

Build & Reno Must Have's

for a comfortable efficient home.



To make a new home a more cost efficient and comfortable, consider including the following sustainable features when you next build or renovate. If you can, you'll reap the benefits for years to come. This is a guide only, for specific advice speak with a sustainability advisor.

What	Must do During Building	Cheaper during building but can do later	Anytime
Orientate main living areas to North side	X		
Plan north facing roof line for future solar appliances	X		
Ensure appropriate eaves all-round the home	X		
Insulation in ceiling, walls and under floor	X		
Keep all wet areas together	X		
Lag all hot water pipes	X	X	
Use recycled/renewable materials if you can	X	X	
Include rainwater tanks, plumb into toilets and laundry (depends on the home what stage best)	X	X	X
Include sealed skylights for natural light to internal areas		X	
Double glaze windows to main living areas		X	
Low energy lighting (LED is best, then CFL) avoid down lights.		X	
Ensure there are draft stoppers on exhaust fans		X	X
Get a light (white/light cream) coloured roof		X	
Light colours outside of the house on walls		X	
If you have mains gas available use it		X	
Install an efficient hot water system		X	
Install 5*+ energy rated appliances (eg. fridge)		X	X
Set up grey water system to plants (not food)		X	X
Install ceiling fans (some have lights)		X	X
Install dual flush toilets		X	
Install water efficient shower heads & tap ware		X	X
Heating/cooling, best to have zoned system or separate unit in each room (6*+ rating).		X	X
Use heavy backed close fitting curtains or roman blinds with pelmets on windows			X
Use solar garden lighting and security lights			X
For Later Consideration:			
Select renewable energy from your energy provider			X
Install Renewable energy (solar power, wind turbine?)		X	X
Use shade sails, blinds or deciduous trees to protect in summer			X
Plant fruit trees and herbs			X
Set up a vegetable patch			X
Set up a compost heap and/or worm farm			X
Plant drought tolerant plants elsewhere			X

If you would like further assistance with your project or to discuss what would be best in your situation, contact us and organize an energy efficiency and/or sustainability consultation. It's 1 or 2 hours well spent that could save you hours of time and significant money in the future.