

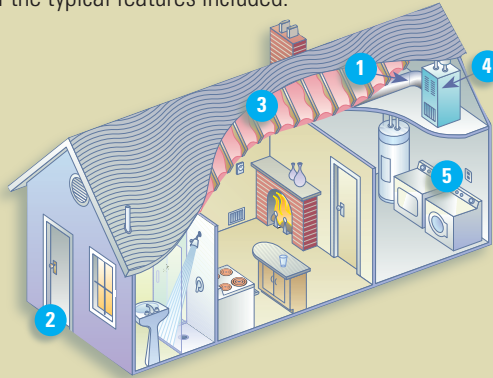
## What are **ENERGY STAR®** qualified new homes?

**ENERGY STAR® qualified new homes are independently verified, government-backed and more energy efficient.**

- ▶ The ENERGY STAR program is backed by the EPA and is a voluntary partnership with the builder. The ENERGY STAR label identifies energy-efficient new homes and products for consumers.
- ▶ An independent Home Energy Rating System (HERS) provider completes a verification process of an ENERGY STAR home's energy uses, including heating, cooling, water heating, lighting and appliances. The verification process is stringent and may include software analysis of the home's floor plan, visual verification of installed measures, and diagnostic testing for air infiltration and air distribution leakage. This process ensures that ENERGY STAR homes are at least 15 percent more efficient than the Texas Residential Building Code.
- ▶ The features of an ENERGY STAR new home contribute to improved home quality, homeowner comfort, lower energy demand and reduced air pollution. ENERGY STAR also encourages the use of energy-efficient lighting and appliances, as well as features designed to improve indoor air quality.

## How does a **HOME QUALIFY** as ENERGY STAR?

Homes that earn the ENERGY STAR label achieve their energy savings through a variety of reliable and established technologies and building practices. The result is an "Index" rating that indicates the efficiency of the home. Below are some of the typical features included:

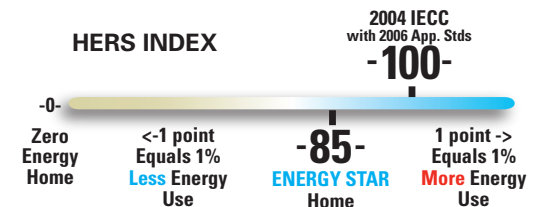


- 1 Tight Construction and Tight Ducts** – Verification and testing of the home and air distribution system by a HERS rater helps reduce drafts, moisture, pests and noise. A tightly-sealed home improves comfort and indoor air quality.
- 2 High Performance Windows** – Windows that meet the specific climate zone for Houston's requirements provide for maximum performance for reducing heat gain.
- 3 Improved Insulation** – A detailed inspection, the new Thermal Bypass Checklist, requires visual inspection of framing areas where air barriers are commonly missed. Verification of the proper installation of insulation provides a more comfortable home.
- 4 Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling Equipment** – High-efficiency heating and cooling systems that are properly sized to perform at the systems peak capability provide reduced energy costs and greater comfort.
- 5 Lighting and Appliances** – Homes may also be equipped with ENERGY STAR qualified products such as lighting fixtures, compact fluorescent bulbs, ventilation fans, and appliances, to provide additional energy savings.

## **BENEFITS** of buying an ENERGY STAR qualified new home

The benefits of buying an ENERGY STAR home can be demonstrated through its Index Rating, which measures energy efficiency. What is a HERS Index?:

- ▶ The index is a "yard stick" that measures efficiency against minimum Code Standards.
- ▶ The Index starts at 100, which represents a code minimum home. Lower index numbers equal less energy used and more savings.
- ▶ Higher index homes use more energy and result in higher greenhouse gas emissions. ENERGY STAR homes help the environment by significantly reducing carbon emissions into the air by as much as 4,500 pounds per year, per home, according to the EPA.
- ▶ ENERGY STAR Homes are at least 15 percent more efficient than code and have an index of 85 or less.



**The bottom line is that by purchasing a new ENERGY STAR qualified home you can save money on your monthly utility bills, live in a more comfortable home and help keep energy demand down.**

Nothing says **welcome**  
to the neighborhood of **savings**  
and **comfort** better  
than an **ENERGY STAR**<sup>®</sup>  
home. The Environmental Protection  
Agency (EPA) says that by choosing  
and ENERGY STAR builder, your new  
home will use less energy for more  
**efficient** cooling, heating  
and natural gas water heating. Not to  
mention, ENERGY STAR may increase  
your home's **value.**



ENERGY STAR for Homes is a government program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CenterPoint Energy does not warrant construction or inspection of any ENERGY STAR home.

CenterPoint Energy is not a party to the agreement between you and your builder, and the builder is solely responsible for the performance of the work and contract fulfillment.

Funding provided by the regulated electric utility for this program is approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas in support of state-wide energy efficiency efforts.

For more information on ENERGY STAR,  
log on to [www.HoustonEnergyStar.com](http://www.HoustonEnergyStar.com).



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