



The [Healthy Built Homes](#) Website Has Changed

The page you are trying to access may have moved. Please go to the [Homepage](#) to find the page you are looking for.

Energy Efficient Homes/Green Building

Over the years, the national dialogue on environmental health, sustainability and climate change has become a major issue. With each year, people are learning more and more about just how much they impact their environment. This has become such an important issue that many homeowners have dedicated themselves to green building practices.

What is "Green Building?"

Green building is an ethic that espouses the use of environmentally-friendly, sustainable building practices. These building practices can relate to how the home is physically constructed or it can relate to the [appliances](#) used inside of it. For example, using sustainably-sourced wood materials in the construction of a home is a common green building tactic. On the same token, using energy-efficient [heating](#) and [cooling](#) systems in the house is also considered a green building tactic. Green building is just as "results oriented" as traditional building practices. The major difference between traditional building and green building does not lie in any quality difference. The only major difference is that green building places a more stringent set of standards on what can and cannot be used in a home.

Are there Benefits?

There are quite a few benefits to building your home in a more environmentally-friendly way. These benefits are not limited purely to ethics. There are also many very real financial benefits to building in an environmentally sustainable way. Grants, government programs and tax incentives exist to help make green building a much more accessible path. These incentives exist even if you're not planning on building an entirely new home. Everything from [additions](#) to the purchase of efficient appliances may be covered. The actual long-term money saved by using green practices is also an important factor. Efficient appliances and [insulation](#) can have a dramatic impact on the amount of money you spend on energy in a year. Unlike their traditional counterparts, these efficient options actually end up paying for themselves over time.

Efficiency is Essential

A cornerstone of the green building ethic is the mantra of [energy efficiency](#) throughout the home. This mentality is directed toward everything from insulation to the kinds of appliances used. Energy-efficient

insulation needs to be used, energy-efficient appliances need to be purchased and energy-efficient [windows](#) need to be installed.

Green Building is the Future

As society progresses, it becomes more and more clear that traditional building practices are not sustainable. There are simply not enough resources to sustain the current widely-used paradigm in development. Even people who don't consider themselves to be very environmentally-conscious can see this basic truth. The world is much different now than it once was and building projects need to reflect that. As time goes on, more and more local and state governments are developing green building standards. These standards are gradually being applied to all building projects with the understanding that everyone shares the same resources. Taking the time to learn about green building practices is an essential step in taking on any building project. Green building makes good financial sense and it makes good environmental sense.

To find out more about green building or to hire an environmentally conscious contractor visit the [Healthy Built Homes](#) website.