



10 pointers for building green

- 1. think green from the start.** If you look at green as something to add later on, it becomes expensive. By incorporating green elements in the initial design of your new home, you can include simple ideas that have a lasting impact, low cost and fast payback.
- 2. do your homework.** Being informed will help you to determine what is important to you.
- 3. get professionals involved early.** By purchasing a home with Excel, you get the benefit of our design services as well as those of our third party ENERGY STAR® and green certification agency. Your builder, a local architect or green design professional can further improve the design when site conditions are considered.
- 4. design your home to the site.** It's easier to design a home to a specific site rather than finding a site for a specific home design. For instance, orienting the home to take advantage of wind and sunlight can reduce your energy costs.
- 5. keep the "thermal envelope" intact.** Start your green effort with an ENERGY STAR® certified builder and design to ensure your home is as energy efficient as possible. Windows, doors, and skylights can all poke holes in your home's thermal envelope. The fewer holes we have within the design or the better job we do at sealing them, the more energy efficient the home is.
- 6. keep all trades involved.** Green building is a total approach to construction, so your builder and any subcontractors need to know what special features your new home has. For example: If you invest in extra insulation for your walls and ceiling, but your HVAC contractor sizes the heating and cooling units for typical insulation levels, you will have an oversized system that costs you more upfront and uses more energy than necessary.
- 7. buy it once.** Investing in quality materials when you first purchase your home will save money in the long run and reduce waste. For example, it may cost 20% more for 50-year roofing system than a 15-year roof, but since the latter will need to be replaced two or three times, the 50-year system is a worthwhile investment.
- 8. invest in hidden components first.** If your budget is limited, be sure to invest in those areas that would be difficult to change later. For example, opt for 2x6 exterior walls and better wall insulation to ensure a good thermal envelope rather than getting high-end countertops. You can always add better countertops later but increasing the insulation of the exterior walls would be much more difficult.
- 9. stay natural and stay local.** In general, the more natural a product is, the less harmful chemicals and negative impact on the environment it has. However, this does not mean that all natural products are good and manmade products are bad. If you ship a natural product by three trucks, two boats and a train, you use up more resources than you save.
- 10. insulate, insulate, insulate.** One of the best investments you can make in your home to build green is insulation. It reduces heating and cooling costs, is inexpensive, makes the home comfortable and helps to control moisture and noise.



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YOUR ENERGY EFFICIENCY WITH A GREEN-BUILT HOME





a green home is best for the environment.

It's also great for homeowners because green homes are comfortable, with outstanding indoor air quality and efficient designs that save you money on utility payments. So when you're pondering your options with your builder, you may want to consider an Excel Homes program that simplifies the green building process and allows you to make your dream home truly environmentally friendly – both inside and out.

“Green building” is a holistic approach to constructing homes and other buildings that encompasses everything from site development to careful selection of materials and designs throughout the building process to the owner's future maintenance needs.

Excel is green right from the start, thanks to our partnership with ENERGY STAR®, ensuring your home and any options that you select from Excel will achieve the highest

levels of energy efficiency. Then our Green Building Program is designed so that your new home is built with materials and processes that reduce waste, enhance performance, and recycle or improve life in a way that's best for the environment and for you.

We don't just talk about green – we live it daily. We looked at our own internal processes and drastically reduced waste at our manufacturing facilities. We recycle copper piping, plastic, office paper, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) materials, plastic and wire. Our employees are encouraged to practice responsible material usage. And our goal is to produce NO landfill waste from any of our operations.

joining forces with national leaders. When it came time to create our Green Building Program, Excel turned to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and selected its ICC-700, the National Green Building Standard, as the model to follow.

NAHB created its National Green Building Standard program to meet the ICC-700 standards of the International Code Council. When you get a green certified home from Excel, it can qualify for ICC-700 confirmation, which rates homes in different green categories.

different categories of green. Every Excel home plan already comes with many standard “green-built” points. From there, using our Green Building Program, you and your Excel Homes builder can develop a plan to help you reach the green rating that works best with your needs, goals and budget. You can build a home that's rated Bronze, Silver, Gold or Emerald, depending on various levels of compliance with the National Green Building Standard. Excel's Green Building Program provides tools and planning support to assist you and your builder. A minimum number of points are required in several categories, such as lot design, preparation and development, to achieve each rating. (See chart below.)

Green Rating Categories

	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Emerald
Lot Design, Preparation & Development	39	66	93	119
Resource Efficiency	45	79	113	146
Energy Efficiency	30	60	100	120
Water Efficiency	14	26	41	60
Indoor Environmental	36	65	100	140
Operation, Maintenance & Homeowner Education	8	10	11	12
Additional Points from Sections of Your Choice	50	100	100	100
Totals	222	406	558	697

Chart shows the minimum number of points your home must receive in each category to be rated Bronze, Silver, Gold or Emerald. Please visit excelhomes.com/green to learn more about the Green Rating Categories.