



Energy Efficient Homebuilding: A Smart Choice for Savings and Sustainability

Until recently, the average new home buyer probably thought of "green building" as a noble concept – but one found only in custom homes bought by millionaires. It would be great to embrace a home made from environmentally sensitive materials, with exceptional attention to energy use and the comfort and health of the home's inhabitants, but who could afford this in the "real world?"

Thanks to innovative efforts underway at Pulte Homes, the answer is becoming "everyone!"

Pulte Homes incorporates many energy efficient practices and "green" products in our new home communities across the country. For new home buyers of all types, greater energy efficiency translates into lasting savings, a comfortable home environment, and smart use of natural resources.

Here's a sampling of what Pulte Homes is doing in various markets across the U.S. to create a better-performing home that embraces both sustainability and cost-savings:



Right-sized HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) systems are designed specifically for the size and layout of your home. Properly sized HVAC equipment will run for longer periods of time at a lower rate of energy consumption, keeping your home at a more consistent, comfortable temperature and extending the life of your HVAC equipment. The HVAC system's return air grilles and multiple air ducts help to lower humidity, stimulate fresh air ventilation and reduce energy usage.



An **overall tight building envelope** could be considered the "skin" of your home. Air sealing helps reduce energy loss, which in turn lowers your energy use. Pulte uses Dow's WEATHERMATE Plus housewrap on many homes, which acts as a kind of protective "jacket" to defend the home against moisture intrusion and air infiltration.



Low-E (low emissivity) windows feature a metallic coating between two panels of glass that helps to block out unwanted ultraviolet (UV) light and the sun's heat – reducing energy use, condensation and minimizing the sun's damage to the upholstery and carpet fabrics in your home.



Homes that earn the government's **ENERGY STAR**[®] label meet strict guidelines for energy efficiency set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Pulte Homes' ENERGY STAR qualified homes are at least 15% more energy efficient than standard homes.

Many Pulte Homes communities now feature **ENERGY STAR appliances** as a standard in every home. As certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, all ENERGY STAR appliances use 10-50% less energy and water than standard models.¹ According to the DOE, appliances and lighting account for more than one-third of the average homeowner's utility bill,² so incorporating energy-efficient appliances can translate into significant savings.

While many Pulte Homes markets around the country are bringing savings and sustainability to new homebuyers with these and other "high performance" building initiatives, Pulte Homes' communities in Texas are finding that new home buyers are looking for even more "green" practices and energy efficient products. In addition to the examples above, select Pulte Homes communities in Texas include programmable thermostats as well as the Hunter ET System for irrigation which can provide dramatic savings in water use and on water bills.

As Pulte Homes is proving, "green building" is no longer a concept of the future or a practice reserved for custom homebuyers. Pulte homebuyers across the country are realizing significant energy savings and enjoying more comfortable homes with their families as we continue to research and implement innovative products and practices for smart, sustainable communities.

1 – www.energystar.gov

2 – U.S. Department of Energy 2005 Buildings Energy Data Book

