



Valley Home Builders Association

GREEN BUILDING

Building sustainable quality of life.



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Get to Know Green Building

What is GREEN BUILDING?

Building in concert with the environment is not new to home builders. Early settlers who built their homes on uninhabited prairie strategically chose home sites to minimize wind exposure, maximize sun exposure or live near a water source. Today, a growing number of home builders are taking environmentally-friendly and cost-effective measures like these and combining them with modern technologies in the “green building” movement.

The home building industry coined the term “green building” in the late 1980s. Green Building refers to a wide variety of measures taken that can make a home or other building healthier, safer, more comfortable, more durable, energy efficient and environmentally responsible. Since 1990, more than 61,000 green homes have been built, and consumer demand for energy-efficient and cost-effective homes is rapidly increasing.

The process of green building incorporates environmental considerations into every phase of the home building process. Lot development, resource efficient building design and materials, indoor environmental quality, energy and water efficiency, homeowner maintenance and the home’s overall impact on the environment are all taken into account during the design, construction and operation of a home.

The concept and practice of green building is not clearly defined or straightforward. However, certain guiding principles serve to outline the general considerations of green building:

- Site planning & land development
- Lot design & preparation
- Resource efficiency
- Energy efficiency
- Water efficiency
- Indoor environmental quality
- Operation, maintenance & homeowner education
- Global impact

Green building is much more than just reducing a home’s environmental footprint. Homeowners can realize direct benefits by owning a green home, including:

- Lower operating costs
- Increased comfort
- Improved environmental quality
- Enhanced durability and less maintenance