference home. Builders that participate in the High Efficiency New Homes Programs use a combination of proven technologies, advanced building practices and performance testing to produce homes with low HERS scores.



Utility program information

The High Efficiency New Homes Program is a joint offering between CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy. Together, they promote high efficiency home construction that exceeds the Minnesota Residential Energy Code. These homes are built to higher standards, and each is inspected and tested by a third-party professional trained in advanced building science. The resulting homes feature advanced construction practices and design elements and materials that deliver improved quality, comfort and energy savings for a lifetime.

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Whole Home Diagram

Builders that participate in the High Efficiency New Homes Programs focus on the following elements in the design and construction of participating homes. Together, these elements create a home that is healthier, more durable and more comfortable. And on top of that, you save energy and money.

Tight construction

Tight construction eliminates drafts, moisture, dust, pests and pollen and contributes to healthier indoor air and a more comfortable home.

Tight ducts

Tight ducts can help lower your energy use, improve the air quality in your home and maintain a comfortable temperature.

High-performance windows

By helping to block the amount of sunlight that enters your home, high-performance windows help you save money on energy costs, protect your carpet and furniture fabrics from fading and keep your home more comfortable.

Properly installed insulation

In addition to the money-saving benefits of reduced heat transfer, properly installed insulation muffles outside noise, blanketing your home in comfort and quiet.

Energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment

Properly sized systems require less maintenance and last longer. This is especially important for your air conditioning units because a properly sized system works much more efficiently and helps control humidity.

Energy-efficient water heating system

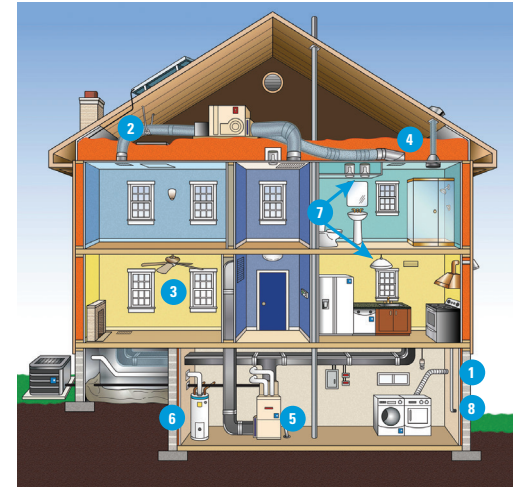
Efficient water heating systems save energy while providing equivalent or improved supply capacity, which may keep you from running out of hot water.

Energy-efficient lighting systems

High efficiency lighting uses less energy and produces less waste heat. Lower waste heat reduces the demand on your air conditioner during the summer months and saves you money year round.

Independent inspection and testing

Each participating home is inspected and tested according to nationally recognized standards. Homes must be 10 percent more energy efficient than the code requires in order to complete the High Efficiency New Homes Programs.



- 1 **Tight construction**
- 2 **Tight ducts**
- 3 **High-performance windows**
- 4 **Properly installed insulation**
- 5 **Energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment**
- 6 **Energy-efficient water heating system**
- 7 **Energy-efficient lighting systems**
- 8 **Independent inspection and testing**

Not all the features listed here will be included in all homes that qualify for the High Efficiency New Homes Programs. Talk with your homebuilder for specific information about your home's features.