



## *Environments For Living*<sup>®</sup> program - Gold Level

This checklist is designed to highlight some of the features of a home built to the requirements of the *Environments For Living*<sup>®</sup> program's Gold Level - Features designed to provide you with more comfort and energy-efficient benefits than a conventional, code-built home.

| Features of a home built to the specifications of the <i>Environments For Living</i> <sup>®</sup> program - Gold Level |   | Other Homes |
|--|---|-------------|
| ✓  | <b>Ecoevaluation<sup>SM</sup> Plan Review</b> - A process of evaluating the energy, environmental and economic impact of the construction of a new home.  |             |
| ✓  | <b>Tight Construction</b> - Special framing techniques such as continuous air barrier and air sealing of penetrations help reduce internal leaks and drafts.  |             |
| ✓  | <b>Improved Thermal Systems</b> - Enhanced insulation techniques help to minimize voids and gaps, and higher thermal properties (R-value) add to energy efficiency.   |             |
| ✓  | <b>Sealed Ducts</b> - Air sealing supply and return duct connections can help reduce internal leaks.  |             |
| ✓  | <b>Low-E Windows</b> - Low "emissivity" windows have protective coatings to help keep heat in during winter and out during summer.  |             |
| ✓  | <b>Right-Sized HVAC</b> - "Right-sized" heating and cooling systems and sealed air ducts help equipment work efficiently. "Right-sized" refers to the process of determining which HVAC system should be used in any particular structure.                                |             |
| ✓  | <b>Internal Moisture Management</b> - Vents, pressure balancing, and fresh air ventilation work to reduce moisture in multiple ways.  |             |
| ✓  | <b>Fresh Air Ventilation</b> - Fresh air ventilation systems deliver filtered fresh air at a minimum rate of 7.5 cubic feet per minute per person plus .01 cubic feet per minute per square foot of conditioned area, to help reduce dust, odors and indoor contaminants. |             |
| ✓  | <b>Combustion Safety</b> - Combustion appliances in conditioned spaces are sealed or power-vented to help avoid build-up of carbon monoxide, and vent-free fireplaces are not allowed. Carbon monoxide detectors are required in all homes.                               |             |
| ✓  | <b>Air Pressure Balancing</b> - Balanced air pressure throughout the home results in more even temperatures and reduces the potential for condensation build-up.  |             |
| ✓  | <b>Testing Protocol</b> - Program testing requirements for air tightness, duct tightness, and pressure balancing.   |             |
| ✓  | <b>Improved Energy Efficiency</b> - Homes built to program specifications will be at least 12% more energy efficient than homes built to the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.   |             |
| ✓  | <b>Limited Heating and Cooling Energy Use Guarantee*</b> - Relates to the amount of energy required to heat and cool your home.   |             |
| ✓  | <b>Limited Comfort Guarantee*</b> - Relates to your ability to maintain an even temperature through your house.   |             |

\* For more information about the Limited Heating and Cooling Energy Use Guarantee and the Limited Comfort Guarantee, visit [environmentsforliving.com](http://environmentsforliving.com).