

In the news

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Energy rating on new homes to help environment

For people building new homes, the rise in electricity prices is cause for concern. However, the implementation of the compulsory minimum six-star energy rating for new homes will enable people to save up to 78 per cent on their heating and cooling costs as well as have a positive impact on the environment.

The way the star rating – to a maximum of 10 – works is the higher the rating, the more money you will save.

The energy efficiency rating will be compulsory on all new homes by May next year.

Summit Homes launched its star rating homes at the end of March this year.

"The higher the star rating the more savings you will have," Summit Homes Sales and Marketing Manager Tim Underwood said.

"The overall cost of heating and cooling will be reduced with things such as thermal insulation, which keeps temperatures stable, so you don't have to use as much energy to heat your home in winter or keep it cool in summer.

"By May 1, 2012 all new homes must meet a minimum requirement of six stars."

Tim said new home owners would notice a massive difference in six-star rated homes.

"There is a massive jump in the benefits gained from five-star to six-star rated homes and homebuyers have every reason to be excited by these changes," he said.

"In addition to the very welcome cost saving benefits, Summit Homes customers will be able to live comfortably as well as enjoy improved health and wellbeing, increased resilience to climate change and peace of mind knowing they are helping to reduce their carbon footprint for future generations."

Cost saving features in new homes includes R4.0 insulation batts in the roof, garage and alfresco area to help stabilise internal temperatures as well as air-cell insulation between wall cavities providing the entire home with thermal protection.

Western Australia is the last state to have the minimum star rating implemented.

"While Western Australia will be the last state to adopt the six-star requirements, we are delighted Summit Homes is the first builder to embrace it locally," Tim said.

"Launching this commitment more than 12 months before the mandatory roll out is yet another way we can demonstrate we are listening to our customers needs and responding to what they want as well as taking an active step to help the environment."



Perth Metro: 9333 0888
South West: 9722 0300




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