



Homeowner Kit

Welcome to your Built Green™ home

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What is Built Green?

- Built Green is a non-profit, residential green building certification program of the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, developed in partnership with King County, Snohomish County, and other government agencies.
- Built Green provides a framework by which to measure the level of 'green' in a home by awarding points for environmentally friendly design and building practices on the Built Green checklist.
- Built Green is also an educational program for builders, designers, and homeowners and a network of builders, architects, remodelers, developers, subcontractors, real estate agents, lenders, and suppliers.

What Does it Mean for my Home to be Built Green Certified?

- A project is Built Green certified based on the material and processes used in the development of the site and the construction of the home.
- A Built Green certified home focuses on four areas of sustainable development:
 - Site and water development
 - Energy efficiency
 - Indoor air quality
 - Materials efficiency
 - Operation, maintenance, and homeowner education
- The more green materials and processes used during construction of the home, the higher the point total for the overall project. The total points achieved during the project translates to a star level rating from 3-Star to 5-Star (the higher the star level, the “greener” the home).
- In addition, Emerald Star certification is the highest level of certification.

How Does a Built Green Home Compare to a Code Come?

- A 3-Star Built Green home...
 - Achieves a minimum of 15% energy use over Washington State Energy Code (2012)
 - Implements a jobsite recycling plan
- A 4-Star Built Green home...
 - Achieves a minimum of 20% energy use over Washington State Energy Code (2012)
 - Contains low toxic/low VOC paint on all major surfaces
 - Includes the most efficient aerators available for all faucets and showerheads
 - Is landscaped with site appropriate plants and soil, emphasizing drought tolerant plants
- A 5-Star Built Green home...
 - Achieves a minimum of 30% energy use over Washington State Energy Code (2012)
 - Preserves existing native vegetation as landscaping
 - Achieves a minimum recycling rate of 70% of waste by weight
 - Is pre-wired for solar installation
 - Uses pervious materials for at least one third of total driveways, walkways, and patios

Most Effective Energy Savings Actions

- Through their direct actions, U.S. households account for 38% of national carbon emissions (see Gardner and Stern).
- In order to reduce your household's emissions and increase your energy savings, we recommend...
 - Lowering your thermostat in the winter from 72°F to 69°F during the day and to 65°F at night
 - Carpooling to work with at least one other person
 - Lowering your water heater thermostat from 140°F to 120°F
 - Combining errand trips
 - Washing your laundry on the cold setting
 - Raising your refrigerator temperature to 40°F and your freezer temperature to 0°F
 - Consider purchasing a hybrid or more fuel efficient vehicle

Most Effective Water Savings Actions

- U.S. households, on average, use 255 gallons of water per day (see Inskeep and Attari).
- Although most Built Green homes come equipped with ENERGY STAR® labeled appliances and WaterSense® faucets and showerheads there are still ways to reduce your household's water usage and increase your savings.
- For indoor water usage, we recommend...
 - Taking shorter showers
 - Washing a full load of clothes or adjusting the water level in order to match the load size
 - Composting food instead of using your waste disposal
 - Not pre-rinsing your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher
- For outside water usage, we recommend...
 - Not watering your lawn
 - Landscaping with native plants
 - Using a rainwater harvesting system for any watering needs

Green Cleaning Products

- Many traditional household cleaning products have toxic ingredients that are harmful to our health and the environment. These products can have negative effects on our families, pets, and the world we live in.
- By choosing to purchase green cleaning products, you are reducing your environmental impact, improving the indoor air quality of your home, and the overall health of your home.
- To find green cleaning solutions, check out the Environmental Working Group's list of top green cleaning products:
http://www.ewg.org/guides/cleaners/content/top_products

Recycling Information

- The Take it Back Network (King County)
 - The Take it Back Network is a partnership among government agencies, retailers, repair shops, charitable organizations, and recyclers that provides consumers with options for recycling certain wastes, and their hazardous components, in a safe and cost effective manner.
 - Please see <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/takeitback/> to find out more about how to recycle your household items.
- 2 Good 2 Toss (Snohomish County)
 - This is a website used for trading, giving, or selling items that would typically end up in a land fill or recycling center.
 - Please see <http://www.2good2toss.com/> for more information.
- Reduce Junk Mail
 - The U.S. Postal Service delivers over 80 billion pieces of advertisement mail every year. Recycling this unwanted mail is a good start but reducing the amount of junk mail you receive saves landfill space and conserves natural resources. To reduce the amount of mail you receive please go to <https://www.dmachoice.org>.

What Can I Recycle?

- 
- BUILT GREEN**

What Can I Compost?

YARD WASTE, FOOD SCRAPS & FOOD-SOILED PAPER

No plastic, glass, metal, liquid waste, cooking oil, fruit stickers, pet waste or litter.

Layer food scraps with yard waste, newspaper or shredded paper (no plastic)

Yard Waste:

Grass clippings & leaves

Houseplants (no pots)

Tree branches (nothing over 4 ft. long or 4in. diameter)

Weeds

Twigs, branches and roots from pruning

Food Scraps:

Fruit, vegetable scraps and leftovers

Bread, pasta and grains

Eggshells and nutshells

Coffee filters and grounds

Teabags and tea leaves

Meat, fish, poultry, bones

Dairy products (yogurt, cheese, etc.)



Food-soiled Paper:

Greasy pizza delivery boxes (no condiment packets or plastic trays)

Paper towels and napkins (no cleaners or chemicals)

Shredded paper (small amounts)

Uncoated paper plates*

Paper grocery bags containing food scraps

Paper egg and berry cartons

**Tip: Uncoated paper does not have a shiny surface.*

**Tip: Collect your food scraps in container with an approved compostable collection bag. (Find a retailer, visit recyclefood.com) Empty the container into your yard waste bin frequently.*



Not sure? Check the kingcounty.gov/WhatToDoWith website or call 206-477-4466; 1-800-325-6165, ext. 7-4466.

What Can I Throw Away?

GARBAGE

Check your garbage before you take it to the curb.
Are there any recyclable items in there?

Plastics:

Preformed plastic packaging
Take-out containers
Plastic bags/drycleaner bags*
Styrofoam and packing peanuts*
Caps and lids
Polystyrene cups and egg cartons
Stretch wrap
Motor oil and antifreeze containers
Plastic bakery, meat trays, plates and utensils
Empty prescription vials

**Tips: Plastic bags can be recycled. Check bagyourbags.com on the web.*

Reuse or recycle Styrofoam and packing peanuts

Paper:

Disposable diapers
Ribbons or foil wrapping paper
Hardback books*
Wax and plastic-coated cardboard
Dirty or soiled paper and food-soiled food boxes
Used tissues and paper towels with cleaning solutions

**Tip: Donate books, or take them to King County Transfer Stations with recycling services.*



Glass:

Mirrors, window glass and broken glass
Ceramics and dishes
Incandescent and halogen light bulbs (no compact fluorescent tubes, lights or bulbs (CFLs)*)

**Tip: Check takeitbacknetwork.org for recycling options for CFLs.*

Aluminum and tin:

Empty aerosol spray cans
Latex paint cans containing hardened or solidified paint (leave top off)*
Oil containers

**Tip: Dry out paint – mix with kitty litter or paint hardener; put in the garbage.*

Metal: No medical sharps

Sharp or greasy metal
Metal caps and lids
Clothes hangers*
Small appliances

**Tip: Donate clothes hangers to a local charity or return them to your dry cleaner.*

Other:

Garden hoses, light strings*
Pet waste and litter (double bagged and tied shut)

**Tip: Check for holiday light recycling locations at kcecoconsumer.com*

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Natural Yard Care

- Maintaining your yard can be just as important as maintaining your home, but in doing so we often use harmful chemicals and waste water.
- In order to protect the environment and our family's health, we encourage homeowners to practice natural means of maintaining their lawn.
- This can be done through a number of ways including planting drought tolerant plants, avoiding the use of fertilizer, and composting.
- To read more about natural yard care, please see King County's website here:
<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/>

Alternative Energy Resources

- Did you know all 5-Star Built Green homes are pre-wired for solar panels?
- Equipping your home with solar panels is a great way to extricate yourself from using fossil fuels and reduce your energy bills.
- If you chose to install solar panels on your home, you can apply for State Production incentives and claim a 30% federal income tax credit for the cost of installation through December 31, 2016.
- To find out more about solar installation, maintenance, cost, and incentives please see The City of Seattle's website here: <http://www.seattle.gov/light/solarenergy/install solar.asp> or check out solar FAQs here: <http://www.seattle.gov/light/solarenergy/solarfaq.asp>.
- Did you also know Seattle City Light credits customers who produce excess electricity?
- Solar panels are also available to lease.

Getting to Know Your Carbon Footprint

- What is a carbon footprint?
 - A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide.
 - A carbon footprint takes into account direct emissions of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels as well as indirect emissions of carbon dioxide through the whole lifecycle of the products we use such as their manufacturing and eventual breakdown.
- To find out your carbon footprint, you can take the quiz here: <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator1.html>.
- To find out how to reduce your footprint please see the Carbon Fund's website here: <http://www.carbonfund.org/reduce>.



Thank you for choosing to buy a
Built Green Home!

If you have an additional questions please
refer to our website at builtgreen.net or
email us at builtgreen@mbaks.com.

Sources Sited

Gardner and Stern (2008):

<http://www.environmentmagazine.org/archives/back%20issues/september-october%202008/gardner-stern-full.html>

Inskeep and Attari (2014):

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