



Green is Good in San Antonio Green Terminology

ACH	Air Changes per Hour. Part of ENERGY STAR® and <i>Environments for Living</i> ® Platinum Level Program 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. 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-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.
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.
Radiant Barrier	Low emissivity attic decking (under shingled roofs) 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 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.
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds. The term covers a wide range of chemical compounds, some of which can be harmful.

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