



Green is good!

Green Terminology

ACH	Air Changes per Hour. Part of ENERGY STAR® and Platinum Level testing to determine how much air leaks through the walls and ceilings. Lower number is more efficient.
ASHRAE	American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. This is the primary organization used in the United States for the design standards in our HVAC systems.
FRESH AIR SYSTEM	An electronic system connected to the HVAC system that brings in filtered outside air on a timed basis.
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. HVAC includes the furnace, air conditioning components, fan and ductwork installed in a home.
IAQ	Indoor Air Quality. IAQ is the quality of the air breathed by occupants of an indoor or enclosed environment.
IRC	International Residential Code. The IRC is the Building Code for the State of Texas.
JUMP DUCT	A flexible, short, u-shaped duct that connects a room to a common space as a pressure balancing mechanism.
LOW-E3	Low emissivity. Three layers of coatings on windows that maximize the amount of heat reflected back which, in turn, greatly reduces utility bills.
MANUAL J	The ASHRAE method for calculating residential home cooling loads and the sizing of the system.
MERV	Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value. The ASHRAE standard for filter efficiency. Higher rating is better.
PRESSURE BALANCING	To equalize air pressures between rooms in a house by adjusting air flow in supply and return ducts.
RADIANT BARRIER	Low emissivity attic decking that reduces summer heat gain, reduces cooling energy usage.
R-410A	Environmentally-friendly refrigerant used in our HVAC systems.
R-VALUE	Resistance – Value. The resistance a material has to heat flow. The higher the R-Value, the greater the resistance.
SEER	Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating. It measures the efficiency of the air conditioner once it is up and running. Higher number is better.
SHGC	Solar Heat Gain Co-efficient. The solar radiation entering a home through the windows. The lower the number, the better the window is at blocking heat gain.
THERMAL ENVELOPE/ ENCLOSURE	A home's exterior shell – walls, foundation, floors, ceiling, windows, doors and roof.
U-VALUE	A measure of heat transmission due to the air temperature difference from inside to outside. The lower the U-value, the better.
VOC's	Volatile Organic Compounds. The term covers a wide range of chemical compounds, some of which can be harmful.

In the 21st century if it's not green, it's just not a good investment.

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