

SPEND A LITTLE SAVE A LOT

These days our environmental footprint is becoming increasingly important. With threats on our existing environment caused by a changing climate, we can all help do our part in reducing our dependence on fossil fuel burning – and it starts with our homes.

It's not simply what energy is burned in our homes every day to make them comfortable and livable, it's also what energy was used to manufacture their basic components in the factories. So, just how energy efficient are our homes really? Well, it's all summed up with a star rating.

A star rating is used to assess the level of energy efficiency in our homes. This rating ranges from 0-10 and judges the design of the building shell – the walls, roof, flooring and windows.

In Australia, all new builds must have a minimum rating of 6 stars. While this government mandated minimum is a step in the right direction, these 6-star homes are generally not that energy efficient and, as the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) states, this rating 'indicates good, but not outstanding, thermal performance' (2019). All in all, we can do a whole lot better.

We've spent well over a decade now becoming expert in constructing genuinely energy efficient homes – 7, 8 and even 9-star – that are not only supremely high quality builds so will last for generations, but are truly energy efficient, carefully choosing materials and components that were made right.

Energy efficiency has another vital aspect – our homes are designed and



built to be easily adaptable to your changing wants and needs as you get older. They are simple things which barely make a ripple in your budget, but will potentially save you tens of thousands later.

By carefully considering many 'passive' elements of our homes' design, we can create a far more energy efficient home that will save you money from day one. Strategically crafting a home to work with – and not against – the natural environment will result in a far more liveable home that uses the natural elements to reduce energy usage.

There are three fundamental aspects of home design that will increase your home's energy efficiency. The first is orientation of your home and the second, designing the home in manageable zones.

The third element is insulation, which, in tandem with the former fundamentals, will help maintain a consistent temperature in your home and minimise your daily energy usage.

This consideration at the design stage of the build is crucial – a little extra investment will save you a tonne of money. Ignore the basics and you will end up spending thousands fighting a changeable nature trying to maintain a comfortable temperature in your home.

While we don't know what Climate Change will bring, we do know that energy prices are always on the rise.

If you spend a little at the beginning making your home more energy efficient, you will save a lot every day – both monetarily and environmentally. At Geoff Gibson Homes we are committed to making that happen.

— Geoff Gibson

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