

Frequently Asked Questions

ENERGY STAR® New Homes in Utah



What is an ENERGY STAR new home?

You've probably heard of ENERGY STAR appliances. Now the familiar blue ENERGY STAR label is also available to help you identify energy efficient homes. An ENERGY STAR new home is a home designed, built and performance tested to be at least 15% more energy efficient than homes built to Utah building code standards. ENERGY STAR certified homes are some of the most energy efficient homes available on the market today.



Aren't all new homes energy efficient?

No. Homes, like automobiles, have varying performance. Although more and more builders are learning to incorporate energy efficient features, the best way to ensure that your home is energy efficient is to choose one that has earned the ENERGY STAR label. Independent, professional home energy raters verify that each home meets ENERGY STAR's strict standards.

What makes ENERGY STAR homes more efficient than typical code-built homes?

Each ENERGY STAR home includes a suite of energy efficient features. The most commonly included features are:

- High efficiency furnaces & air conditioners
- High efficiency water heaters
- Well sealed duct systems
- High-performance windows
- Increased and properly installed insulation
- ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and other appliances
- ENERGY STAR qualified lighting



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If your home is ENERGY STAR, will you have to compromise on design or style?

No. Energy efficiency does not affect the design or look of your home. Regardless of the architectural style or square footage you select, your home can be energy efficient and ENERGY STAR certified.

What are the benefits of buying an energy efficient home?

ENERGY STAR homes offer homeowners a multitude of benefits:

- **Savings** – Offering energy savings and lower monthly energy bills, ENERGY STAR homes keep more money in your pocket.
- **Enhanced Comfort** – Enjoy a home with even temperatures throughout – warmer in winter, cooler in summer – and free from drafts. Tightly-sealed duct systems, high-performance windows and properly installed insulation all contribute to making your home more comfortable.
- **Healthier Indoor Air** – Performance-tested ductwork helps keep the air inside your home clean by reducing the possibility of drawing unwanted air from your home’s attic, basement, crawl space and garage.
- **Peace of mind** – Relax knowing your home has been inspected and certified by an independent third party to meet ENERGY STAR standards and offer the high performance you expect. Looking for the ENERGY STAR label also simplifies the hundreds of decisions associated with buying a new home.
- **Better Future** – Choose a home that uses less energy, and you’ll contribute to a healthier environment.

Will the ENERGY STAR energy efficient features cost you more?

Typically, the ENERGY STAR feature package adds approximately 1% to 3% to the incremental cost of a new home compared to standard code-built homes. The square footage of your home is a primary factor affecting incremental costs. Larger homes require heating and cooling systems with more capacity, more ductwork, and more insulation to fill cavities in walls, floors and ceilings.

When shopping for a new home, it’s important to think beyond initial cost and simple cost-per-square-foot comparisons because the investment in an energy efficient home starts paying for itself immediately.

How much in energy bill savings can you expect from an ENERGY STAR home?

Utah ENERGY STAR home owners can expect an average net savings of \$200 to \$400 each year. Typically, it actually costs less to own and live in an ENERGY STAR home than it does a code-built home. Your monthly energy bill savings will very likely more than offset your incremental mortgage costs. Who wouldn’t want a more comfortable home and more money in their pocket?

How does a home earn the ENERGY STAR label?

To earn the ENERGY STAR label, a home must meet the national ENERGY STAR New Homes performance standards. An independent third-party home energy rater reviews house plans, conducts duct system performance and building envelop tightness tests, as well as inspects for essential energy efficient features.

How can I learn more?

Visit ThermWise.com for more information about the features and benefits of ENERGY STAR homes, a complete list of Utah home builders offering ENERGY STAR homes, and home energy saving tips.

**Be ThermWise.
Choose an ENERGY STAR new home.**

