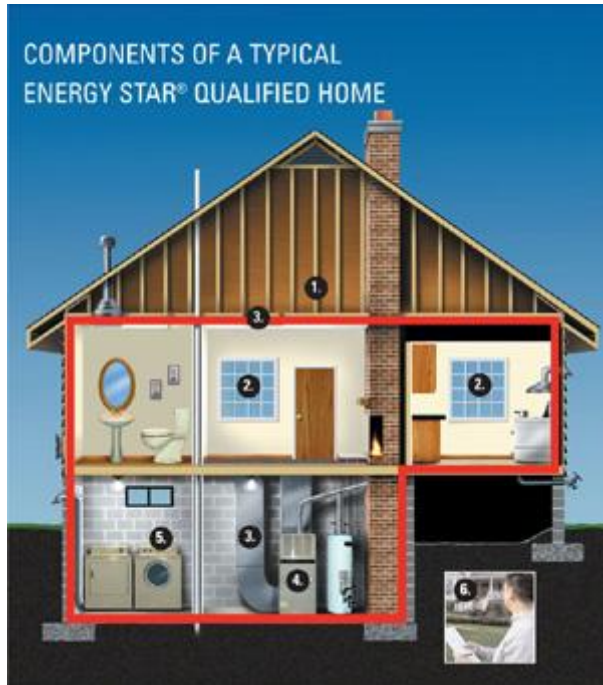


Features of an ENERGY STAR Qualified Home




ENERGY STAR qualified homes are at least 15 percent more energy efficient than homes built to the [2004 International Residential Code \(IRC\)](#).


Any home three stories or less can earn the ENERGY STAR label if it has been verified to meet EPA's guidelines for energy efficiency. This includes site-constructed homes, attached or detached homes, single or low-rise multi-family residential buildings, manufactured homes, systems-built (e.g., SIP or modular) and log homes, existing homes, or retrofitted homes.

ENERGY STAR qualified homes achieve energy savings through established, reliable building technologies. Builders work with Home Energy Raters to select from a number of features when planning and building homes.


1. Effective Insulation

Properly installed, climate-appropriate insulation in floors, walls, and attics ensures even temperatures throughout the house, less energy consumption, and increased comfort. Learn more about [Properly Installed Insulation](#)  (149KB).

2. High-Performance Windows


Energy-efficient windows employ advanced technologies, such as protective coatings and improved frame assemblies, to help keep heat in during winter and out during summer. These windows also block damaging ultraviolet sunlight that can discolor carpets and furnishings. Learn more about [Qualified Windows](#)  (212KB).


3. Tight Construction and Ducts

Sealing holes and cracks in the home's "envelope" and in duct systems helps reduce drafts, moisture, dust, pollen, and noise. A tightly sealed home improves comfort and indoor air quality while reducing utility bills. Learn more about [Efficient Duct Systems](#)  (163KB).

4. Efficient Heating and Cooling Equipment

In addition to using less energy to operate, energy-efficient heating and cooling systems can be quieter, reduce indoor humidity, and improve the overall comfort of the home. Typically, energy-efficient equipment is also more durable and requires less maintenance than standard models. Learn more about:

[Qualified Heating Equipment](#)  (142KB)

[Qualified Cooling Equipment](#)  (178KB)

[Mechanical Ventilation](#)  (140KB)

5. Lighting and Appliances

ENERGY STAR qualified homes may also be equipped with ENERGY STAR qualified products — lighting fixtures, compact fluorescent bulbs, ventilation fans, and appliances, such as refrigerators, dish washers, and washing machines. These ENERGY STAR qualified products provide additional energy savings to the owner. Learn more about [ENERGY STAR qualified products](#):


[Qualified Appliances](#)  (153KB)

[Qualified Lighting](#)  (170KB)

[Advanced Lighting Package](#)  (181KB)

[High Efficiency Water Heaters](#)  (177KB)

6. Third-Party Verification

With the help of independent Home Energy Raters, ENERGY STAR builder partners choose the most appropriate energy-saving features for their homes. Additionally, raters conduct onsite testing and inspections to verify that the homes qualify as ENERGY STAR. Learn more about [Independent Inspection and Testing](#)  (182KB).