



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) National Program Requirements

Qualifying Homes

The following homes are eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR:

- Single family homes; OR
- Units in any multifamily building with 4 units or fewer; OR
- Units in multifamily buildings with 3 stories or fewer above-grade^{1,2}; OR
- Units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above-grade^{1,2} that have their own heating, cooling, and hot water systems³, separate from other units, and where dwelling units occupy 80% or more of the occupiable² square footage of the building⁴. When evaluating mixed-use buildings for eligibility, exclude commercial / retail space when assessing whether the 80% threshold has been met.

Units in multifamily buildings that are not eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR through the New Homes Program may be eligible through the Multifamily High Rise Program.

Homes may earn the ENERGY STAR using the following ENERGY STAR Prescriptive Path or Performance Path in all states except those with an energy code exceeding the 2009 IECC and for which EPA regional program requirements have been developed. See EPA's Web site for the latest list. Note that compliance with these guidelines is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built.⁵

ENERGY STAR Prescriptive Path

The Prescriptive Path provides a single set of measures that can be used to construct an ENERGY STAR qualified home. Modeling is not required; however, no tradeoffs are allowed. Follow these steps to use the Prescriptive Path:

1. First, assess the eligibility to follow the Prescriptive Path by comparing the conditioned floor area (CFA) of the home to be built to the CFA of the Benchmark Home as specified in Exhibit 3.⁶ For the purposes of this step, calculate the number of bedrooms and the CFA of the home to be built using RESNET standards with the following exception: floor area in basements with at least half of the gross surface area of the basement's exterior walls below grade shall not be counted.⁷ If a home has zero bedrooms with regard to the Benchmark Home Size determination, then the Benchmark Home Size for one bedroom shall be used. If the CFA of the home to be built exceeds the CFA of the Benchmark Home, then the Performance Path shall be used.
2. If the home to be built is eligible to follow the Prescriptive Path, build the home using all requirements of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design, Exhibit 1, and the Mandatory Requirements for All Qualified Homes, Exhibit 2.
3. Using a Rater, verify that all requirements have been met in accordance with the Mandatory Requirements for All Qualified Homes and with RESNET's On-Site Inspection Procedures for Minimum Rated Features.⁸

ENERGY STAR Performance Path

The Performance Path provides flexibility to select a custom combination of measures for each home that is equivalent in performance to the minimum requirements of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, Exhibit 1.⁹ Equivalent performance is assessed through energy modeling. Follow the steps below to use the Performance Path:

1. Determine the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target, which is the highest numerical HERS Index value that each rated home may achieve to earn the ENERGY STAR. This target shall be specifically determined for each rated home by following the steps outlined in the document titled, "ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target Procedure, Version 3 (Rev. 04)", available on EPA's Website. This procedure defines how to configure the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home and calculate its associated HERS Index value and then how to apply the appropriate Size Adjustment Factor to determine the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target.

Note that this process shall be completed manually by a Rater until a version of the RESNET-accredited software program used by the Rater becomes available that automatically configures the ENERGY STAR Reference Design, calculates its associated HERS Index value, and then applies the appropriate Size Adjustment Factor to determine the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target. Upon release of such a version, Raters using that software program shall have 60 days to begin all new ratings with this updated version.

2. Using the same RESNET-accredited Home Energy Rating software program, configure the preferred set of energy measures for the rated home and verify that the resulting HERS Index meets or exceeds the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target, as determined in Step 1. Note that, regardless of the measures selected, Mandatory Requirements for All Qualified Homes in Exhibit 2 are also required. Also note that items 1.2 and 2.1 of the Thermal Enclosure System Rater checklist require that all insulation, windows, doors, and skylights meet or exceed 2009 IECC requirements.^{10,11,12,13}

Furthermore, on-site power generation may only be used to meet the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target for homes that are larger than the Benchmark Home and only for the incremental change in ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target caused by the Size Adjustment Factor, as outlined in the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target Procedure, Version 3 (Rev. 04).

3. Construct the home using measures selected in Step 2 and the Mandatory Requirements for All Qualified Homes, Exhibit 2.
4. Using a Rater, verify that all requirements have been met in accordance with the Mandatory Requirements for All Qualified Homes and with RESNET's On-Site Inspection Procedures for Minimum Rated Features.⁸



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Exhibit 1: ENERGY STAR Reference Design

Hot Climates (2009 IECC Zones 1,2,3) ¹⁵	Mixed and Cold Climates (2009 IECC Zones 4,5,6,7,8) ¹⁵																												
Cooling Equipment (Where Provided)¹⁶																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooling equipment shall meet the following applicable efficiency levels: 																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ 14.5 SEER / 12 EER ENERGY STAR qualified AC, OR; Heat pump (See Heating Equipment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ 13 SEER AC, OR; Heat pump (See Heating Equipment) 																												
Heating Equipment¹⁶																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heating equipment shall meet the following applicable efficiency levels: 																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ 80 AFUE gas furnace, OR; ≥ 80 AFUE oil furnace, OR; ≥ 80 AFUE boiler, OR; ≥ 8.2 HSPF / 14.5 SEER / 12 EER air-source heat pump, ENERGY STAR qualified with electric backup or ENERGY STAR qualified dual-fuel backup heating, OR; Ground-source heat pump, any product type, ENERGY STAR qualified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ 90 AFUE gas furnace, ENERGY STAR qualified, OR; ≥ 85 AFUE oil furnace, ENERGY STAR qualified, OR; ≥ 85 AFUE boiler, ENERGY STAR qualified, OR; Air-source heat pump¹⁷, ENERGY STAR qualified with efficiency as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CZ 4: ≥ 8.5 HSPF / 14.5 SEER / 12 EER with electric backup, OR; CZ 5: ≥ 9.25 HSPF / 14.5 SEER / 12 EER with electric backup, OR; CZ 6: ≥ 9.5 HSPF / 14.5 SEER / 12 EER with electric backup, OR; Air-source heat pump, ENERGY STAR qualified, ≥ 8.2 HSPF / 14.5 SEER / 12 EER with ENERGY STAR qualified dual-fuel backup, OR; Ground-source heat pump, any product type, ENERGY STAR qualified¹⁸ 																												
Envelope, Windows, & Doors																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If more than 10 linear feet of ductwork are located in an unconditioned attic, a radiant barrier or ENERGY STAR qualified roof product shall be installed.¹⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No radiant barrier or ENERGY STAR qualified roof product required. 																												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insulation levels shall meet or exceed 2009 IECC levels and achieve Grade I installation per RESNET standards.^{11,12,13,14} Infiltration rates shall be less than or equal to the following values:²⁰ <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>6 ACH50 in CZs 1,2</td> <td>5 ACH50 in CZs 3,4</td> <td>4 ACH50 in CZs 5,6,7</td> <td>3 ACH50 in CZ 8</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows, doors, and skylights shall be ENERGY STAR qualified, as illustrated below:²¹ <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Window U-Value:</td> <td>0.60 in CZs 1,2</td> <td>0.35 in CZ 3</td> <td>0.32 in CZ 4</td> <td>0.30 in CZs 4 C,5,6,7,8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Window SHGC:</td> <td>0.27 in CZs 1,2</td> <td>0.30 in CZ 3</td> <td>0.40 in CZ 4</td> <td>Any in CZs 4 C,5,6,7,8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skylight U-Value:</td> <td>0.70 in CZs 1,2</td> <td>0.57 in CZ 3</td> <td>0.55 in CZ 4</td> <td>0.55 in CZs 4 C,5,6,7,8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skylight SHGC:</td> <td>0.30 in CZs 1,2</td> <td>0.30 in CZ 3</td> <td>0.40 in CZ 4</td> <td>Any in CZs 4 C,5,6,7,8</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Doors:</td> <td>Opaque: 0.21 U-Value, No SGHC Rating</td> <td>≤½ lite: 0.27 U-Value, 0.30 SHGC</td> <td>>½ lite: 0.32 U-Value, 0.30 SHGC</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homes with total window-to-floor area greater than 15% shall have adjusted U-values or SHGCs as outlined in Footnote 21. 		6 ACH50 in CZs 1,2	5 ACH50 in CZs 3,4	4 ACH50 in CZs 5,6,7	3 ACH50 in CZ 8	Window U-Value:	0.60 in CZs 1,2	0.35 in CZ 3	0.32 in CZ 4	0.30 in CZs 4 C,5,6,7,8	Window SHGC:	0.27 in CZs 1,2	0.30 in CZ 3	0.40 in CZ 4	Any in CZs 4 C,5,6,7,8	Skylight U-Value:	0.70 in CZs 1,2	0.57 in CZ 3	0.55 in CZ 4	0.55 in CZs 4 C,5,6,7,8	Skylight SHGC:	0.30 in CZs 1,2	0.30 in CZ 3	0.40 in CZ 4	Any in CZs 4 C,5,6,7,8	Doors:	Opaque: 0.21 U-Value, No SGHC Rating	≤½ lite: 0.27 U-Value, 0.30 SHGC	>½ lite: 0.32 U-Value, 0.30 SHGC
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Water Heater																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHW equipment shall meet the following efficiency requirements:²² <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Gas:</td> <td>30 Gal = 0.63 EF</td> <td>40 Gal = 0.61 EF</td> <td>50 Gal = 0.59 EF</td> <td>60 Gal = 0.57 EF</td> <td>70 Gal = 0.55 EF</td> <td>80 Gal = 0.53 EF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electric:</td> <td>30 Gal = 0.94 EF</td> <td>40 Gal = 0.93 EF</td> <td>50 Gal = 0.92 EF</td> <td>60 Gal = 0.91 EF</td> <td>70 Gal = 0.90 EF</td> <td>80 Gal = 0.89 EF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oil:</td> <td>30 Gal = 0.55 EF</td> <td>40 Gal = 0.53 EF</td> <td>50 Gal = 0.51 EF</td> <td>60 Gal = 0.49 EF</td> <td>70 Gal = 0.47 EF</td> <td>80 Gal = 0.45 EF</td> </tr> </table>		Gas:	30 Gal = 0.63 EF	40 Gal = 0.61 EF	50 Gal = 0.59 EF	60 Gal = 0.57 EF	70 Gal = 0.55 EF	80 Gal = 0.53 EF	Electric:	30 Gal = 0.94 EF	40 Gal = 0.93 EF	50 Gal = 0.92 EF	60 Gal = 0.91 EF	70 Gal = 0.90 EF	80 Gal = 0.89 EF	Oil:	30 Gal = 0.55 EF	40 Gal = 0.53 EF	50 Gal = 0.51 EF	60 Gal = 0.49 EF	70 Gal = 0.47 EF	80 Gal = 0.45 EF							
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Thermostat & Ductwork																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmable thermostat shall be installed unless thermostat controls a zone with electric radiant heat, for which a manual thermostat is allowed.²³ Supply ducts in unconditioned attics shall have insulation ≥ R-8; all other ducts in unconditioned space shall have insulation ≥ R-6. Total duct leakage shall be ≤ 6 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area.^{24,25} Duct leakage to outdoors shall be ≤ 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area.^{24,25,26} 																													
Lighting & Appliances																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where refrigerators, dishwashers, ceiling fans, or exhaust fans²⁷ are installed, products shall be ENERGY STAR qualified. ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, LEDs, or pin-based lighting in 80% of fixtures in RESNET-defined Qualifying Light Fixture Locations, shall be installed.²⁸ 																													



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Mandatory Requirements for All ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes

As noted in the Performance Path and the Prescriptive Path, all ENERGY STAR Qualified New Homes must meet the requirements of the checklists in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2: Mandatory Requirements for All Qualified Homes

Area of Improvement	Mandatory Requirements
1. Thermal Enclosure System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist
2. Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning (HVAC) System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist Completed HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist
3. Water Management System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Water Management System Builder Checklist (or Indoor airPLUS Verification Checklist)²⁹

Exhibit 3: Benchmark Home⁶

Bedrooms in Home to be Built	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Conditioned Floor Area Benchmark Home	1,000	1,600	2,200	2,800	3,400	4,000	4,600	5,200

Effective Date

Use Exhibit 4, below, to determine the version of the guidelines that may be used to earn the ENERGY STAR for New Homes.

Exhibit 4: ENERGY STAR New Homes Version 3 Implementation Schedule

Permit Date ²	Date of Final Inspection ¹		
	4/1/2011	1/1/2012	7/1/2012
Before 4/1/2011 ^{3, 4}	v2	v2.5	v3
Between 4/1/2011 and 12/31/2011 ⁴		v2.5	v3
On or after 1/1/2012 ⁵			v3

Version 2	Version 2: 2006 Guidelines
Version 2.5	Version 2.5: Core Version 3 energy efficiency measures with Air Barriers and Air Sealing sections of Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist; Other checklists completed but not enforced
Version 3	Version 3: Core Version 3 energy efficiency measures with all checklists completed and enforced

- The date of the final inspection for the home (i.e., the date at which all of the field inspections are complete for the home, not necessarily the date when the label is issued).
- The Rater may define the 'permit date' as either the date that the permit was issued or the date of the contract on the home. In cases where permit or contract dates are not available, Providers have discretion to estimate permit dates based on other construction schedule factors. These assumptions should be both defensible and documented.
- All low-income projects financed through low-income housing agencies may earn the ENERGY STAR under the last iteration of the guidelines, Version 2, until January 1, 2013 as long as the application for funding for those homes was received by the low-income housing agency before April 1, 2011 and the housing project includes at least one unit reserved for low-income tenants. If the application for funding is received between April 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011, then the homes must earn the ENERGY STAR under the Version 2.5 guidelines if completed before July 1, 2012, and under the Version 3 guidelines if completed on or after July 1, 2012. If the application for funding is received on or after January 1, 2012 then the homes must earn the ENERGY STAR under the Version 3 guidelines.
- Homes can be qualified under the Version 2.5 guidelines in advance of the dates above at the discretion of builders and their Raters. However, homes may not be qualified as Version 3 until January 1, 2012.
- Where a utility or state sponsor is mandating or incentivizing early adoption of Version 3 in their area, EPA will allow the labeling of ENERGY STAR Version 3 prior to January 1, 2012 on a pilot program basis, provided that the sponsor meets certain requirements.



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Notes (Unless specified otherwise, notes shall apply to both the Prescriptive Path and Performance Path):

1. Any above-grade story with 20% or more occupiable space, including commercial space, shall be counted towards the total number of stories for the purpose of determining eligibility to participate in the program. The definition of an 'above-grade story' is one for which more than half of the gross surface area of the exterior walls is above-grade. All below-grade stories, regardless of type, shall not be included when evaluating eligibility.
2. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, occupiable space is any enclosed space inside the pressure boundary and intended for human activities or continual human occupancy, including, but not limited to, areas used for living, sleeping, dining, and cooking, toilets, closets, halls, storage and utility areas, and laundry areas.
3. Central systems for domestic hot water are allowed if solar energy provides at least 50% of the domestic hot water needs for the residential units.
4. Units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above-grade, including mixed-use buildings, that have their own heating, cooling, and hot water systems, separate from other units, but where dwelling units occupy less than 80% of the residential (i.e., excluding commercial / retail space for mixed-use buildings) occupiable square footage of the building may qualify for the ENERGY STAR through either the New Homes Program or the Multifamily High Rise Program if permitted prior to July 1, 2012. Units in buildings of this type that are permitted after this date shall only be eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR through the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program.
5. Where requirements of the local codes, manufacturers' installation instructions, engineering documents, or regional ENERGY STAR programs overlap with the requirements of these guidelines, EPA offers the following guidance:
 - a. In cases where the overlapping requirements exceed the ENERGY STAR guidelines, these overlapping requirements shall be met;
 - b. In cases where overlapping requirements conflict with a requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these guidelines shall not be met. Qualification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the intent of the conflicting requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation).
6. The average-size home with a specific number of bedrooms is termed the "Benchmark Home". The conditioned floor area of a Benchmark Home (CFA Benchmark Home) is determined by selecting the appropriate value from Exhibit 3. For homes with more than 8 bedrooms, the CFA Benchmark Home shall be determined by multiplying 600 sq. ft. times the total number of bedrooms and adding 400 sq. ft.

Example: CFA Benchmark Home for a 10 bedroom home = (600 sq. ft. x 10) + 400 sq. ft. = 6,400 sq. ft.

A bedroom is defined by RESNET as a room or space 70 sq. ft. or greater size, with egress window and closet, used or intended to be used for sleeping. A "den", "library", or "home office" with a closet, egress window, and 70 sq. ft. or greater size or other similar rooms shall count as a bedroom, but living rooms and foyers shall not.

An egress window, as defined in 2009 IRC section R310, shall refer to any operable window that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency. The egress window definition has been summarized for convenience. The egress window shall:
 - have a sill height of not more than 44 inches above the floor; AND
 - have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 sq. ft.; AND
 - have a minimum net clear opening height of 24 in.; AND
 - have a minimum net clear opening width of 20 in.; AND
 - be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge.
7. To determine whether at least half of the basement wall area is below grade, use the gross surface area of the walls that are in contact with either the ground or ambient outdoor air, measured from the basement floor to the bottom of the basement ceiling framing (e.g., the bottom of the joists for the floor above). Note that the exception regarding the floor area in basements is only for the purpose of determining a home's Benchmark Home Size, Size Adjustment Factor, and eligibility to use the Prescriptive Path. The full conditioned floor area, per RESNET's standards, should be used when rating the home (e.g., determining compliance with duct leakage requirements).
8. The term "Rater" refers to the person completing the third-party inspections required for qualification. This party may be a certified Home Energy Rater, Rating Field Inspector, BOP Inspector, or an equivalent designation as determined by a Verification Oversight Organization such as RESNET.
9. *For Performance Path:* For a complete definition of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design to be used when determining the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target under the Performance Path, see the document titled "ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target Procedure, Version 3 (Rev. 04)" located on EPA's Web site.



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10. Insulation levels in a home shall meet or exceed the component insulation requirements in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1. The following exceptions apply:
- Steel-frame ceilings, walls, and floors shall meet the insulation requirements of the 2009 IECC – Table 402.2.5. In CZ 1 and 2, the continuous insulation requirements in this table shall be permitted to be reduced to R-3 for steel-frame wall assemblies with studs spaced at 24 in. on center. This exception shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - For ceilings with attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for R-38 and R-38 shall satisfy the requirement for R-49 wherever the full height of uncompressed insulation at the lower R-value extends over the wall top plate at the eaves. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - For ceilings without attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for any required value above R-30 if the design of the roof / ceiling assembly does not provide sufficient space for the required insulation value. This exemption shall be limited to 500 square ft. or 20% of the total insulated ceiling area, whichever is less. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - An alternative equivalent U-factor or total UA calculation may also be used to demonstrate compliance, as follows:

An assembly with a U-factor equal or less than specified in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3 complies.

A total building thermal envelope UA that is less than or equal to the total UA resulting from the U-factors in Table 402.1.3 also complies. The insulation levels of all non-fenestration components (i.e., ceilings, walls, floors, and slabs) can be traded off using the UA approach under both the Prescriptive and the Performance Path. Note that fenestration products (i.e., windows, skylights, doors) shall not be included in this calculation. Also, note that while ceiling and slab insulation can be included in trade-off calculations, the R-value must meet or exceed the minimum values listed in Items 4.1 through 4.3 of the Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist to provide an effective thermal break, regardless of the UA tradeoffs calculated. The UA calculation shall be done using a method consistent with the ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals and shall include the thermal bridging effects of framing materials. The calculation for a steel-frame envelope assembly shall use the ASHRAE zone method or a method providing equivalent results, and not a series-parallel path calculation method.
11. Consistent with the 2009 IECC, slab edge insulation is only required for slab-on-grade floors with a floor surface less than 12 inches below grade. Slab insulation shall extend to the top of the slab to provide a complete thermal break. If the top edge of the insulation is installed between the exterior wall and the edge of the interior slab, it shall be permitted to be cut at a 45-degree angle away from the exterior wall.
12. Insulation shall be verified by a Rater to achieve Grade I installation as defined in the RESNET Standards, except for ceiling, wall, and floor assemblies with continuous rigid insulation sheathing. For such homes, Grade II installation is acceptable for the cavity insulation only if the rigid insulation sheathing meets or exceeds the following levels: R-3 in Climate Zones 1 to 4; R-5 in Zones 5 to 8.
13. *For Prescriptive Path:* All windows, doors, and skylights shall meet or exceed ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights – Version 5.0 as outlined at www.energystar.gov/windows. *For Performance Path:* All windows, doors and skylights shall meet or exceed the component U-factor and SHGC requirements specified in the 2009 IECC – Table 402.1.1. If no NFRC rating is noted on the window or in product literature (e.g., for site-built fenestration), select the U-factor and SHGC value from Tables 4 and 14, respectively, in 2005 ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 31. Select the highest U-factor and SHGC value among the values listed for the known window characteristics (e.g., frame type, number of panes, glass color, and presence of low-e coating). Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion. The following exceptions apply:
- An area-weighted average of fenestration products shall be permitted to satisfy the U-factor requirements;
 - An area-weighted average of fenestration products more than 50% glazed shall be permitted to satisfy the SHGC requirements;
 - 15 square feet of glazed fenestration per dwelling unit shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
 - One side-hinged opaque door assembly up to 24 square feet in area shall be exempt from the U-factor requirements and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
 - Fenestration utilized as part of a passive solar design shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above. Exempt windows shall be facing within 45 degrees of true south and directly coupled to thermal storage mass that has a heat capacity > 20 btu / ft³x°F and provided in a ratio of at least 3 sq. ft. per sq. ft. of south facing fenestration. Generally, thermal mass materials will be at least 2 in. thick.
14. The Rater may define the 'permit date' as either the date that the permit was issued or the date of the contract on the home. In cases where permit or contract dates are not available, Providers have discretion to estimate permit dates based on other construction schedule factors. These assumptions should be both defensible and documented.



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home's air and thermal barriers AND envelope leakage has been tested to be less than or equal to half of the Prescriptive Path infiltration limit for the Climate Zone where the home is to be built.

25. For all homes that have less than 1,200 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area (CFA), total measured duct leakage shall be ≤ 8 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA and measured duct leakage to outdoors shall be ≤ 5 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA.
26. If total duct leakage is ≤ 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area, or ≤ 5 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area for homes that have less than 1,200 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area, then leakage to outdoors need not be tested.
27. *For Prescriptive Path:* All exhaust fans shall be ENERGY STAR qualified, except in half bathrooms. A half bathroom is any bathroom that does not contain a bathtub, shower, spa, or similar source of moisture.
28. *For Prescriptive Path:* The ENERGY STAR Advanced Lighting Package (ALP), which requires a minimum of 60% ENERGY STAR qualified hard-wired fixtures and 100% ENERGY STAR qualified ceiling fans, where installed, may also be used to comply with the lighting requirements.
29. A completed and signed Indoor airPLUS Verification Checklist may be submitted in lieu of the Water Management System Builder Checklist. Indoor airPLUS is a complimentary EPA label recognizing new homes equipped with a comprehensive set of Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) features. Indoor airPLUS verification can be completed by a Rater during the ENERGY STAR verification process. For more information, see www.epa.gov/indoorairplus.





ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) Inspection Checklists for National Program Requirements

As described in the ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes National Program Requirements, Version 3 (Rev. 04), one prerequisite for qualification is that a home must meet the requirements of the four attached checklists:

- Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist
- HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist
- HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist
- Water Management System Builder Checklist (or Indoor airPLUS Verification Checklist) ¹

To be eligible for qualification, a home must also meet the other requirements listed in the National Program Requirements document, including verification of all requirements by a Rater. ² Note that compliance with these guidelines is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built. Where requirements of the local codes, manufacturers' installation instructions, engineering documents, or regional ENERGY STAR programs overlap with the requirements of these guidelines, EPA offers the following guidance:

- a. In cases where the overlapping requirements exceed the ENERGY STAR guidelines, these overlapping requirements shall be met;
- b. In cases where overlapping requirements conflict with a requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these guidelines shall not be met. Qualification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the intent of the conflicting requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation).

The Rater must review all items on the Rater checklists. Raters are expected to use their experience and discretion to verify that the overall intent of each inspection checklist item has been met (i.e., identifying major defects that undermine the intent of the checklist item versus identifying minor defects that the Rater may deem acceptable). The column titled "N/A," which denotes items that are "not applicable," should be used when the checklist item is not present in the home or conflicts with local requirements.

In the event that a Rater finds an item that is inconsistent with the intent of the inspection checklists, the home cannot earn the ENERGY STAR until the item is corrected. If correction of the item is not possible, the home cannot earn the ENERGY STAR. In the event that an item on a Rater checklist cannot be inspected by the Rater, the home also cannot earn the ENERGY STAR. The only exceptions to this rule are in the Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist, where the builder may assume responsibility for verifying a maximum of eight items. This option shall only be used at the discretion of the Rater. When exercised, the builder's responsibility will be formally acknowledged by the builder signing off on the checklist for the item(s) that they verified.

In the event that a Rater is not able to determine whether an item is consistent with the intent (e.g., an alternative method of meeting a checklist requirement has been proposed), then the Rater shall consult their Provider. If the Provider also cannot make this determination, then the Rater or Provider shall report the issue to EPA prior to project completion at: energystarhomes@energystar.gov and will typically receive an initial response within 5 business days. If EPA believes the current program guidelines are sufficiently clear to determine whether the intent has been met, then this guidance will be provided to the partner and enforced beginning with the house in question. In contrast, if EPA believes the program guidelines require revisions to make the intent clear, then this guidance will be provided to the partner but only enforced for homes permitted after a specified transition period after the release of the revised guidelines, typically 60 days in length.

This process will allow EPA to make formal policy decisions as partner questions arise and to disseminate these policy decisions through the periodic release of revised program documents to ensure consistent application of the program guidelines.

The Rater is required to keep electronic or hard copies of the completed and signed checklists. The signature of the HVAC technician is required if any of the HVAC equipment specified on the HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist is installed in the home.

The Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist and the HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist shall be permitted to be completed for a batch of homes using a RESNET-approved sampling protocol. For example, if the approved sampling protocol requires verification of one in seven homes, then these two checklists shall be permitted to be completed for the sample set based upon the required verification of the one home. Sampling shall not be permitted to be used for the HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist or the Water Management System Builder Checklist. Instead, these two checklists shall be completed for each qualified home.

Rater Name: _____ Rater Company Name: _____ Builder Company Name: _____ HVAC Company Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Rater has verified that HVAC contractor holds credentials necessary to complete the HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist <input type="checkbox"/> Rater has verified that builder is an ENERGY STAR Partner
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ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) Inspection Checklist Notes



1. A completed and signed Indoor airPLUS Verification Checklist may be submitted in lieu of the Water Management System Builder Checklist. Indoor airPLUS is a complimentary EPA label recognizing new homes equipped with a comprehensive set of Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) features. Indoor airPLUS verification can be completed by a Rater during the ENERGY STAR verification process. For more information, see www.epa.gov/indoorairplus.
2. The term 'Rater' refers to the person completing the third-party inspections required for qualification. This party may be a certified Home Energy Rater, Rating Field Inspector, BOP Inspector, or an equivalent designation as determined by a Verification Oversight Organization such as RESNET.
3. The Rater may define the 'permit date' as either the date that the permit was issued or the date of the contract on the home. In cases where permit or contract dates are not available, Providers have discretion to estimate permit dates based on other construction schedule factors. These assumptions should be both defensible and documented.



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04)

Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist

Home Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____		
Inspection Guidelines	Must Correct	Builder Verified ¹	Rater Verified	N/A
1. High-Performance Fenestration				
1.1 <i>Prescriptive Path</i> : Fenestration shall meet or exceed ENERGY STAR requirements ²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 <i>Performance Path</i> : Fenestration shall meet or exceed 2009 IECC requirements ²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Quality-Installed Insulation				
2.1 Ceiling, wall, floor, and slab insulation levels shall meet or exceed 2009 IECC levels ^{3,4,5}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 All ceiling, wall, floor, and slab insulation shall achieve RESNET-defined Grade I installation or, alternatively, Grade II for surfaces with insulated sheathing (see Checklist Item 4.4.1 for required insulation levels)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Fully-Aligned Air Barriers ⁶				
At each insulated location noted below, a complete air barrier shall be provided that is fully aligned with the insulation as follows:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At interior or exterior surface of ceilings in Climate Zones 1-3; at interior surface of ceilings in Climate Zones 4-8. Also, include barrier at interior edge of attic eave in all climate zones using a wind baffle that extends to the full height of the insulation. Include a baffle in every bay or a tabbed baffle in each bay with a soffit vent that will also prevent wind washing of insulation in adjacent bays • At exterior surface of walls in all climate zones; and also at interior surface of walls for Climate Zones 4-8 ⁷ • At interior surface of floors in all climate zones, including supports to ensure permanent contact and blocking at exposed edge ^{8,9} 				
3.1 Walls ¹⁰				
3.1.1 Walls behind showers and tubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.2 Walls behind fireplaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.3 Attic knee walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.4 Skylight shaft walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.5 Wall adjoining porch roof	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.6 Staircase walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.7 Double walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.8 Garage rim / band joist adjoining conditioned space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.9 All other exterior walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Floors				
3.2.1 Floor above garage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.2 Cantilevered floor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.3 Floor above unconditioned basement or unconditioned crawlspace	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Ceilings ¹⁰				
3.3.1 Dropped ceiling / soffit below unconditioned attic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3.2 All other ceilings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Reduced Thermal Bridging				
4.1 For insulated ceilings with attic space above (i.e., non-cathedralized ceilings), uncompressed insulation extends to the inside face of the exterior wall below at the following levels: CZ 1 to 5: \geq R-21; CZ 6 to 8: \geq R-30 ¹¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 For slabs on grade in CZ 4 and higher, 100% of slab edge insulated to \geq R-5 at the depth specified by the 2009 IECC and aligned with thermal boundary of the walls ^{4,5}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 Insulation beneath attic platforms (e.g., HVAC platforms, walkways) \geq R-21 in CZ 1 to 5; \geq R-30 in CZ 6 to 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 Reduced thermal bridging at above-grade walls separating conditioned from unconditioned space (rim / band joists exempted) using one of the following options: ^{12,13}				
4.4.1 Continuous rigid insulation, insulated siding, or combination of the two; \geq R-3 in Climate Zones 1 to 4, \geq R-5 in Climate Zones 5 to 8 ^{14,15} , OR ;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.2 Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs), OR ;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.3 Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs), OR ;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.4 Double-wall framing ¹⁶ , OR ;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.5 Advanced framing, including all of the items below:				
4.4.5a All corners insulated \geq R-6 to edge ¹⁷ , AND ;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.5b All headers above windows & doors insulated ¹⁸ , AND ;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.5c Framing limited at all windows & doors ¹⁹ , AND ;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.5d All interior / exterior wall intersections insulated to the same R-value as the rest of the exterior wall ²⁰ , AND ;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.5e Minimum stud spacing of 16" o.c. for 2x4 framing in all Climate Zones and, in Climate Zones 5 through 8, 24" o.c. for 2x6 framing unless construction documents specify other spacing is structurally required ²¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04)

Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist

Inspection Guidelines	Must Correct	Builder Verified ¹	Rater Verified	N/A
5. Air Sealing				
5.1 Penetrations to unconditioned space fully sealed with solid blocking or flashing as needed and gaps sealed with caulk or foam				
5.1.1 Duct / flue shaft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.1.2 Plumbing / piping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.1.3 Electrical wiring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.1.4 Bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.1.5 Recessed lighting fixtures adjacent to unconditioned space ICAT labeled and fully gasketed. Also, if in insulated ceiling without attic above, exterior surface of fixture insulated to \geq R-10 in CZ 4 and higher to minimize condensation potential.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.1.6 Light tubes adjacent to unconditioned space include lens separating unconditioned and conditioned space and are fully gasketed ²²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2 Cracks in the building envelope fully sealed				
5.2.1 All sill plates adjacent to conditioned space sealed to foundation or sub-floor with caulk. Foam gasket also placed beneath sill plate if resting atop concrete or masonry and adjacent to conditioned space.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.2 At top of walls adjoining unconditioned spaces, continuous top plates or sealed blocking using caulk, foam, or equivalent material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.3 Sheetrock sealed to top plate at all attic / wall interfaces using caulk, foam, or equivalent material. Either apply sealant directly between sheetrock and top plate or to the seam between the two from the attic above. Construction adhesive shall not be used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.4 Rough opening around windows & exterior doors sealed with caulk or foam ²³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.5 Marriage joints between modular home modules at all exterior boundary conditions fully sealed with gasket and foam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.6 All seams between Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) foamed and / or taped per manufacturer's instructions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.7 In multifamily buildings, the gap between the drywall shaft wall (i.e. common wall) and the structural framing between units fully sealed at all exterior boundaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3 Other openings				
5.3.1 Doors adjacent to unconditioned space (e.g., attics, garages, basements) or ambient conditions gasketed or made substantially air-tight	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3.2 Attic access panels and drop-down stairs equipped with a durable \geq R-10 insulated cover that is gasketed (i.e., not caulked) to produce continuous air seal when occupant is not accessing the attic ²⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3.3 Whole-house fans equipped with a durable \geq R-10 insulated cover that is gasketed and either installed on the house side or mechanically operated ²⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rater Name: _____ Rater Pre-Drywall Inspection Date: _____ Rater Initials: _____				
Rater Name: _____ Rater Final Inspection Date: _____ Rater Initials: _____				
Builder Employee: _____ Builder Inspection Date: _____ Builder Initials: _____				

Notes:

- At the discretion of the Rater, the builder may verify up to eight items specified in this Checklist. When exercised, the builder's responsibility will be formally acknowledged by the builder signing off on the checklist for the item(s) that they verified.
- For Prescriptive Path:* All windows, doors, and skylights shall meet or exceed ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights – Version 5.0 as outlined at www.energystar.gov/windows. *For Performance Path:* All windows, doors and skylights shall meet or exceed the component U-factor and SHGC requirements specified in the 2009 IECC – Table 402.1.1. If no NFRC rating is noted on the window or in product literature (e.g., for site-built fenestration), select the U-factor and SHGC value from tables 4 and 14, respectively, in 2005 ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 31. Select the highest U-factor and SHGC value among the values listed for the known window characteristics (e.g., frame type, number of panes, glass color, and presence of low-e coating). Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion. The following exceptions apply:
 - An area-weighted average of fenestration products shall be permitted to satisfy the U-factor requirements;
 - An area-weighted average of fenestration products \geq 50% glazed shall be permitted to satisfy the SHGC requirements;
 - 15 square feet of glazed fenestration per dwelling unit shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;



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Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist

- d. One side-hinged opaque door assembly up to 24 square feet in area shall be exempt from the U-factor requirements and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
 - e. Fenestration utilized as part of a passive solar design shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above. Exempt windows shall be facing within 45 degrees of true south and directly coupled to thermal storage mass that has a heat capacity $> 20 \text{ btu} / \text{ft}^3 \times ^\circ\text{F}$ and provided in a ratio of at least 3 sq. ft. per sq. ft. of south facing fenestration. Generally, thermal mass materials will be at least 2 in. thick.
3. Insulation levels in a home shall meet or exceed the component insulation requirements in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1. The following exceptions apply:
- a. Steel-frame ceilings, walls, and floors shall meet the insulation requirements of the 2009 IECC – Table 402.2.5. In CZ 1 and 2, the continuous insulation requirements in this table shall be permitted to be reduced to R-3 for steel-frame wall assemblies with studs spaced at 24 in. on center. This exception shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - b. For ceilings with attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for R-38 and R-38 shall satisfy the requirement for R-49 wherever the full height of uncompressed insulation at the lower R-value extends over the wall top plate at the eaves. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - c. For ceilings without attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for any required value above R-30 if the design of the roof / ceiling assembly does not provide sufficient space for the required insulation value. This exemption shall be limited to 500 square ft. or 20% of the total insulated ceiling area, whichever is less. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - d. An alternative equivalent U-factor or total UA calculation may also be used to demonstrate compliance, as follows:
An assembly with a U-factor equal or less than specified in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3 complies.
A total building thermal envelope UA that is less than or equal to the total UA resulting from the U-factors in Table 402.1.3 also complies. The insulation levels of all non-fenestration components (i.e., ceilings, walls, floors, and slabs) can be traded off using the UA approach under both the Prescriptive and the Performance Path. Note that fenestration products (i.e., windows, skylights, doors) shall not be included in this calculation. Also, note that while ceiling and slab insulation can be included in trade-off calculations, the R-value must meet or exceed the minimum values listed in Items 4.1 through 4.3 of the Checklist to provide an effective thermal break, regardless of the UA tradeoffs calculated. The UA calculation shall be done using a method consistent with the ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals and shall include the thermal bridging effects of framing materials. The calculation for a steel-frame envelope assembly shall use the ASHRAE zone method or a method providing equivalent results, and not a series-parallel path calculation method.
4. Consistent with the 2009 IECC, slab edge insulation is only required for slab-on-grade floors with a floor surface less than 12 inches below grade. Slab insulation shall extend to the top of the slab to provide a complete thermal break. If the top edge of the insulation is installed between the exterior wall and the edge of the interior slab, it shall be permitted to be cut at a 45-degree angle away from the exterior wall.
5. Where an insulated wall separates a garage, patio, porch, or other unconditioned space from the conditioned space of the house, slab insulation shall also be installed at this interface to provide a thermal break between the conditioned and unconditioned slab. Where specific details cannot meet this requirement, partners shall provide the detail to EPA to request an exemption prior to the home's qualification. EPA will compile exempted details and work with industry to develop feasible details for use in future revisions to the program. A list of currently exempted details is available at: www.energystar.gov/slabedge.
6. For purposes of this Checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers.
Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness ≥ 5.5 in. or 1.5 in., respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise.
If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads ≥ 1 in. diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.
7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.
8. Examples of supports necessary for permanent contact include staves for batt insulation or netting for blown-in insulation. Batts that completely fill a cavity enclosed on all six sides may be used to meet this requirement without the need for supports, even though some compression will occur due to the excess insulation, as long as the compressed value meets or exceeds the required insulation level. Specifically, the following batts may be used in six-sided floor cavities: R-19 batts in 2x6 cavities, R-30 batts in 2x8 cavities, R-38 batts in 2x10 cavities, and R-49 batts in 2x12 cavities. For example, in a home that requires R-19 floor insulation, an R-30 batt may be used in a six-sided 2x8 floor cavity.
9. Fully-aligned air barriers may be installed at the exterior surface of the floor cavity in all Climate Zones if the insulation is installed in contact with this exterior air barrier and the perimeter rim and band joists of the floor cavity are also sealed and insulated to comply with the fully-aligned air barrier requirements for walls.



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Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.
11. The minimum designated R-values must be achieved regardless of the trade-offs determined using an equivalent U-factor or UA alternative calculation. Note that if the minimum designated values are used, they must be compensated with higher values elsewhere using an equivalent U-factor or UA alternative calculation in order to meet the overall insulation requirements of the 2009 IECC. Also, note that these requirements can be met by using any available strategy, such as a raised-heel truss, alternate framing that provides adequate space, and / or high-density insulation. In Climate Zones 1 through 3, one option that will work for most homes is to use 2x6 framing, an R-21 high-density batt, and a wind baffle that only requires 0.5 in. of clearance.
12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.
13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide $\geq 50\%$ of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC – Table 402.1.1.
14. If used, insulated siding shall be attached directly over a water-resistive barrier and sheathing. In addition, it shall provide the required R-value as demonstrated through either testing in accordance with ASTM C 1363 or by attaining the required R-value at its minimum thickness. Insulated sheathing rated for water protection can be used as a water resistant barrier if all seams are taped and sealed. If non-insulated structural sheathing is used at corners, advanced framing details listed under Item 4.4.5 shall be met for those wall sections.
15. Steel framing shall meet the reduced thermal bridging requirements by complying with Item 4.4.1 of the Checklist.
16. Double-wall framing is defined as any framing method that ensures a continuous layer of insulation covering the studs to at least the R-value required in Section 4.4.1 of the Checklist, such as offset double-stud walls, aligned double-stud walls with continuous insulation between the adjacent stud faces, or single-stud walls with 2x2 or 2x3 cross-framing. In all cases, insulation shall fill the entire wall cavity from the interior to exterior sheathing except at windows, doors and other penetrations.
17. All exterior corners shall be constructed to allow access for the installation of $\geq R-6$ insulation that extends to the exterior wall sheathing. Examples of compliance options include standard-density insulation with alternative framing techniques, such as using three studs per corner, or high-density insulation (e.g., spray foam) with standard framing techniques.
18. Header insulation shall be $\geq R-3$ for wall assemblies with 2x4 framing, or equivalent cavity width, and $\geq R-5$ for all other assemblies (e.g., with 2x6 framing). Compliance options include continuous rigid insulation sheathing, SIP headers, other prefabricated insulated headers, single-member or two-member headers with insulation either in between or on one side, or an equivalent assembly, except where a framing plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer indicates that full-depth solid headers are the only acceptable option. The Rater need not evaluate the structural necessity of the details in the framing plan to qualify the home. Also, the framing plan need only encompass the details in question and not necessarily the entire home. R-value requirement refers to manufacturer's nominal insulation value.
19. Framing at windows shall be limited to a maximum of one pair of king studs and one pair jack studs per window opening to support the header and window sill. Additional jack studs shall be used only as needed for structural support and cripple studs only as needed to maintain on-center spacing of studs.
20. Insulation shall run behind interior / exterior wall intersections using ladder blocking, full length 2x6 or 1x6 furring behind the first partition stud, drywall clips, or other equivalent alternative.
21. Vertical framing members shall either be on-center or have an alternative structural purpose (e.g., framing members at the edge of pre-fabricated panels) that is apparent to the Rater or documented in a framing plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the structural necessity of the details in the framing plan to qualify the home. Also, the framing plan need only encompass the details in question and not necessarily the entire home. No more than 5% of studs may lack an apparent or documented structural purpose, which is equivalent to one vertical stud for every 30 linear feet of wall, assuming 16 in. o.c. stud spacing.
22. Light tubes that do not include a gasketed lens are required to be sealed and insulated $\geq R-6$ for the length of the tube.
23. In Climate Zones 1 through 3, stucco over rigid insulation tightly sealed to windows and doors shall be considered equivalent to sealing rough openings with caulk or foam.
24. Examples of durable covers include, but are not limited to, pre-fabricated covers with integral insulation, rigid foam adhered to cover with adhesive, or batt insulation mechanically fastened to the cover (e.g., using bolts, metal wire, or metal strapping).



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist ¹

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____			
System Description ² _____ Cooling system for temporary occupant load? ³ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
1. Whole-Building Mechanical Ventilation Design ⁴	Cont./Tech. Verified ⁵	Rater Verified	N/A
1.1 Ventilation system installed that has been designed to meet ASHRAE 62.2-2010 requirements including, but not limited to, requirements in Items 1.2-1.5. ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
1.2 Ventilation system does not utilize an intake duct to the return side of the HVAC system unless the system is designed to operate intermittently and automatically based on a timer and to restrict outdoor air intake when not in use (e.g., motorized damper).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
1.3 Documentation is attached with ventilation system type, location, design rate, and frequency and duration of each ventilation cycle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
1.4 If present, continuously-operating vent. & exhaust fans designed to operate during all occupiable hours.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.5 If present, intermittently-operating whole-house ventilation system designed to automatically operate at least once per day and at least 10% of every 24 hours.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Heating & Cooling System Design ^{4,7} - Parameters used in the design calculations shall reflect home to be built, specifically, outdoor design temperatures, home orientation, number of bedrooms, conditioned floor area, window area, predominant window performance and insulation levels, infiltration rate, mechanical ventilation rate, presence of MERV6 or better filter, and indoor temperature setpoints = 70° F for heating; 75° F for cooling			
2.1 Heat Loss / Gain Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Manual J v8 <input type="checkbox"/> ASHRAE 2009 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.2 Duct Design Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Manual D <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Equipment Selection Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Manual S <input type="checkbox"/> OEM Rec. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.4 Outdoor Design Temperatures: ⁸ Location: _____ 1%: _____ °F 99%: _____ °F	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.5 Orientation of Rated Home (e.g., North, South): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.6 Number of Occupants Served by System: ⁹ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.7 Conditioned Floor Area in Rated Home: _____ Sq. Ft.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.8 Window Area in Rated Home: _____ Sq. Ft.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.9 Predominant Window SHGC in Rated Home: ¹⁰ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.10 Infiltration Rate in Rated Home: ¹¹ Summer: _____ Winter: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.11 Mechanical Ventilation Rate in Rated Home: _____ CFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.12 Design Latent Heat Gain: _____ BTUh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.13 Design Sensible Heat Gain: _____ BTUh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.14 Design Total Heat Gain: _____ BTUh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.15 Design Total Heat Loss: _____ BTUh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.16 Design Airflow: ¹² _____ CFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.17 Design Duct Static Pressure: ¹³ _____ Inches Water Column (IWC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.18 Full Load Calculations Report Attached	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3. Selected Cooling Equipment, If Cooling Equipment to be Installed			
3.1 Condenser Manufacturer & Model: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Condenser Serial #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Evaporator / Fan Coil Manufacturer & Model: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Evaporator / Fan Coil Serial #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.5 AHRI Reference #: ¹⁴ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.6 Listed Efficiency: _____ EER _____ SEER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.7 Metering Device Type: <input type="checkbox"/> TXV <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed orifice <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.8 Refrigerant Type: <input type="checkbox"/> R-410a <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.9 Fan Speed Type: ¹⁵ <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed <input type="checkbox"/> Variable (ECM / ICM) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.10 Listed Sys. Latent Capacity at Design Cond. ¹⁶ : _____ BTUh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.11 Listed Sys. Sensible Capacity at Design Cond. ¹⁶ : _____ BTUh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.12 Listed Sys. Total Capacity at Design Cond. ¹⁶ : _____ BTUh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.13 If Listed Sys. Latent Capacity (Value 3.10) ≤ Design Latent Heat Gain (Value 2.12), ENERGY STAR qualified dehumidifier installed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.14 Listed Total Cap. (Value 3.12) is 95-115% of Design Total Heat Gain (Value 2.14) or next nom. Size ^{7,17}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.15 AHRI Certificate Attached ¹⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Selected Heat Pump Equipment, If Heatpump to be Installed			
4.1 AHRI Listed Efficiency: _____ HSPF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 Performance at 17°F: Capacity _____ BTUh Efficiency: _____ COP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 Performance at 47°F: Capacity _____ BTUh Efficiency: _____ COP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist ¹

5. Selected Furnace, If Furnace to be Installed	Cont./Tech. Verified ⁵	Rater Verified	N/A
5.1 Furnace Manufacturer & Model: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2 Furnace Serial #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3 Listed Efficiency: _____ AFUE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.4 Listed Output Heating Capacity: _____ BTUh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.5 Listed Output Heat. Cap. (Value 5.4) is 100-140% of Design Total Heat Loss (Value 2.15) or next nom. size ^{7,18}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Refrigerant Tests - Run system for 15 minutes before testing			
<small>Note: If outdoor ambient temperature at the condenser is $\leq 55^{\circ}\text{F}$ or, if known, below the manufacturer-recommended minimum operating temperature for the cooling cycle, then the system shall include a TXV, and the contractor shall mark "N/A" on the Checklist for Section 6 & 7. ¹⁹</small>			
6.1 Outdoor ambient temperature at condenser: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.2 Return-side air temperature inside duct near evaporator, during cooling mode: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F WB}$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.3 Liquid line pressure: _____ psig	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.4 Liquid line temperature: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.5 Suction line pressure: _____ psig	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.6 Suction line temperature: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Refrigerant Calculations			
For System with Thermal Expansion Valve (TXV):			
7.1 Condenser saturation temperature: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$ (Using Value 6.3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.2 Subcooling value: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$ (Value 7.1 - Value 6.4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.3 OEM subcooling goal: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.4 Subcooling deviation: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$ (Value 7.2 - Value 7.3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For System with Fixed Orifice:			
7.5 Evaporator saturation temperature: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$ (Using Value 6.5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.6 Superheat value: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$ (Value 6.6 - Value 7.5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.7 OEM superheat goal: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$ (Using superheat tables and Values 6.1 & 6.2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.8 Superheat deviation: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F DB}$ (Value 7.6 - Value 7.7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.9 Value 7.4 is $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ or Value 7.8 is $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.10 An OEM test procedure has been used in place of sub-cooling or super-heat process and documentation has been attached that defines this procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Electrical Measurements - Taken at electrical disconnect while component is in operation			
8.1 Evaporator / air handler fan: _____ amperage _____ line voltage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.2 Condenser unit: _____ amperage _____ line voltage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.3 Electrical measurements within OEM-specified tolerance of nameplate value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Air Flow Tests			
9.1 Air volume at evaporator: _____ CFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.2 Test performed in which mode? <input type="checkbox"/> Heating <input type="checkbox"/> Cooling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.3 Return duct static pressure: _____ IWC Test Hole Location ²⁰ : _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.4 Supply duct static pressure: _____ IWC Test Hole Location ²⁰ : _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.5 Test hole locations are well-marked and accessible ²⁰	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.6 Measurement method used: <input type="checkbox"/> Anemometer <input type="checkbox"/> Pressure matching ²¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Flow grid <input type="checkbox"/> Fan curve <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.7 Airflow volume at evaporator (Value 9.1), at fan design speed and full operating load, $\pm 15\%$ of the airflow required per system design (Value 2.16) or within range recommended by OEM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Air Balance			
10.1 Individual room airflows within the greater of $\pm 20\%$ or 25 CFM of the design / application requirements for the supply and return ducts ²²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.2 Balancing report indicating, for each supply and return register: room name, design airflow, and final measured airflow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. System Controls			
11.1 Operating and safety controls meet OEM requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Drain pan			
12.1 Corrosion-resistant drain pan, properly sloped to drainage system, included with each HVAC component that produces condensate ²³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technician Name ²⁴ _____		Equipment Installation Date: _____	
Technician Signature ²⁴ _____		Company: _____	
Designer Name ²⁴ _____		System Design Date: _____	
Designer Signature ²⁴ _____		Company: _____	



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist ¹

1. The HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist is designed to align with the requirements of ASHRAE 62.2-2010 and published addenda and ANSI / ACCA's 5 QI-2007 protocol, thereby improving the performance of HVAC equipment in new homes when compared to homes built to minimum code. However, these features alone cannot prevent all ventilation, indoor air quality, or HVAC problems (e.g., those caused by a lack of maintenance by occupants). Therefore, this Checklist is not a guarantee of proper ventilation, indoor air quality, or HVAC performance.

This Checklist applies to ventilation systems, split air conditioners, unitary air conditioners, air-source / water-source (i.e., geothermal) heat pumps up to 65,000 Btu / h and furnaces up to 225,000 Btu / h. All other equipment, including boilers, is exempt.

This Checklist shall be provided by the Rater to the HVAC contractor who shall complete one checklist for each system. Upon completion, the HVAC contractor shall return the checklist(s) to the Rater. Alternatively, at the discretion of the contractor and Rater, the Rater may verify any item on this Checklist in place of the contractor. When this occurs, the Rater shall check the box of the verified items in the Rater Verified column. The Rater is only responsible for ensuring that the Contractor has completed the Contractor Checklist in its entirety and for the items that are checked in the Rater Verified column (if any). The Rater is not responsible for assessing the accuracy of the items in this Checklist that are not checked in the Rater Verified column. Instead, it is the contractor's exclusive responsibility to ensure the design and installation comply with the Contractor Checklist.

This Checklist with supporting documents may also be used to demonstrate compliance with Indoor airPLUS specifications 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, and 7.1.

2. Description of HVAC system location or area served (e.g., "whole house", "upper level", "lower level").
3. Check "Yes" if this system is to handle temporary occupant loads. Such a system may be required to accommodate a significant number of guests on a regular or sporadic basis and shall be handled by a supplemental cooling system (e.g., a small, single-package unit or split-coil unit) or by a system that can shift capacity from zone to zone (e.g., a variable volume system).
4. The person responsible for the heating, cooling, and ventilation design, whether it be the HVAC technician or other qualified HVAC design professional, shall be responsible for completing Sections 1 and 2 of this Checklist.
5. The 'Cont. / Tech. Verified' column shall be used to indicate items verified by the HVAC Contractor or Technician. The 'Rater Verified' column shall only be used to indicate items verified by the Rater, for homes in which the Rater has agreed to verify and accept responsibility for one or more requirements.
6. For proper procedures, exceptions, and selection methods see ASHRAE 62.2-2010 and published addenda. All components shall be designed and installed per local codes, manufacturers' installation instructions, engineering documents, and regional ENERGY STAR program requirements.

The system shall have at least one supply or exhaust fan with associated ducts and controls. Local exhaust fans are allowed to be part of an exhaust ventilation system. Outdoor air ducts connected to the return side of an air handler are allowed to be part of a supply ventilation system if manufacturers' requirements for return air temperature are met.

7. Heating and cooling loads shall be calculated, equipment shall be selected, and duct systems shall be sized according to the latest editions of ACCA Manuals J, S, & D, respectively, ASHRAE 2009 Handbook of Fundamentals, or a substantively equivalent procedure. The HVAC system design shall be completed for the specific configuration (e.g., plan, elevation, option, and orientation) of the home to be built except as permitted herein.

For homes with a date of final inspection through 12/31/2012:

For each house plan with multiple configurations (e.g., orientations, elevations, options), the loads shall be permitted to be calculated for the configuration that will result in the largest load. The largest load shall be permitted to be used for equipment selection for all configurations, subject to the over-sizing limits of ACCA Manual S.

For each house plan with multiple configurations, the room-level design airflows shall be permitted to be calculated using the configuration that resulted in the largest load.

For homes with a date of final inspection on or after 01/01/2013:

For each house plan with multiple configurations (e.g., orientations, elevations, options), the loads shall be calculated for each potential configuration. If the loads across all configurations vary by $\leq 25\%$, then the largest load shall be permitted to be used for equipment selection for all configurations, subject to the over-sizing limits of ACCA Manual S. Otherwise, the contractor shall group the load for each configuration into a set with $\leq 25\%$ variation and equipment selection shall be completed for each set of loads.

For each house plan with multiple configurations, the room-level design airflows shall be calculated for each potential configuration. If the design airflows for each room vary across all configurations by $\leq 25\%$ or 25 CFM, then the average room-level design airflow shall be permitted to be used when designing the duct system. Otherwise, the contractor shall group the room-level design airflow for each configuration into a set with $\leq 25\%$ or 25 CFM variation and the duct design shall be completed for the average airflow of that set.



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist ¹

8. If the design conditions are dictated by a code or regulation, then the requirements of the lawful or controlling authority supersedes the Manual J or ASHRAE default design values. Otherwise, the default values shall be used. The values for the geographically closest location shall be selected or a justification provided for the selected location.
9. The number of occupants among all HVAC systems in the home must be equal to the number of bedrooms, as defined below, plus one. Occupants listed for systems that are indicated in the header as a cooling system for temporary occupant loads, as described in Footnote 3, shall be permitted to exceed this limit.

A bedroom is defined by RESNET as a room or space 70 sq. ft. or greater size, with egress window and closet, used or intended to be used for sleeping. A "den", "library", or "home office" with a closet, egress window, and 70 sq. ft. or greater size or other similar rooms shall count as a bedroom, but living rooms and foyers shall not.

An egress window, as defined in 2009 IRC section R310, shall refer to any operable window that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency. The egress window definition has been summarized for convenience. The egress window shall:

- have a sill height of not more than 44 inches above the floor; AND
- have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 sq. ft.; AND
- have a minimum net clear opening height of 24 in.; AND
- have a minimum net clear opening width of 20 in.; AND
- be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge.

10. "Predominant" is defined as the SHGC value used in the greatest amount of window area in the home.
11. Infiltration rate shall reflect value used in confirmed or projected HERS rating for rated home. Alternatively, use "Average" or "Semi-loose" values for the cooling season infiltration rates and "Semi-tight" or "Average" values for the heating season infiltration rates, as defined by ACCA Manual J, Eighth Edition, Version Two.
12. Design airflow is the design value(s) for the blower in CFM, as determined by using the manufacturer's expanded performance data to select equipment, per ACCA Manual S procedures.
13. Design duct static pressure shall account for the installation of a MERV 6 or higher filter.
14. All evaporators and condensing units shall be properly matched as demonstrated by an attached AHRI certificate. If an AHRI certificate is not available, a copy of OEM-provided catalog data indicating acceptable combination selection and performance data shall be attached.
15. If whole-house ventilation system utilizes the HVAC air handler, then the fan speed type shall be ECM / ICM, variable speed, and run at a reduced speed during ventilation, or include a controller (e.g., smart cyclor) that reduces the ventilation run time by accounting for hours when HVAC system is heating or cooling the home.
16. Listed system capacity at design conditions is to be obtained from the OEM expanded performance data.
17. For cooling systems, the next largest nominal piece of equipment may be used that is available to satisfy the latent and sensible requirements. Single-speed systems generally have OEM nominal size increments of ½ ton. Multi-speed or multi-stage equipment may have OEM nominal size increments of one ton. Therefore, the use of these advanced system types can provide extra flexibility to meet the equipment sizing requirements.
18. For warm air heating systems, the output capacity must be between 100% and 140% of calculated system load unless a larger size is dictated by the cooling equipment selection.
19. Either factory-installed or field-installed TXV's may be used. For field-installed TXV's, ensure that sensing bulbs are insulated and tightly clamped to the vapor line with good linear thermal contact at the recommended orientation, usually 4 or 8 o'clock.
20. Examples of return or supply duct static pressure measurement locations are: plenum, cabinet, trunk duct, as well as front, back, left or right side. Test hole locations shall be well marked and accessible.
21. The pressure matching method uses a calibrated fan to match the supply plenum pressure produced when the HVAC air handler fan is in operation. The airflow through the calibrated fan that produces the same pressure is assumed to match the HVAC air handler fan airflow.
22. Ducts shall not include coiled or looped ductwork except to the extent needed for acoustical control. Balancing dampers or proper duct sizing shall be used instead of loops to limit flow to diffusers. When balancing dampers are used, they shall be located at the trunk to limit noise unless the trunk will not be accessible when the balancing process is conducted. In such cases, Opposable Blade Dampers (OBD) or dampers located in the duct boot are permitted.
23. Condensate pan shall be made of corrosion-resistant materials, to include galvanized steel and plastic. Drain pan shall drain condensate to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the primary drainage system; and shall be equipped with a backflow prevention valve when drained to a shared drainage system, such as a storm water management system.
24. HVAC technician signature required prior to submittal to Rater. If the HVAC system design (Sec. 1 & 2) was not completed by the HVAC technician, then the designer shall sign in addition to HVAC technician.



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist¹

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____			
Inspection Guidelines	Must Correct	Rater Verified	N/A
1. Review of HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist²			
1.1 HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist completed in its entirety and collected for records, along with documentation on ventilation system (1.3), full load calculations (2.18), AHRI certificate (3.15), and balancing report (10.2).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Review the following parameters related to system cooling design, selection, and installation from the HVAC Contractor Checklist (Contractor Checklist item # indicated in parenthesis): ³			
1.2.1 Outdoor design temperatures (2.4) are equal to the 1% and 99% ACCA Manual J design temperatures for contractor-designated design location ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2 Home orientation (2.5) matches orientation of rated home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.3 Number of occupants (2.6) equals number of occupants in rated home ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.4 Conditioned floor area (2.7) is within $\pm 10\%$ of conditioned floor area of rated home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.5 Window area (2.8) is within $\pm 10\%$ of calculated window area of rated home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.6 Predominant window SHGC (2.9) is within 0.1 of predominant value in rated home ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.7 Listed latent cooling capacity (3.10) exceeds design latent heat gain (2.12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.8 Listed sensible cooling capacity (3.11) exceeds design sensible heat gain (2.13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.9 Listed total cooling capacity (3.12) is 95-115% (or 95-125% for Heat Pumps in Climate Zones 4-8) of design total heat gain (2.14), or next nominal size ⁷	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.10 HVAC manufacturer and model numbers on installed equipment, Contractor Checklist (3.1, 3.3, 5.1), and AHRI certificate or OEM catalog data all match ⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.11 Using reported liquid line (6.3) or suction line (6.5) pressure, corresponding temp. (as determined using pressure / temperature chart for refrigerant type) matches reported condenser (7.1) or evaporator (7.5) saturation temperature (± 3 degrees) ⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.12 Calculated subcooling (7.1 minus 6.4) or superheat (6.6 minus 7.5) value equals reported target subcooling (7.3) or superheat (7.7) temperature ⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3 Rater-verified supply & return duct static pressure $< 110\%$ of contractor values (9.3, 9.4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Duct Quality Installation - Applies to All Heating, Cooling, Ventilation, Exhaust, and Pressure Balancing Ducts			
2.1 Connections and routing of ductwork completed without kinks or sharp bends. ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 No excessive coiled or looped flexible ductwork. ¹¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Flexible ducts in unconditioned space not installed in cavities smaller than outer duct diameter; in conditioned space not installed in cavities smaller than inner duct diameter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Flexible ducts supported at intervals as recommended by mfr. but at a distance ≤ 5 ft.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5 Building cavities not used as supply or return ducts unless they meet Items 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, and 4.2 of this Checklist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.6 HVAC ducts, cavities used as ducts, and combustion inlets and outlets may pass perpendicularly through exterior walls but shall not be run within exterior walls unless at least R-6 continuous insulation is provided on exterior side of the cavity, along with an interior and exterior air barrier where required by the Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.7 Quantity & location of supply and return duct terminals match contractor balancing report.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.8 Bedrooms pressure-balanced using any combination of transfer grills, jump ducts, dedicated return ducts, and / or undercut doors to either: a) provide 1 sq. in. of free area opening per 1 CFM of supply air, as reported on the contractor-provided balancing report; or b) achieve a Rater-measured pressure differential ≤ 3 Pa (0.012 in. w.c.) with respect to the main body of the house when bedroom doors are closed and the air handler is operating. ^{12,13}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Duct Insulation - Applies to All Heating, Cooling, Supply Ventilation, and Pressure Balancing Ducts¹⁴			
3.1 All connections to trunk ducts in unconditioned space are insulated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 <i>Prescriptive Path:</i> Supply ducts in unconditioned attic have insulation \geq R-8. <i>Performance Path:</i> Supply ducts in unconditioned attic have insulation \geq R-6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 All other supply ducts and all return ducts in unconditioned space have insulation \geq R-6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Duct Leakage - Applies to All Heating, Cooling, and Balanced Ventilation Ducts			
4.1 Total Rater-measured duct leakage ≤ 6 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area ^{15,16}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 Rater -measured duct leakage to outdoors ≤ 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area. ^{15, 16, 17}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 Duct boots sealed to floor, wall, or ceiling using caulk, foam, mastic tape, or mastic paste.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist ¹

Inspection Guidelines	Must Correct	Rater Verified	N/A
5. Whole-Building Delivered Ventilation			
5.1 Rater-measured ventilation rate is within 100-120% of HVAC contractor design value (2.11). ¹⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Controls			
6.1 Air flow is produced when central HVAC fan is energized (set thermostat to "fan").	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.2 Cool air flow is produced when the cooling cycle is energized (set thermostat to "cool"). ^{19,20}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.3 Heated air flow is produced when the heating cycle is energized (set thermostat to "heat"). ¹⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.4 Continuously-operating ventilation & exhaust fans include readily accessible override controls.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.5 Function of ventilation controls is obvious (e.g., bathroom exhaust fan) or, if not, controls have been labeled.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Ventilation Air Inlets & Ventilation Source			
7.1 All ventilation air inlets located ≥ 10 ft. of stretched-string distance from known contamination sources such as stack, vent, exhaust hood, or vehicle exhaust. Exception: ventilation air inlets in the wall ≥ 3 ft. from dryer exhausts and contamination sources exiting through the roof. ²¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.2 Ventilation air inlets ≥ 2 ft. above grade or roof deck in Climate Zones 1-3 or ≥ 4 ft. above grade or roof deck in Climate Zones 4-8 and not obstructed by snow, plantings, condensing units or other material at time of inspection. ²²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.3 Ventilation air inlets provided with rodent / insect screen with ≤ 0.5 inch mesh. ²³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.4 Ventilation air comes directly from outdoors and not from adjacent dwelling units, garages, crawlspaces, or attics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Local Mechanical Exhaust			
In each kitchen and bathroom, a system shall be installed that exhausts directly to the outdoors and meets one of the following Rater-measured airflow standards: ^{18,24,25}			
Location	Continuous Rate	Intermittent Rate ²⁶	
8.1 Kitchen	≥ 5 ACH, based on kitchen volume ²⁷	≥ 100 CFM ²⁸	
8.2 Bathroom	≥ 20 CFM	≥ 50 CFM	
8.3 If fans share common exhaust duct, back-draft dampers installed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.4 Common exhaust duct not shared by fans in separate dwellings. ²⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.5 Clothes dryers vented directly to outdoors, except for ventless dryers equipped with a condensate drain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Ventilation & Exhaust Fan Ratings (Exemptions for HVAC and Remote-Mounted Fans) ³⁰			
9.1 Intermittent supply & exhaust fans rated at ≤ 3 sones by mfr., unless rated flow ≥ 400 CFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.2 Continuous supply & exhaust fans rated at ≤ 1 sone by manufacturer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.3 Bathroom fans used as part of a whole-house mechanical ventilation system shall be ENERGY STAR qualified; unless rated flow rate ≥ 500 CFM.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Combustion Appliances			
10.1 Furnaces, boilers, and water heaters located within the home's pressure boundary are mechanically drafted or direct-vented. As an exception, naturally drafted equipment is allowed in Climate Zone 1-3. For naturally drafted furnaces, boilers, and water heaters, the Rater has followed RESNET or BPI combustion safety test procedures and met the selected standard's limits for depressurization, spillage, draft pressure, and CO concentration in ambient air, as well as a CO concentration in the flue of ≤ 25 ppm. ^{31,32,33}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.2 For fireplaces that are not mechanically drafted or direct-vented to outdoors, total net rated exhaust flow of the two largest exhaust fans (excluding summer cooling fans) is ≤ 15 CFM per 100 sq. ft. of occupiable space when at full capacity or the Rater has verified that the pressure differential is ≤ -5 Pa using BPI's or RESNET's worst-case depressurization test procedure. ^{24,32,33,34,35}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.3 If unvented combustion appliances other than cooking ranges are located inside the home's pressure boundary, the Rater has operated the appliance for at least 10 minutes and verified that the ambient CO level does not exceed 35 ppm. ³⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Filtration			
11.1 At least one MERV 6 or higher filter installed in each ducted mechanical system. ³⁷	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.2 All return air and mechanically supplied outdoor air pass through filter prior to conditioning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.3 Filter located and installed so as to facilitate access and regular service by the owner. ³⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.4 Filter access panel includes gasket or comparable sealing mechanism and fits snugly against the exposed edge of filter when closed to prevent bypass. ³⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rater Name: _____ Date Checklist Inspected: _____			
Rater Signature: _____ Rater Company Name: _____			



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist¹

1. The HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist is designed to align with the requirements of ASHRAE 62.2-2010 and published addenda and ANSI / ACCA's 5 QI-2007 protocol, thereby improving the performance of HVAC equipment in new homes when compared to homes built to minimum code. However, these features alone cannot prevent all ventilation, indoor air quality, and HVAC problems, for instance those caused by a lack of occupant maintenance. Therefore, this Checklist is not a guarantee of proper ventilation, indoor air quality, or HVAC performance. This Checklist with supporting documents may also be used to demonstrate compliance with Indoor airPLUS specifications 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, and 7.1.
2. The Rater is only responsible for ensuring that the Contractor has completed the Contractor Checklist in its entirety and verifying the discrete objective parameters referenced in Section 1 of this Checklist, not for assessing the accuracy of the load calculations or field verifications included or to verify the accuracy of every input on the Contractor Checklist.
3. For homes with a date of final inspection through 12/31/2012: Item 1.2.1 is permitted to be within +/- 5 degrees of the 1% and 99% ACCA Manual J design temperatures for the contractor-designated design location. In addition, for each house plan with multiple configurations (e.g., orientations, elevations, options), the Rater shall confirm that the parameters listed in Items 1.2.2 to 1.2.6 are aligned with either: the rated home or with the plans for the configuration used to calculate the loads, as provided by the contractor.
For homes with a date of final inspection on or after 01/01/2013: Item 1.2.1 shall match the 1% and 99% ACCA Manual J design temperatures for the contractor-designated design location. In addition, for each house plan with multiple configurations (e.g., orientations, elevations, options), the Rater shall confirm that the parameters listed in Items 1.2.2 to 1.2.6 are aligned with the rated home.
4. The Rater shall either confirm that the contractor selected the geographically closest available location or collect from the contractor a justification for the selected location. The Rater need not evaluate the legitimacy of the justification to qualify the home.
5. The number of occupants among all HVAC systems in the home shall be equal to the number of RESNET-defined bedrooms plus one. Occupants listed for systems for which the header of the Contractor Checklist indicates that it is designed to handle temporary occupant loads, as defined in Footnote 3 of the Contractor Checklist, shall be permitted to exceed this limit.
6. "Predominant" is defined as the SHGC value used in the greatest amount of window area in the home.
7. For cooling systems, the next largest nominal piece of equipment may be used that is available to satisfy the latent and sensible requirements. Single-speed systems generally have OEM nominal size increments of ½ ton. Multi-speed or multi-stage equipment may have OEM nominal size increments of one ton. Therefore, the use of these advanced system types can provide extra flexibility to meet the equipment sizing requirements.
8. In cases where the condenser unit is installed after the time of inspection by the Rater, the HVAC manufacturer and model numbers on installed equipment can be documented through the use of photographs provided by the HVAC Contractor after installation is complete.
9. If contractor has indicated that an OEM test procedure has been used in place of a sub-cooling or super-heat process and documentation has been attached that defines this procedure, then the box for "N/A" shall be checked for this item.
10. Kinks are to be avoided and are caused when ducts are bent across sharp corners such as framing members. Sharp bends are to be avoided and occur when the radius of the turn in the duct is less than one duct diameter.
11. Ducts shall not include coiled or looped ductwork except to the extent needed for acoustical control. Balancing dampers or proper duct sizing shall be used instead of loops to limit flow to diffusers. When balancing dampers are used, they shall be located at the trunk to limit noise unless the trunk will not be accessible when the balancing process is conducted. In such cases, Opposable Blade Dampers (OBD) or dampers that are located in the duct boot are permitted.
12. For homes with a date of final inspection through 12/31/2012: Homes are permitted to be qualified without enforcement of this item to provide architects and designers with additional time to integrate these features into their homes.
For homes with a date of final inspection on or after 01/01/2013: Homes shall meet this item to be qualified.
13. For HVAC system with multi-speed fans, the highest design fan speed shall be used when verifying this requirement.
14. EPA recommends, but does not require, that all metal ductwork not encompassed by Section 3 (e.g., exhaust ducts, duct boots, ducts in conditioned space) also be insulated and that insulation be sealed to duct boots to prevent condensation.
15. Duct leakage shall be determined and documented by a Rater using a RESNET-approved testing protocol only after all components of the system have been installed (e.g., air handler and register grilles). Leakage limits shall be assessed on a per-system, rather than per-home, basis. Testing of duct leakage to the outside can be waived if all ducts & air handling equipment are located within the home's air and thermal barriers AND envelope leakage has been tested to be less than or equal to half of the Prescriptive Path infiltration limit for the Climate Zone where the home is to be built.
16. For all homes that have less than 1,200 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area (CFA), total measured duct leakage shall be ≤ 8 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA and measured duct leakage to outdoors shall be ≤ 5 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA.
17. If total duct leakage is ≤ 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area, or ≤ 5 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area for homes that have less than 1,200 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area, then leakage to outdoors need not be tested.
18. The whole-house ventilation air flow and local exhaust air flows shall be measured by the Rater using a flow hood, flow grid, anemometer (in accordance with AABC, NEBB or ASHRAE procedures), or substantially equivalent method.
19. In cases where the condenser unit is installed after the time of inspection by the Rater, the Rater is exempt from verifying Item 6.2 when the condenser is for an AC unit and also Item 6.3 when the condenser is for a heatpump unit.



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist¹

20. To prevent potential equipment damage, the Rater shall not conduct this test if the outdoor temperature is $\leq 55^{\circ}\text{F}$ or, if known, below the manufacturer-recommended minimum operating temperature for the cooling cycle. When this occurs, the Rater shall mark 'N/A' on the Checklist for this item.
21. The outlet and inlet of balanced ventilation systems shall meet these spacing requirements unless manufacturer instructions indicate that a smaller distance may be used. However, if this occurs the manufacturer's instructions shall be collected for documentation purposes.
22. EPA will permit the use of reduced ventilation air inlet heights in North Carolina. The minimum required height in North Carolina for Climate Zone 4 will be reduced from 4 feet to 2 feet and in Climate Zone 5 from 4 feet to 2.5 feet based on historical snowfall data for this state. Note that EPA is evaluating the potential to reduce inlet heights in other regions based upon historical snowfall data.
23. Without proper maintenance, ventilation air inlet screens often become filled with debris. Therefore, EPA recommends, but does not require, that these ventilation air inlets be located so as to facilitate access and regular service by the owner.
24. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, an exhaust system is one or more fans that remove air from the building, causing outdoor air to enter by ventilation inlets or normal leakage paths through the building envelope (e.g., bath exhaust fans, range hoods, clothes dryers).
25. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, a bathroom is any room containing a bathtub, shower, spa, or similar source of moisture.
26. An intermittent mechanical exhaust system, where provided, shall be designed to operate as needed by the occupant. Control devices shall not impede occupant control in intermittent systems.
27. Kitchen volume shall be determined by drawing the smallest possible rectangle on the floor plan that encompasses all cabinets, pantries, islands, and peninsulas and multiplying by the average ceiling height for this area. Cabinet volume shall be included in the kitchen volume calculation.
28. If the flow rate of the selected exhaust fan is less than 5 ACH, based on kitchen volume, then a vented range hood or appliance-range hood combination is required rather than a remote fan that is not integral to the range. Also, for intermittent kitchen exhaust fans that are integrated with microwaves, a rated air flow rate ≥ 200 CFM may be used in lieu of measuring the actual air flow rate.
29. Exhaust outlets from more than one dwelling unit may be served by a single exhaust fan if the fan runs continuously or if each outlet has a back-draft damper to prevent cross-contamination when the fan is not running.
30. Fans exempted from this requirement include HVAC air handlers and remote-mounted fans. To be considered for this exemption, a remote-mounted fan must be mounted outside the habitable spaces, bathrooms, toilets, and hallways and there shall be ≥ 4 ft. ductwork between the fan and intake grill. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, habitable spaces are intended for continual human occupancy; such space generally includes areas used for living, sleeping, dining, and cooking but does not generally include bathrooms, toilets, hallways, storage areas, closets, or utility rooms.
31. Per the 2009 International Mechanical Code, a direct-vent appliance is one that is constructed and installed so that all air for combustion is derived from the outdoor atmosphere and all flue gases are discharged to the outside atmosphere; a mechanical draft system is a venting system designed to remove flue or vent gases by mechanical means consisting of an induced draft portion under non-positive static pressure or a forced draft portion under positive static pressure; and a natural draft system is a venting system designed to remove flue or vent gases under nonpositive static vent pressure entirely by natural draft.
32. The pressure boundary is the primary air enclosure boundary separating indoor and outdoor air. For example, a volume that has more leakage to outside than to conditioned space would be outside the pressure boundary.
33. Raters shall use either the Building Performance Institute's (BPI's) Combustion Safety Test Procedure for Vented Appliances or RESNET's Interim Guidelines for Combustion Appliance Testing & Writing Work Scope and be BPI-certified or RESNET-certified to follow the protocol. If using RESNET's worst-case depressurization protocol to evaluate fireplaces, per Item 10.2, the blower door shall not be set to exhaust 300 CFM to simulate the fireplace in operation, but the remainder of the protocol shall be followed.
34. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010 and pub. addenda, the term "net-exhaust flow" is defined as flow through an exhaust system minus the compensating outdoor airflow through any supply system that is interlocked to the exhaust system. "Net supply flow" is intended to represent the inverse. If net exhaust flow exceeds allowable limit, it shall be reduced or compensating outdoor airflow provided.
35. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, occupiable space is any enclosed space inside the pressure boundary and intended for human activities, including, but not limited to, all habitable spaces, toilets, closets, halls, storage and utility areas, and laundry areas. See Footnote 30 for definition of "habitable spaces".
36. The minimum volume of combustion air required for safe operation by the manufacturer and / or code shall be met or exceeded. Also, in accordance with the National Fuel Gas Code, ANSI Z223.1 / NFPA54, unvented room heaters shall not be installed in bathrooms or bedrooms.
37. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, ducted mechanical systems are those that supply air to an occupiable space through ductwork exceeding 10 ft. in length and through a thermal conditioning component, except for evaporative coolers. Systems that do not meet this definition are exempt from this requirement. Also, mini-split systems typically do not have MERV-rated filters available for use and are, therefore, also exempted under this version of the guidelines.
38. HVAC filters located in the attic shall be considered accessible to the owner if drop-down stairs provide access to attic and a permanently installed walkway has been provided between the attic access location and the filter.
39. The filter media box (i.e., the component in the HVAC system that houses the filter) may be either site-fabricated by the installer or pre-fabricated by the manufacturer to meet this requirement. These requirements only apply when the filter is installed in a filter media box located in the HVAC system, not when the filter is installed flush with the return grill.



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04) Water Management System Builder Checklist ^{1,2,3}

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Inspection Guidelines	Must Correct	Builder Verified	Rater Verified	N/A
1. Water-Managed Site and Foundation				
1.1 Patio slabs, porch slabs, walks, and driveways sloped ≥ 0.25 in. per ft. away from home to edge of surface or 10 ft., whichever is less. ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Back-fill has been tamped and final grade sloped ≥ 0.5 in. per ft. away from home for ≥ 10 ft. See footnote for alternatives. ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3 Capillary break beneath all slabs (e.g., slab on grade, basement slab) except crawlspace slabs using either: ≥ 6 mil polyethylene sheeting, lapped 6-12 in., or ≥ 1 " extruded polystyrene insulation with taped joints. ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4 Capillary break at all crawlspace floors using ≥ 6 mil polyethylene sheeting, lapped 6-12 in., and installed using one of the following three options: ⁵				
1.4.1 Placed beneath a concrete slab; OR,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4.2 Lapped up each wall or pier and fastened with furring strips or equivalent; OR,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4.3 Secured in the ground at the perimeter using stakes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.5 Exterior surface of below-grade walls finished as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For poured concrete, concrete masonry, and insulated concrete forms, finish with damp-proofing coating • For wood framed walls, finish with polyethylene and adhesive or other equivalent waterproofing 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.6 Class 1 vapor retarders not installed on the interior side of air permeable insulation in exterior below-grade walls ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.7 Sump pump covers mechanically attached with full gasket seal or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.8 Drain tile surrounded with clean gravel and fabric filter ⁷	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Water-Managed Wall Assembly				
2.1 Flashing at bottom of exterior walls with weep holes included for masonry veneer and weep screed for stucco cladding systems, or equivalent drainage system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Fully sealed continuous drainage plane behind exterior cladding that laps over flashing in Item 2.1. Additional bond-break drainage plane layer provided behind all stucco and non-structural masonry cladding wall assemblies ⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Window and door openings fully flashed ⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Water-Managed Roof Assembly				
3.1 Step and kick-out flashing at all roof-wall intersections, extending ≥ 4 " on wall surface above roof deck and integrated with drainage plane above ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 For homes that don't have a slab-on-grade foundation and do have expansive or collapsible soils, gutters & downspouts provided that empty to lateral piping that deposits water on sloping final grade ≥ 5 ft. from foundation or to underground catchment system ≥ 10 ft. from foundation. ¹¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Self-sealing bituminous membrane or equivalent at all valleys & roof deck penetrations ¹²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4 In 2009 IECC Climate Zones 5 and higher, self-sealing bituminous membrane or equivalent over sheathing at eaves from the edge of the roof line to > 2 ft. up roof deck from the interior plane of the exterior wall. ¹²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Water-Managed Building Materials				
4.1 Wall-to-wall carpet <u>not</u> installed within 2.5 feet of toilets, tubs, and showers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 Cement board or equivalent moisture-resistant backing material installed on all walls behind tub and shower enclosures composed of tile or panel assemblies with caulked joints. Paper-faced backerboard shall not be used ¹³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 In Warm-Humid climates, Class 1 vapor retarders not installed on the interior side of air permeable insulation in above-grade walls, except at shower and tub walls ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 Building materials with visible signs of water damage or mold <u>not</u> installed ¹⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.5 Interior walls <u>not</u> enclosed (e.g., with drywall) if either the framing members or insulation products have high moisture content ¹⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Builder Employee: _____				
Builder Signature: _____	Date: _____			
<i>Builder has completed Builder Checklist in its entirety, except for items that are checked in the Rater Verified column (if any)</i> ²				
Rater Signature: _____	Date: _____			



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04)

Water Management System Builder Checklist^{1,2,3}

1. The specifications in this Checklist are designed to help improve moisture control in new homes compared with homes built to minimum code. However, these features alone cannot prevent all moisture problems. For example, leaky pipes or overflowing sinks or baths can lead to moisture issues and negatively impact the performance of this Checklist's specified features.
2. This Checklist shall be provided by the Rater to the builder who shall complete the checklist. Upon completion, the builder shall return the checklist to the Rater for review. If desired by the builder, the Rater may verify any item on this Checklist. When this occurs, the Rater shall check the box of the verified items in the Rater Verified column. The Rater is only responsible for ensuring that the builder has completed the Builder Checklist in its entirety and for the items that are checked in the Rater Verified column (if any). The Rater is not responsible for assessing the accuracy of the field verifications for items in this Checklist that are not checked in the Rater Verified column. Instead, it is the builder's exclusive responsibility to ensure the design and installation comply with the Builder Checklist.
3. A completed and signed Indoor airPLUS Verification Checklist may be submitted in lieu of the Water Management System Builder Checklist. For more information, see www.epa.gov/indoorairplus.
4. Where setbacks limit space to less than 10 ft., swales or drains designed to carry water from foundation shall be provided. Also, tamping of back-fill is not required if either: proper drainage can be achieved using non-settling compact soils, as determined by a certified hydrologist, soil scientist, or engineer; OR, the builder has scheduled a site visit to provide in-fill and final grading after settling has occurred (e.g., after the first rainy season).
5. Polyethylene sheeting is not required in Dry (B) climates as shown in 2009 IECC Figure 301.1 and Table 301.1. Polyethylene sheeting is also not required for raised pier foundations with no walls. To earn the ENERGY STAR, EPA recommends, but does not require, that radon-resistant features be included in homes built in EPA Radon Zones 1, 2 and 3. For more information, see www.epa.gov/indoorairplus.
6. The 2009 IRC defines Class I vapor retarders as a material or assembly with a rating of ≤ 0.1 perm, as defined using the desiccant method with Procedure A of ASTM E 96. The following materials are typically rated at ≤ 0.1 perm and therefore shall not be used on the interior side of air permeable insulation in above-grade exterior walls in warm-humid climates or below-grade exterior walls in any climate: rubber membranes, polyethylene film, glass, aluminum foil, sheet metal, foil-faced insulating sheathings, and foil-faced non-insulating sheathings. These materials can be used on the interior side of walls if air permeable insulation is not present (e.g., foil-faced rigid foam board adjacent to a below-grade concrete foundation wall is permitted).

Note that this list is not comprehensive and other materials with a perm rating ≤ 0.1 also shall not be used. Also, if manufacturer specifications for a specific product indicate a perm rating above 0.1, then the material may be used, even if it is in this list. Also note that open-cell and closed-cell foam generally have perm ratings above this limit and may be used unless manufacturer specifications indicate a perm rating ≤ 0.1 . Several exemptions to these requirements apply:

- Class I vapor retarders, such as ceramic tile, may be used at shower and tub walls;
 - Class I vapor retarders, such as mirrors, may be used if they are mounted with clips or other spacers that allow air to circulate behind them.
7. Protected drain tile shall be installed at the footings of basement and crawlspace walls, level or sloped to discharge to outside grade (daylight) or to a sump pump. The top of each drain tile pipe shall always be below the bottom of the concrete slab or crawlspace floor. Each pipe shall be surrounded with at least 6 inches of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch washed or clean gravel. The gravel layer shall be fully wrapped with fabric cloth or drain tile pre-wrapped with a fabric filter to prevent clogging of the drain tile with sediment.
 8. Any of the following systems may be used: a monolithic weather-resistant barrier (i.e., house wrap) sealed or taped at all joints; weather resistant sheathings (e.g., faced rigid insulation) fully taped at all "butt" joints; lapped shingle-style building paper or felts; or other water-resistive barrier recognized by ICC-ES or other accredited agency.
 9. Apply pan flashing over the rough sill framing, inclusive of the corners of the sill framing; side flashing that extends over pan flashing; and top flashing that extends over side flashing.
 10. Intersecting wall siding shall terminate 1 in. above the roof or higher, per manufacturer's recommendations. Continuous flashing shall be installed in place of step flashing for metal and rubber membrane roofs.
 11. The assessment of whether the soil is expansive or collapsible shall be completed by a certified hydrologist, soil scientist, or engineer. Gutters shall be not required in dry climates as shown in 2009 IECC Figure 301.1 and Table 301.1. A roof design without gutters is also acceptable if it deposits rainwater to a grade-level rock bed with a waterproof liner and a drain pipe that deposits water on a sloping finish grade ≥ 5 ft. from foundation. Rainwater harvesting systems may also be used to meet this requirement when designed to properly drain overflow, meeting the discharge-distance requirements above.
 12. Not required in dry climates as shown in 2009 IECC Figure 301.1 and Table 301.1.
 13. Monolithic tub and shower enclosures (e.g., fiberglass with no seams) are exempt from this backing material requirement unless required by the manufacturer. Paper-faced backerboard may only be used behind monolithic enclosures and only if it meets ASTM mold-resistant standards ASTM D3273 or ASTM D6329.
 14. If mold is present, effort should be made to remove all visible signs of mold using detergent or other method. If removal methods are not effective, then the material shall be replaced.
 15. For wet-applied insulation products, follow manufacturer's drying recommendations. As guidance, EPA recommends that lumber not exceed 18% moisture content.