



Environments For Living® program - Diamond Level

This checklist is designed to highlight some of the features of a home built to the requirements of the *Environments For Living*® program's Diamond 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> ® program - Diamond Level	Other Homes
✓ EcoevaluationSM Plan Review - A process of evaluating the energy, environmental and economic impact of the construction of a new home.	
✓ Tight Construction - Special framing techniques such as continuous air barrier and air sealing of penetrations help reduce internal leaks and drafts.	
✓ Improved Thermal Systems - Enhanced insulation techniques help to minimize voids and gaps, and higher thermal properties (R-value) add to energy efficiency.	
✓ Sealed Ducts - Air sealing supply and return duct connections can help reduce internal leaks.	
✓ Low-E Windows - Low "emissivity" windows have protective coatings to help keep heat in during winter and out during summer.	
✓ Right-Sized HVAC - "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.	
✓ Internal Moisture Management - Vents, pressure balancing, and fresh air ventilation work to reduce moisture in multiple ways.	
✓ Fresh Air Ventilation - 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.	
✓ Combustion Safety - 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.	
✓ Air Pressure Balancing - Balanced air pressure throughout the home results in more even temperatures and reduces the potential for condensation build-up.	
✓ Testing Protocol - Program testing requirements for air tightness, duct tightness, and pressure balancing.	
✓ Improved Energy Efficiency - Homes built to the program requirements will be at least 24% more energy efficient than homes built to the standards of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.	
✓ Limited Heating and Cooling Energy Use Guarantee* - Relates to the amount of energy required to heat and cool your home.	
✓ Limited Comfort Guarantee* - 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.