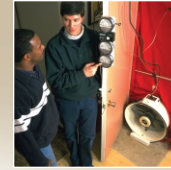




# Adding Up the Savings for Your New Home



Developed by the Office of Energy Efficiency of Natural Resources Canada, the EnerGuide label for new houses gives you the information you need to understand the energy efficiency of your new home. And improving energy efficiency reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Here are some of the questions that homeowners are asking about the label.

## DOES THE ENERGUIDE FOR HOUSES LABEL SHOW ME HOW MUCH ENERGY I CAN EXPECT TO USE?

Yes. The label provides an estimate of how much energy you can expect to use per year for electricity, oil and gas. But keep in mind that it is an estimate, not a guarantee. It can't account for every homeowner's individual lifestyle. It is based on a number of standard assumptions, such as a family of four living in the home and specific thermostat settings and usage rates for hot water, lighting and appliances.

You can also ask your builder to provide you with an estimate of energy cost savings from upgrading your house.



## HOW CAN I USE THE LABEL TO ESTIMATE WHAT I WOULD SAVE IF I CHOOSE TO MAKE EVEN MORE ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS?

If you want to estimate what you could save by choosing an upgrade that gives you an even higher rating, the label helps you do that too.

1. First, find out your unit price for fuels, as in Step 1 (preceding).
2. For each fuel type noted on the label, calculate 3 percent of the annual consumption and multiply it by the unit price of the fuel.
3. Add the totals together, and you will have the total estimated saving if you improved the house by just one point on the EnerGuide for Houses scale.

Typically, moving up the scale by one point saves you 3 to 5 percent on energy consumption. Therefore, even a relatively small energy improvement can lower your energy bill considerably and help you contribute to a cleaner environment.

## HOW CAN I USE THE LABEL TO ESTIMATE MY ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS?

Just follow these steps:

1. Your existing energy bills will tell you the unit price you pay – in kilowatt hours (kWh) for electricity, cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) for natural gas, or litres (L) for oil. If you are presently renting or will be using different fuels in your new house, you will have to contact your local utility or a local home heating oil supplier to find out the unit price for your area.
2. Multiply the estimated annual energy consumption for each fuel noted on the EnerGuide for Houses label by the unit price for that particular fuel.
3. Finally, add the totals for each fuel type to determine your total estimated energy cost.

*Did you know...?  
You can calculate how your daily activities and lifestyle choices affect the production of greenhouse gases and contribute to climate change. Visit the Web site at [www.climcalc.net](http://www.climcalc.net) for more information.*

**Remember:** These are annual savings. Energy upgrades you build into your home today will pay for themselves long into the future.

## DO ALL NEW HOUSES COME WITH AN ENERGUIDE FOR HOUSES LABEL?

No. EnerGuide labelling for new houses has been available in the marketplace only since 2003. New home builders choose to work with EnerGuide for Houses experts to develop energy upgrades for their model homes.

Because using EnerGuide for Houses is a builder's choice, when they offer you an EnerGuide for Houses label, it's your proof that they believe in energy efficiency and have made it a part of their business. The EnerGuide for Houses label on your new house also means that trusted, independent experts from the Government of Canada's EnerGuide for Houses program have rated the level of efficiency of your house.



## WHAT DOES THE RATING OF 68 ON THE NEW HOUSES SCALE MEAN?

The EnerGuide for Houses scale accommodates the millions of houses across Canada – from older homes in need of renovation to newer, more energy-efficient houses. Although the scale ranges from 0 to 100, new houses should rate at 68 or higher simply because of improvements in building standards and practices over the years. For older homes, a rating of 68 can be an achievement.

For new homes today, reaching between 70 and 74 is not difficult. On the EnerGuide scale, an energy-efficient new house would receive a rating of 75 to 79. For example, Natural Resources Canada's recent data show that houses built between 1998 and 2002 typically rate between 73 and 76.<sup>1</sup> Today's highly energy-efficient houses, such as R-2000<sup>2</sup> houses, rate at the highest level, ranging between 80 and 100 on the scale.

## IF MY HOUSE HAS A RATING OF 80 OR HIGHER, DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE AN R-2000 HOME?

No. A house that receives a rating of 80 or higher in an EnerGuide evaluation may not be an R-2000 house. The R-2000 Standard establishes specific requirements for airtightness, mechanical heat recovery and ventilation systems, the use of energy-efficient equipment and environmentally friendly building materials. In addition, R-2000 houses must be built by active R-2000 builders, who update their training regularly. Finally, the energy efficiency and environmental building alternatives of each home is verified by an independent expert on behalf of Natural Resources Canada during the building process – something that sets R-2000 houses apart. So, although all R-2000 houses achieve a rating of 80 or better, not all houses with a rating higher than 80 meet the R-2000 Standard.

R-2000 is a recognized standard of excellence. R-2000 homes are less expensive to operate and more comfortable. Homeowners report that the improved ventilation and indoor air quality makes them healthier to live in. They're built to last and they're more environmentally friendly.

<sup>1</sup> EnerGuide for Houses database, November 2002, Natural Resources Canada.  
<sup>2</sup> R-2000 is an official mark of Natural Resources Canada.

## WHAT KINDS OF HOUSES GET THE 100-POINT RATING?

Because the highest possible rating is 100, it is reserved for houses so efficient that they can operate without any purchased energy. Over the past 20 years, some Canadian builders have emerged as world leaders in this field. Yet very few new homes will approach a 100 rating. Those that do are using technologies that are not yet widely available or cost-effective.

For a list of local offices where you can receive advice about working with your builder to build a more energy-efficient new home, contact Natural Resources Canada at 1 800 387-2000.

**ENERGUIDE**  
**FOR HOUSES • POUR LES MAISONS**  
123 Ottawa Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 2L1

**77**

Level of energy efficiency / Niveau d'efficacité énergétique

Basic / Base 70-74	Improved / Amélioré 75-79	High / Haut 80+
-----------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

Energy Efficiency Target / Objectif d'efficacité énergétique

**Estimated annual energy consumption**  
**Estimation de la consommation annuelle d'énergie**

electricity / électricité :  gas / gaz :  oil / mazout :

File number / N<sup>o</sup> de dossier : \_\_\_\_\_

Date of construction / Date de construction : \_\_\_\_\_

Builder / Constructeur : \_\_\_\_\_

Energy evaluation performed by / Évaluation énergétique effectuée par : \_\_\_\_\_

An energy report has been provided to the homeowner.  
Un rapport d'évaluation énergétique a été fourni au propriétaire. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca) / [www.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca) 1 800 O-Canada

Natural Resources Canada / Ressources naturelles Canada

Canada

*Leading Canadians to Energy Efficiency at Home, at Work and on the Road*

The Office of Energy Efficiency of Natural Resources Canada strengthens and expands Canada's commitment to energy efficiency in order to help address the challenges of climate change.

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2003  
Aussi disponible en français sous le titre : *Additionnez les économies pour votre maison neuve*



Canada