

# A Green Build

**I**n choosing to build a new home, you will ensure its compliance with all of the most recent energy-efficiency ratings. The savings of implementing a green building strategy can quickly accumulate – especially considering how far the industry has come in the past 20 years.

A new home can end up saving you more than 30 percent on energy bills compared to an older home on the market, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

The main reason for this discrepancy is the number of inspections your home will go through during the building process. Once the walls are up and the windows are added, inspectors will be able to per-

form tests to make sure there are no air leaks or other pain points that could decrease your home's energy efficiency.

## INSULATION

Whether your new home is being built in Alaska or Florida, the right insulation will help it keep you comfortable year-round. The FTC enforces several energy-related laws, including the R-value Rule

dealing with insulation.

“R” stands for resistance to heat flow — the higher the R-value, the greater the insulating power.

Where you live will affect the R-value need of your home, as will how your home is being built, whether it is a single-level or multi-level structure or if you will have a basement. Check out [www.energy.gov/energysaver](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver) for tips on choosing the appropriate insulation.

## GEOHERMAL

No matter where you live, the geothermal system has been called the cleanest, most affordable way to heat and cool your home.

It taps into the free energy in

the ground, which remains at a fairly consistent temperature throughout the year, regardless of climate or season.

Depending on your home's size, a new geothermal system could cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to install, according to the Energy Environmental Corporation. It's a pricy investment, but one that could pay for itself in a few short years. That's because geothermal systems are estimated to reduce utility bills by 40 to 60 percent.



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