

Healthy Homes Check List

10 Questions to Ask Your Builder



Is the new home you're thinking of buying built with your family's safety and well-being in mind? Use these questions to ensure every aspect of your new home is healthy, from the inside out.

1. What type of insulation do you use?

- Spray foam
- Cellulose Spray
- Fiberglass Batt
- Other

Spray foam minimizes air infiltration and assists in limiting moisture from entering the home, which reduces the work for your heating and cooling systems.

Fiberglass Batt is cost effective with a long lifespan. It's typically made from recycled glass, making it eco-friendly.

Cellulose spray is made from recycled newsprint fibers that are treated with non-toxic borate. Cellulose spray increases air tightness.

2. What is the R value in the following areas?

- Ceiling/Attic: _____
- Wall: _____
- Slab (side of foundation): _____

The higher the R value, the easier it is to maintain the internal temperature of the home. That means more energy efficiency, less money wasted on heating cost, and a cozy living room year round.

R values can be different based on the location and area in the home. For example, attics have more space and will have a higher R value than walls.

3. What certifications will this home have?

- LEED
- Energy Star
- WaterSense
- Zero Energy Ready
- Indoor Air Plus
- Other

Certifications should go beyond the appliances the builder uses. Builders who are certified have received a stamp of approval from 3rd party groups. On the other hand, those who are qualified have met all of the requirements but haven't filed for certification.

4. Is this a code minimum home or does it exceed code?

- Yes No

Code is a government standard for the minimum requirement for you to live in a home. Homes that exceed code go above and beyond the bare minimum to offer improved energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality.

5. What non-toxic building materials are you using (Low VOC or Non-VOC), and where are you using these materials?

- Paint
- Cabinets
- Carpet
- Hard Surface Flooring
- Other

VOCs are volatile organic compounds that can be irritating to the lungs, eyes, throat, and nose. The fewer VOCs, the safer it is to breathe in the air in the home.

6. How efficient is the home?

- Furnace (FAU) efficiency %: _____
(Typical efficiency ranges from 70-99%. The higher the percentage, the more efficient the home is.)
- A/C SEER (seasonal energy efficiency rating): _____
(Typical ratings are between 13-19. The higher the rating, the more efficient the home is.)
- Type of Ventilation
 - Intake/Exhaust Only
 - HRV
 - ERV

7. Are your appliances Energy Star rated?

- Yes No

8. Does this home have a tankless water heater?

- Yes No

9. What type of "fuel" is used?

- Electric
- Renewable Energy
- Gas

While all fuel sources are acceptable options, there are many factors that can influence which is the right option for you, including personal preference, how you use your energy, and where you live.

10. Does your water heater have a recirculation pump?

- Yes No

A recirculation pump circulates the hot water through your home, giving your family hot water when and where you need it.

Woodside Homes: Where Happy Meets Healthy

At Woodside Homes, we know finding the right home can be stressful. That's why our new construction homes are designed with your wellbeing and happiness in mind. Our living well features ensure every aspect of your home is healthy, from the insulation to the ventilation. We have partnered with government and non-profit agencies to build energy efficient and quality homes throughout AZ, CA, NV and UT. With a Woodside Home, you can feel confident knowing you're providing your family with a secure sanctuary where they can thrive. Explore our available and coming-soon homes now to find your happy place.