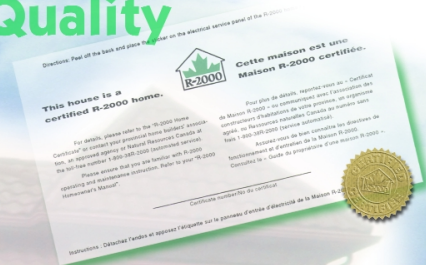


# R-2000 Program

## Building a Home?

### Ten Questions to Ask Your Builder

Quality



Comfort



Health



## BEFORE BUILDING A HOME, ASK YOUR BUILDER THESE TEN QUESTIONS:

**1** Since all builders must meet the requirements of the building code, what makes your homes different from other builders?

R-2000 homes go beyond the requirements of the building code. They are more energy-efficient, offer better indoor air quality, and environmentally responsible products are used in their construction. And each house is inspected by an independent, third-party expert to make sure that it meets these requirements before it can be certified.

**2** How do your building techniques reflect the latest developments in housing technology?

Only licensed R-2000 builders are part of a network of trained, innovative professionals who voluntarily build homes to the R-2000 Technical Standard – an evolving standard that reflects more than 20 years of research and development by the Government of Canada and the home-building industry. R-2000 builders are committed to being industry leaders and take training to keep abreast of the latest developments in home building technology.

**3** What steps do you take to improve the energy efficiency of the homes you build?

Licensed R-2000 builders use high levels of insulation, incorporate passive solar energy into their designs, install high-performance heating and ventilation systems and use thorough air sealing to improve the energy efficiency of R-2000 homes and to ensure excellent indoor air quality. Every R-2000 home has to meet an energy performance target.



**4** Can you predict what my energy costs will be?

Your home's energy costs will depend on the living patterns of its occupants.

However, R-2000 professionals can use the energy target of your R-2000 home to predict your annual energy costs based on standard operating conditions. Typically, R-2000 homes cost about one third less to operate than conventional new homes.

**5** What makes your homes more environmentally friendly than others?

When building an R-2000 home, R-2000 builders must choose from an approved list of materials that help protect the environment. R-2000 homes produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions, waste less material during construction, use less water and produce less sewage.



**6** Because my family's health is important to me, what assurance can you give me about air quality in your homes?

R-2000 builders must choose from an approved list of "healthy" building materials and finishes that contribute to better indoor air quality. Preliminary results from a Health Canada survey on homeowner health show that 56 percent of R-2000 homeowners found that their overall health improved after moving into an R-2000 home, and 94 percent found a significant improvement in indoor air quality.



**7** What steps do you take to ensure that your homes have a continuous flow of fresh air without being drafty?

All certified R-2000 homes have a heat recovery ventilator that delivers a continuous supply of fresh air to each room in the home and exhausts stale, humid air and household pollutants to the outdoors. A continuous air barrier creates a virtually airtight environment to minimize drafts and increase comfort.

**8** Are your homes endorsed by the Government of Canada and by utility companies?

All R-2000 homes are certified by the Government of Canada to meet the R-2000 Technical Standard in home building. Utilities, home-builders' associations, financial institutions and product manufacturers across Canada are proud sponsors of the R-2000 Program.

**9** Do independent licensed professionals inspect the quality of your homes?

All certified R-2000 homes are evaluated, inspected and tested for airtightness by independent professionals who have been trained and licensed by the Government of Canada.

**10** Do you build certified R-2000 homes?

Only licensed R-2000 builders who have been trained and licensed by the Government of Canada can build certified R-2000 homes. If it's not certified, it's not an R-2000 home!

Not getting the answers you want? Ask a licensed R-2000 builder.

For more information about R-2000 homes, contact the R-2000 Program at Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency by e-mail at [r.2000@nrcc.gc.ca](mailto:r.2000@nrcc.gc.ca) or call **1 800 387-2000** toll-free. You can also visit the R-2000 Web site at <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/r2000> or write to



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