



.....

The *Environments For Living*® program was launched in 2001, in response to a growing need for professional services to support regional and national home builders in applying building science and energy-efficient construction practices in the field.

.....

environmentsforliving.com

TopBuild Home Services, Inc. • 260 Jimmy Ann Drive, Daytona Beach, FL 32114 •
Tel: 866-912-7233




BECAUSE A GREEN HOME
ISN'T JUST BETTER FOR
the ENVIRONMENT
IT'S BETTER
for **EVERYONE.**

HOMEOWNER'S BROCHURE

© 2009-2015 TopBuild Home Services, Inc.

ENVIRONMENTS FOR *Living*®
CERTIFIED GREEN



*WHEN YOUR BUILDER
CONSTRUCTS
YOUR NEW HOME
ACCORDING TO THE
ENVIRONMENTS FOR
LIVING CERTIFIED
GREEN® PROGRAM
REQUIREMENTS*,
YOU ARE ASSURED
THAT IT WILL BE
“GREENER” IN THAT
IT WILL BE:*

MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

MORE DURABLE

MORE COMFORTABLE

MORE WATER EFFICIENT

SAFER

** Compared to conventional
code-built homes*

PUTTING SCIENCE ON YOUR SIDE.

BECAUSE DOING THE RIGHT THING
IS THE SMART THING.

A green home can do more than help the environment. It can increase your home's comfort and durability. It can help you save money through energy-saving features that can add up over time. And, it can even provide you with potentially greater resale value.

The *Environments For Living Certified Green*® program provides a rigorous set of requirements for home builders who've made a commitment to go the extra mile. It's a program based on "building science." It treats a home as a "system of systems" that work together, and it backs this science with limited guarantees* on comfort and heating/cooling energy use. The *Environments For Living Certified Green* program even takes into account indoor environmental quality and indoor water conservation.

It's all designed to give you a home you can be proud of.
In more ways than one.

ENVIRONMENTS FOR *Living*®
CERTIFIED GREEN

**Please see actual guarantee for details and limitations on environmentsforliving.com.*

THE *ENVIRONMENTS* FOR *LIVING* CERTIFIED GREEN® PROGRAM

- The only national turn-key program of its kind.
- Designed to assist builders in constructing energy-efficient homes.
- Based on the sound principles of building science.
- Provides guidelines to ensure that your new home is more comfortable and more durable than conventional code-built homes.
- Includes specific requirements for indoor environmental quality, interior water conservation, and lighting and appliance efficiency.
- Backed by limited guarantees* on heating and cooling energy use and comfort.



**Please see actual guarantee for details and limitations on environmentsforliving.com.*

BECAUSE IT'S BACKED BY A GUARANTEE.

THE LIMITED COMFORT GUARANTEE*

- Relates to your ability to maintain an even temperature through your house (for example, a bedroom that never seems to get warm enough in winter or cool enough in summer).
- Guarantees that the temperature at the location of your home's thermostat will not vary more than ± 3 degrees from the center of any conditioned room within the thermostat's zone.
- For more information about the Comfort Guarantee, visit environmentsforliving.com.

THE LIMITED HEATING AND COOLING ENERGY-USE GUARANTEE*

- Relates to the amount of energy required to heat and cool your home.
- Based on building science – the combination of special framing techniques, improved insulation systems and efficient ductwork helps manage the energy you use to heat and cool your home.
- For more information about the Limited Heating and Cooling Energy-Use Guarantee, visit environmentsforliving.com.

**Please see actual guarantee for details and limitations on environmentsforliving.com.*

YOUR HOME. YOUR ENVIRONMENT.

YOUR BUILT-IN FEATURES AND BENEFITS.

The *Environments For Living Certified Green*® program starts before construction begins with a review of your builder's plans; this review is to ensure that the builder's plans conform to the program's stringent requirements. Much of what our program requires, described below, may seem to be things all builders should do, and things all homes should have.

The surprising answer is that conventional code-built homes are not built to these specifications and do not offer these benefits. That's because building codes are generally designed to establish the minimum that a builder must do, largely in the interest of public safety. In contrast, the *Environments For Living Certified Green* program establishes higher benchmarks for performance and includes advanced construction techniques.

Energy Efficiency

Tight Construction – Special framing techniques such as a continuous air barrier and sealing of penetrations help reduce internal leaks and drafts.

Improved Thermal Systems – Enhanced insulation techniques help to minimize voids and gaps, and higher thermal properties (R-value) add to energy efficiency.

Right-Sized HVAC – “Right-sized” heating and cooling systems and sealed air ducts help equipment work efficiently. (“Right-sized” refers to the process of determining which HVAC system should be used in any particular structure.)

Guaranteed Performance – Written guarantees* are issued to homeowners on the amount of energy used for heating and cooling, and comfort.

Energy-Efficient Lighting – At least 60% of all hard-wired lights must be compact fluorescent or LED, reducing overall home energy consumption.

Energy-Efficient Appliances – ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances such as refrigerators and clothes dryers, dishwashers and efficient water heaters help conserve energy.

Low-E Windows – Low “emissivity” windows have protective coatings to help keep heat in during winter and out during summer.

*Please see actual guarantee for details and limitations on environmentsforliving.com.



Durability

Internal Moisture Management – Vents, pressure balancing, fresh air ventilation and “right-sized” HVAC equipment work to reduce moisture in multiple ways.

Tight Construction – Air barrier continuity and air tightness reduce the potential for moisture to enter the building envelope.

Improved Thermal Systems – Program requirements such as Low-E windows and insulation installed in contact with the air barrier reduce the potential for moisture build-up.

Optimum Value Engineering – Special framing techniques reduce lumber requirements and material use, while maintaining structural integrity.

Paint Durability – Interior paints that meet a minimum 400 scrubs (ASTM D4060-07) add to product longevity and can reduce future material needs.



Indoor Environmental Quality

Fresh Air Ventilation – Fresh air ventilation systems deliver filtered fresh air to help reduce dust, odors and indoor contaminants for improved indoor air quality.

Enhanced Filtration Systems – Air filters with a MERV (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value) of 8 or greater, or an approved electronic air cleaner, provide extra protection from contaminants.

Paint – Using paints with low levels of VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) reduce indoor pollutants.

Carpet – Carpets carrying the Carpet Rug and Institute (CRI) Green Label® for low VOC emissions strictly limit substances that can off-gas.

Cabinetry – Cabinets constructed from composite panels that meet the standards of the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association Environmental Stewardship Program (www.kcma.org), and the Composite Panel Association Environmentally Preferable Product Specification (CPA 03-08) (www.pbmdf.com).

Internal Moisture Management – Vents, pressure balancing, fresh air ventilation and “right-sized” HVAC equipment work to reduce moisture in multiple ways.

Air Pressure Balancing – Balanced air pressure throughout the home results in more even temperatures and reduces the potential for condensation build-up.

Combustion Safety – Combustion appliances in conditioned spaces are sealed or power-vented to help avoid build-up of carbon monoxide, vent-free fireplaces are not allowed and pressure balancing is required. CO detectors are required in all homes.

Water Efficiency

Low-Flow Faucets – Kitchen sink and lavatory faucets that conserve water help reduce overall internal household water consumption.

Low-Flow Showerheads – Showerheads using the latest technologies can help save water without compromising performance.

High-Efficiency Dishwashers – ENERGY STAR® rated dishwashers use less water and add to overall household water savings.

High-Efficiency Toilets – Water efficient toilets that meet specific performance criteria help reduce water use in the home.

High-Performance Clothes Washers – ENERGY STAR® qualified clothes washers that meet specific water efficiency metrics help to save on household water use.

To find a builder currently participating in the *Environments For Living Certified Green*® program, or to see if your builder is participating in the program, please visit our website: environmentsforliving.com.

SPONSORS

The *Environments For Living*® program is proud to list the following organizations among its sponsors:



ENERGY STAR® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Environments For Living is a registered service mark of TopBuild Home Services, Inc. Printed 8/15 Pub No. EFL03