

How to improve your homes comfort and rating.

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Those who saw the article in the September Build Online news will be aware that from early 2015 the Victorian State Government is expected to make available its voluntary Home Energy Star Rating system. This is a great opportunity for homeowners to showcase their homes comfort and affordability when it comes to running costs. It could also help you obtain a better resale price in the future. So I thought it would be worth providing some input on how you can improve your homes rating.



Firstly, what affects a home's rating? In Victoria the key factors are generally the building envelope (the external walls, ceiling and floor of the home that provide the barrier between inside and out), orientation, insulation and draft proof levels, window performance, hot water systems, heating/cooling systems, lighting and other fixed electrical appliances used in the home. All of these features have a significant contribution to the level of comfort, energy use and cost of running a home.

In order to obtain a good rating, you will need a home that performs well and is cost effective to run. Something that we all aspire to. For those of you who may be considering any changes in the near future, or just want to know what you might need to do to improve your home's rating, here are some things you can do:

1. Insulate the ceiling to minimum R3.5 levels (and ensure it is done properly – no gaps)
2. Draft proof all external doors, windows, construction gaps and exhaust fans
3. Install low energy lighting (just fyi - halogen lights are not low energy)
4. Install energy efficient heating and cooling systems
5. Install energy efficient hot water systems
6. Ensure your windows are efficient (if not double glazed, then opt for close fitting thermally lined curtains with pelmets, thermally lined roman blinds or cellular/honeycomb blinds.
7. Install an external clothes line

If you'd like a qualified assessor to visit and provide tailored information on how you can improve your home, contact [Green Moves](#) to organise for a fully qualified and insured sustainability assessor to attend your home and conduct an assessment.

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