



Green is Good in Atlanta

Frequently Asked Questions

1. So what exactly is a David Weekley EnergySaver™ home in Atlanta?

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

2. What is *Environments For Living*?

The *Environments For Living* program provides a rigorous set of requirements for home builders who've made a commitment to go the extra mile. It's a program that treats a home as a "system of systems" that work together, with limited guarantees on comfort and heating and cooling energy use. A home built under the *Environments For Living* program is an energy-efficient home that has been constructed using the principles of building science – homes that offer energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality and durability benefits.

3. Why did David Weekley Homes choose the *Environments For Living* Diamond Level program?

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

4. Why did you specifically choose the *Environments For Living* Diamond Level?

It's a win-win-win for everyone: us, you – 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 money (or fewer dollars) out of your pocketbook!

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

Homes in Atlanta at the *Environments For Living* Diamond Level are on average 43% more energy efficient than a home built in 2006.

6. 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.

7. What if I exceed the average yearly maximum for heat and air conditioning?

If you exceed the guarantee, *Environments For Living* will take a look at the situation. If there is no issue, they will reimburse the difference, as long as you have complied with the terms of the *Environments For Living* guarantee.

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Green Terminology

ACH	Air Changes per Hour. Part of <i>Environments For Living</i> ® 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.
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 2000, the IRC is the Building Code for the State of Georgia.
Jump Duct	A flexible, short, u-shaped duct that connects a room to a common space as a pressure balancing mechanism.
Low-E	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.
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 home by adjusting air flow in supply and return ducts.
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 Coefficient. 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.

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