

What is a HERS Index?

The HERS rating process results in a calculation to compare the energy efficiency of a home to a reference house that complies with a minimum set of efficiency standards. The 2004 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the 2006 National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA) represent the construction standards for the reference home. This reference home is assigned a rating of 100, and each point along the Index scale represents one percentage (1%) change in energy use from this reference point.

ENERGY STAR qualification requires an Index of 85 or lower. Thus, an ENERGY STAR qualified home uses approximately 15% less energy for heating, cooling, lighting, appliances and water heating than a code built home. Index ratings of less than 85 will save additional energy.

The illustration below visually demonstrates the relationship between an ENERGY STAR qualified home and minimum code standards. A typical existing home may have an Index rating of 120-150, or higher.

