

Remodeling Certification



Home Innovation
NGBS GREEN CERTIFIED™

As an independent, third-party research and testing organization, Home Innovation Research Labs has the capacity, expertise, and credentials to ensure our NGBS Green Certified mark stands for consistency, rigor, and credibility.

Our certification mark is easy for consumers to recognize and understand that it can bring added value, quality assurance, and peace of mind to their renovation project. We do all that while keeping our certification practical and affordable.

Home Innovation Labs certifies a renovation project is in compliance with the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard™ (NGBS). ANSI-approved and consensus-based, the NGBS provides certification options for the renovation and remodeling of residential buildings to increase energy and water efficiency and reduce the project's environmental impact.

ADDED VALUE

Homeowners look to remodel their homes when their current living conditions no longer meet their needs. For example: a growing family may need additional living space; an older home may need updating; or the layout of a home may not suit a family's lifestyle. Older homes may also have heating or air conditioning systems, or components such as windows or roofs, that have outlived their functional life and need to be replaced.

Most homeowners don't undertake a remodeling project explicitly to make their home "greener." However, incorporating green practices, products,



and technologies into a home remodel can help most homeowners achieve their objective of making their home more comfortable, reduce operating costs, increase durability, and even potentially cutting maintenance requirements.

DESIGN FLEXIBILITY

Homeowner needs, geography, and the type and scale of the proposed renovation will influence how and what green aspects should be considered for the remodel project. In some cases, efficiency improvements may be the priority. Upgrades like new HVAC equipment, water-efficient plumbing and appliances, increased insulation, and air leak sealing would be discussed. In other cases, the spotlight would be on improving living conditions and comfort through better designed space, increased ventilation, improved air filtering, and low-VOC product selection.

For a home to receive the NGBS green certification mark, all of the NGBS remodeling requirements must be met. However, the NGBS allows homeowners and remodelers the flexibility to work together to select those practices and products that provide the most value within their budget to attain a more high-performing, green home.

INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION

Green certification by Home Innovation Research Labs requires a qualified, independent third party to inspect completed renovation work and verify that all practices claimed toward green certification are incorporated correctly into the project. Verifiers record the results of their inspection(s) on a Verification Report, which is submitted to Home Innovation Research Labs and reviewed for accuracy and completeness. Home Innovation Research Labs issues the green certification for the project when all work is inspected and complete. Verification fees vary by market and project scope.

NGBS remodeling focuses on key green performance attributes that have the greatest potential to improve ongoing consumption of resources by the home.

SINGLE-FAMILY HOME OR MULTIFAMILY BUILDING RENOVATION

The NGBS green remodeling certification applies to:

- Single-family homes and townhouses
- Duplexes, quads, and garden apartments
- High- and low-rise apartment buildings
- Residential units in mixed-use buildings

A green remodeled home or multifamily building can be awarded a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Emerald certification level, depending on improvement in water and energy efficiency and the number of additional green practices incorporated in the project.

For a home or building remodel to be NGBS Green Certified, the following requirements must be met:

1. Achieve significant improvements in energy and water efficiency
2. Meet applicable mandatory practices
3. Implement sufficient additional green practices

SMALL REMODELING PROJECTS

Small projects certification applies to the most common remodeling projects: kitchens; full bathrooms; basements; and additions under 400 square feet. Small remodeling projects receive a “Certified” designation; there are no certification levels.

For a small remodel project to be NGBS Green Certified, the project must meet a number of specific requirements, which include but are not limited to:

- Material use
- Moisture control
- Building thermal envelope
- Air sealing and insulation

In addition, small remodels must meet specific practices depending on the type of functional area:

- Kitchen remodel criteria—recycling and food waste disposal practices
- Bathroom remodel criteria—focus on water-efficient fixtures and universal design for aging-in-place
- Basement remodel criteria—moisture inspection and radon-control practices
- Criteria for additions—variety of practices related to moisture reduction, ice barrier installation, and radon control

Interested in having your project(s)
NGBS Green Certified?

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