

Let's talk about the language of energy efficient homes

THE RESNET HERS INDEX[®]

Energy Efficiency and Related Design Considerations

Given how much building science has advanced in the last decade, it's amazing how few builders today are embracing the opportunity to deliver a well built, super insulated and highly efficient new home to interested buyers. At the Village at Salisbury Square, we are building new homes that are singularly outstanding compared to any other new homes being built in this area. You owe it to yourself and years of future utility bills to understand how this quality of construction translates into big savings and significantly increased comfort.

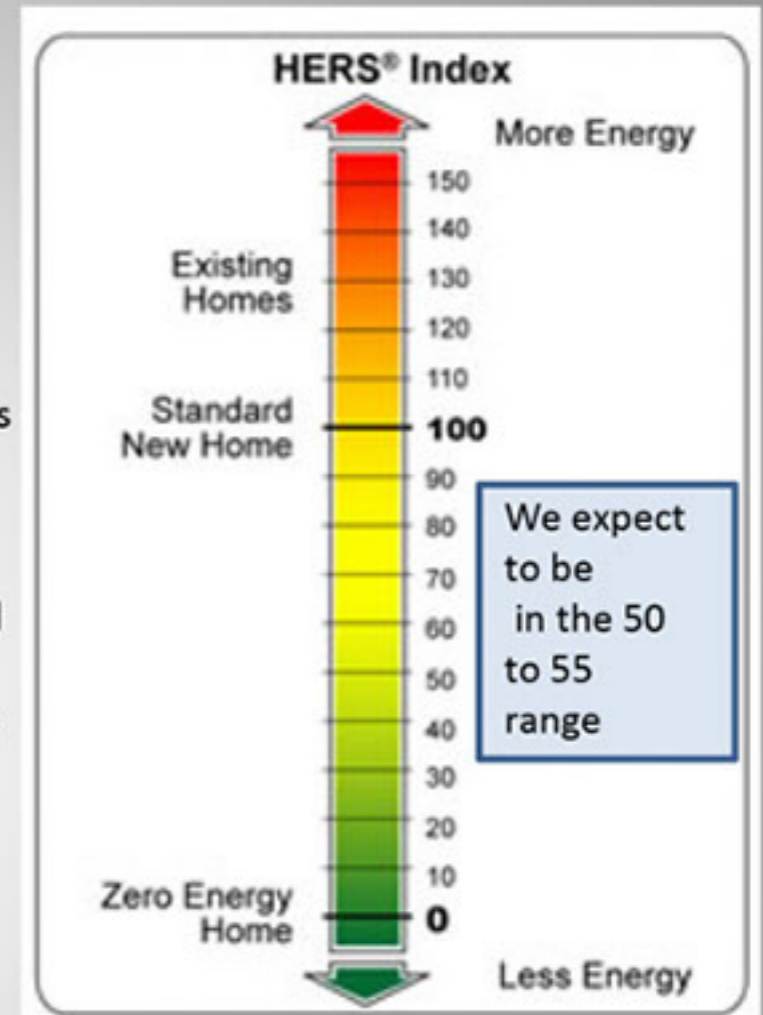
Most new homes today rely on traditional four or six inch thick exterior walls, with fiberglass batts in each stud bay. This results in numerous gaps that allow air leakage into buildings, decreasing comfort and increasing heating and cooling costs. Simply put, it's the cheapest way to build a home, which is why it's still the predominant choice of home builders. Over the next five years, these methods of insulation will be phased out as building codes begin to require better insulated homes. **Buying a home built this way today means your home will perform significantly below standard homes built in the near future. This should be a key consideration for anyone looking to maximize future resale value.**

How can you cut through all of the confusion and fairly rate one new home against another? It's simple, ask the builder to see his HERS rating for the home you are looking at.....

[HERS \(Home Energy Rating Systems\)](#)

A HERS rating provides an easy to understand standardized evaluation of a home's energy efficiency and expected energy costs. HERS Ratings provide a relative energy use index called the HERS Index – a HERS Index of 100 represents the energy use of the typical "American Standard Building". The lower the number, the more energy efficient the home is. An energy rating can maximize the value of the largest single investment most home owners are likely to make in their entire lifetime.

HERS ratings are done by independent, certified professionals who are required to follow strict ratings guidelines.



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ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS[®]

\$1437 typical existing home (\$/yr)* **\$898** typical new home (\$/yr)**

This home is 50% more energy efficient than a standard new home and 80% more efficient than the average resale home, which already puts it in a better bracket than a standard new home. However, there are still many improvements that can be made. A RESNET certified Rater is the ideal person to talk to about what more can be done.

SUPER INSULATED HOMES

A Super insulated home can result in significant annual energy savings for heating and cooling compared to a standard home, and is also more comfortable and healthy for the occupants.

Standard Construction Details at The Village at Salisbury Square

Our homes are constructed to be air tight. We are utilizing exterior [ZIP sheathing](#) which provides excellent weather protection as well as superior air sealing.

Our exterior walls are six to eight inches thick. We seal the interior of the sheathing with two inches of [closed cell spray foam](#), which provides a superior air and vapor barrier. Then we add an additional layer of fiberglass insulation. The total assembly results in an R 27 exterior wall system, significantly outperforming our competition.

Our ceilings are insulated with blown in cellulose insulation, with an R 48 insulation rating.

All penetrations are caulked and air sealed to prevent inward air migration which results in decreased heating and cooling costs as well as increased comfort.

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

In addition to superior insulation, our new homes come standard with a 95% efficiency gas fired furnace as well as a 95% efficiency tankless water heater, both of which result in additional energy savings.

We provide a Panasonic Whisper Green automatic ventilation system to control air quality.

