



Green is good!

Frequently Asked Questions

1. So what exactly is a David Weekley Green Home?

We combined the benefits of building science research with the Diamond Level requirements for the *Environments For Living*® program.

2. Are we Energy Star® Certified, too?

Yes, we are still an Energy Star Builder, although homes certified by *Environments For Living* exceed Energy Star Requirements! (See below for additional information on how much better).

3. What is *Environments For Living*?

The *Environments For Living* program has combined the major features of building science for the benefit of America's Homebuyers. The major features are a more comfortable, healthier and more energy-efficient home. The program's energy use and comfort guarantee promises potential savings, comfort and durability.

4. Why did we choose the *Environments For Living* Diamond program?

There are so many claims to being "green," we felt that a national program with a great reputation would be the right choice and be more credible to our Homebuyers and Homeowners.

5. Are there different levels of the *Environments For Living* program?

Yes, there are many different levels in the *Environments For Living* program. The first level is Silver and the second level is Gold. The top-tier level programs are Diamond (energy focus) and Certified Green (more emphasis on water conservation).

6. Why did David Weekley Homes choose the Diamond Level?

It's a win-win-win for David Weekley Homes, our Customers and the environment. Approximately 80% of all environmental damage is caused by energy production and consumption. If we reduce the amount of energy needed, there is less damage to the environment. Less energy needed for our homes means less dollars out of our Homeowners' pocketbooks!

7. How much better are homes at the Diamond Level?

Homes at the *Environments For Living* Diamond Level can save up to 50% more in energy (heating and air conditioning) usage than a similar home built to 2004 building code standards.

8. Does the *Environments For Living* Diamond Level go above and beyond Energy Star?

Yes. Energy Star standards are only approximately 15% better than a home built to 2004 building code standards..

9. What is the *Environments For Living* guarantee?

Each home that closes will be given a certificate that indicates the average yearly maximum energy usage for heating and air conditioning (only) to be guaranteed by *Environments For Living*. This will vary based on the size, number of windows, etc., per home.

10. What if the Homeowner exceeds the average yearly maximum for heat and air for the year?

Environments For Living will take a look at the situation and if there is no issue, *Environments For Living* will reimburse the Homeowner the stated cost, if the Homeowner has complied with the terms of the *Environments For Living* Guarantee.

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

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Green Terminology

ACH	Air Changes per Hour. Part of Energy Star® and Diamond Level testing to determine how much air leaks through the walls and ceilings. Lower number is more efficient.
AFUE	Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency. A furnace's heating efficiency. Measures the heat delivered vs. the fuel used. Measures in percentages. The higher number is better.
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.
ENERGY STAR	A joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.
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. First published in 2003, the IRC is the Building Code for the State of Colorado.
JUMP DUCT	A flexible, short, u-shaped duct that connects a room to a common space as a pressure balancing mechanism.
LOW E2	Low emissivity. Glass is coated with a metallic oxide layer that improves thermal performance. The primary function is to reduce heat gain in the summer and heat loss in the winter.
MANUAL J	The ASHRAE method for calculating residential home cooling loads and the sizing of the system.
PRESSURE BALANCING	To equalize air pressure between rooms in a home by adjusting air flow in supply and return ducts.
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.
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds. The term covers a wide range of chemical compounds, some of which can be harmful.

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