



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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Required Green Building Features List for Small Projects

The applicable items on this list shall be incorporated into the following types of residential development projects:

- Additions and New Construction under 500 square feet in size,
- Remodels (of any size),
- Over-the-Counter permits (for projects of any size, except decks which are exempt)

Energy Conservation

1. Insulation Requirements:
 - a. Exterior Walls: Install minimum R-13 wall insulation when either interior or exterior finishes of the exterior (weather) walls are removed (insulation needs to be installed only in wall area exposed).
 - b. Floors: Install minimum R-19 floor insulation under the floor if project includes any floor reframing or removal of the sub-floor (insulation needs to be installed only in floor area exposed).
 - c. Ceiling: Install R-19 (or better) ceiling insulation if ceiling coverage is exposed (insulation needs to be installed only in ceiling area exposed).
 - d. Hot Water Pipes: Insulate any hot water pipes in unconditioned space (i.e., areas not heated/cooled) that become exposed due to construction or are accessible in the attic or under-floor areas.
2. Install "Energy Star" Appliances: Provide EPA "Energy Star" certified equipment for all applicable newly installed or replacement appliances. Shall include but not be limited to dishwashers, clothes washers & dryers, refrigerators, ovens, ranges, forced air units, air conditioners, and storage water heaters.

Indoor Air Quality

- *3. Formaldehyde Limits: Formaldehyde limits for wood products shall meet Table 804.4.4 of the California Green Building Code.
- **4. Seal Duct Openings: Cover and seal duct openings during construction for all new and existing ductwork in proximity of the construction.
- **5. VOC Limits: Use only interior paints/wood finishes and adhesives that contain low, or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Water Conservation

- **6. Install Low-Flow Plumbing Fixtures: New plumbing fixtures shall have a net saving of 20 percent over minimum requirements. Multiple showerheads serving one shower shall have a total water usage no greater than 2gpm @ 80psi.
- *7. Water Budget for Landscaping: Where landscape irrigation is proposed, a water budget shall be developed that conforms to the California Department of Water Resources Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, or other applicable local regulations.

Solid Waste Diversion

- *8. Provide Recycling Area: Provide a readily accessible area for depositing, storage and collection of recyclable items (as applicable).
- **9. Construction & Demolition Waste Reduction: Provide documentation of a minimum 50 percent construction/demolition waste reduction, through recycling, salvage or donation of unused materials.

Other

- **10. Provide Operation and Maintenance Binder/Manual: Provide an operation and maintenance binder/manual for all new appliances and systems installed as part of the scope of work.

Costs vs. Benefits of Building Green: This Green Building Features List for Small Projects is part of the County's Green Building Program and helps to address global climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the County. This program, similar to those in the County's four cities, involves modest requirements to upgrade energy efficiency in residential buildings, additions and remodels. Indoor air quality and resource conservation are also addressed. Studies have shown that additional costs associated with "going green" are negligible, and are generally offset within 1-3 years by the energy savings that result from incorporating energy efficient practices and features.

* Will be part of Calif. Green Building Code requirements starting August 1, 2009

** Will be part of Calif. Green Building Code requirements starting July 1, 2011