



Green is Good in Houston

Frequently Asked Questions

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

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 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 heating and cooling energy usage. A home built under the *Environments For Living* program is an energy-efficient home that has been constructed using the principles of building science – each home offers energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality and durability benefits.

4. Why did David Weekley Homes choose the *Environments For Living* 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.

5. Why did you specifically choose the *Environments For Living* Diamond Level, the most energy-efficient 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!

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

Homes at the *Environments For Living* Diamond Level in Houston are on average 41% more energy efficient than a home built in 2006.

7. 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.

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

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.

David Weekley Homes
EnergySaver





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Green Terminology

ACCA	Air Conditioning Contractors of America. This is the primary organization used in the United States for the design standards in our HVAC systems.
ACH	Air Changes per Hour. Part of ENERGY STAR® and <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.
HERS	"Home Energy Rating System" Index is a scoring system established by the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET®) that measures the energy performance of a home. The lower your home's HERS Index, the more energy-efficient it is.
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. HVAC includes the furnace, air conditioning components, fan and ductwork installed in a home.
Fresh Air System	An electronic system connected to the HVAC system that brings in filtered outside air on a timed basis.
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. Coatings on windows that maximize the amount of heat reflected back which, in turn, greatly reduces utility bills.
Manual J	The ACCA's 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.
Sill Seal	A foam gasket applied underneath the bottom plate (the piece of lumber that sits on top of the foundation) and keeps air and water from coming into the wall.
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.