



GOOD FOR CONSUMERS

WHY WOULD I WANT A GREEN HOME?

Simply put, green homes are better built, higher quality homes.

Green homes are designed and constructed to be healthier, more comfortable, have lower operating costs, be more durable, require less maintenance, and be part of a sustainable lifestyle. The builder of a green home incorporates advanced building science and products so that the home performs better than a code-minimum home.

WHAT IS AN NGBS GREEN CERTIFIED HOME?

NGBS Green Certified homes have independent verification that the home is built in compliance with the strict requirements of the National Green Building Standard ICC/ASHRAE - 700 (NGBS). The NGBS is an above-code green building rating system for homes and apartments approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), as an American National Standard. The NGBS provides a blueprint for builders to follow for the design and construction of new and renovated single-family homes and multifamily apartment buildings. An NGBS Green certificate (or plaque) is your independent proof that a home was designed, built, and third-party verified to meet the NGBS.

HOW DOES AN NGBS GREEN HOME COMPARE TO A CODE-MINIMUM HOME?

NGBS Green homes are designed and built to be more energy efficient, have a better indoor environment, be more water efficient, waste fewer resources, and minimize impacts on the neighborhood. In addition, each NGBS Green Certified home comes with a Homeowner's Manual to ensure the green features deliver years of high performance.

WHAT IS THE NGBS GREEN PROMISE?

With an NGBS Green Certified home, "going green" has never been easier or more affordable. When you see our mark, you can feel confident knowing that your home meets the National Green Building Standard (NGBS). It's more than a mark, it's a commitment to bettering our planet and improving your life.

WHY IS INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION IMPORTANT?

Lots of builders claim their homes are green. But without NGBS Green certification issued by Home Innovation Research Labs, you must take the builder's word that the green features are installed correctly. Independent, third-party certification is your proof that a home or apartment building is, in fact, NGBS compliant and truly green. A recent National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) survey of homebuyers revealed 100% agreement that independent certification was an important factor in their purchasing decision! One. Hundred. Percent!

HOW DOES A HOME EARN NGBS GREEN CERTIFICATION?

Every NGBS Green Certified home is inspected in-person at least twice by an experienced NGBS Green Verifier - an inspector independent from the builder who has been accredited by Home Innovation Research Labs. Before a verifier can award the home NGBS points for practices claimed by the builder, he or she must visually inspect nearly every one of the green practices, products, and technologies to ensure they are installed correctly. Verifiers conduct an inspection of the home before the drywall is installed so they can verify all the green practices, such as insulation installation, inside the wall. Then they come back for a final inspection when the home is complete to ensure all the green practices installed after their first inspection are correct. Home Innovation reviews every single verification report to ensure it is complete and accurate before issuing the NGBS Green certification.

WHO IS HOME INNOVATION RESEARCH LABS?

Home Innovation Research Labs started as a small product testing laboratory in 1964. Over 50 years later, we have become a full-service market research, consulting, product testing, and accredited third-party certification agency dedicated solely to home building research and issues. Our mission is to improve the quality, durability, affordability, and environmental performance of homes and home building products.

Home Innovation serves as Adopting Entity for the NGBS, and has issued well over 100,000 NGBS Green certifications nationwide to homes and apartments. Buyers, real estate brokers, appraisers, and lenders know when they see the NGBS Green Certified mark, the home it's attached to embodies exceptional design and performance.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT CERTIFICATION LEVELS?

A home or multifamily building can attain one of four performance levels — Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Emerald. For a building to attain any level of NGBS Green certification, the applicable mandatory provisions must be correctly implemented.

Any home with an NGBS Green Certified mark on it is green, top to bottom. But the NGBS allows four certification levels so builders can provide options based on market preferences, homebuyer budgets, and other regional or cultural influences. NGBS Green is the only residential green certification program that requires increasingly higher point thresholds in ALL categories for a home to reach the next level of certification.

This NGBS difference ensures that, no matter the certification level, the home is green in all aspects; not just extremely energy efficient, for example, with little regard for indoor environmental quality or how the home relates to the surrounding community and amenities.

DO NGBS GREEN HOMES COST MORE?

Not necessarily. Some NGBS requirements add cost, such as more efficient HVAC equipment, better insulation, improved ventilation, and higher efficacy lighting. However, while these features may have higher first costs, they often result in lower operating costs. In some markets, green certified homes also sell for more money than lower-performing conventional homes. In the end, an NGBS Green Certified home may cost less to own and operate when you consider the total cost of homeownership.



NGBS GREEN CERTIFIED = A Better Place to Call Home
Find out more — **visit [NGBS.com](https://www.ngbs.com) today.**