

What Makes A Green Home?



LOCATION

Northerly aspect should be a key consideration when purchasing your block of land, as having access to northern sun guarantees a host of energy-saving opportunities.

SOLAR PASSIVE DESIGN

Living areas ideally located on the north side of the home, harvesting natural light year round, and winter sun in the cooler months. Wet areas and rooms used mostly at night can be to the south.

THERMAL MASS

Correct location and volume of thermal mass will absorb, store, and release winter sun heating the home at no cost. In summer, the same thermal mass provides a cooling element for the home.

INSULATION

The home needs to be insulated from ceiling to slab, with care taken to not compress or leave gaps during installation. A thorough and careful approach delivers significantly better results.

DRAUGHT-PROOFING

GHA Homes are draught-proofed to European standards, which provide 4 to 5 times less air leakage than a standard new Australian home. Quality draught-proofing also dramatically increases the efficiency of any heating or cooling mechanisms being used in the home.

ROOF LINE AND EAVE LENGTH

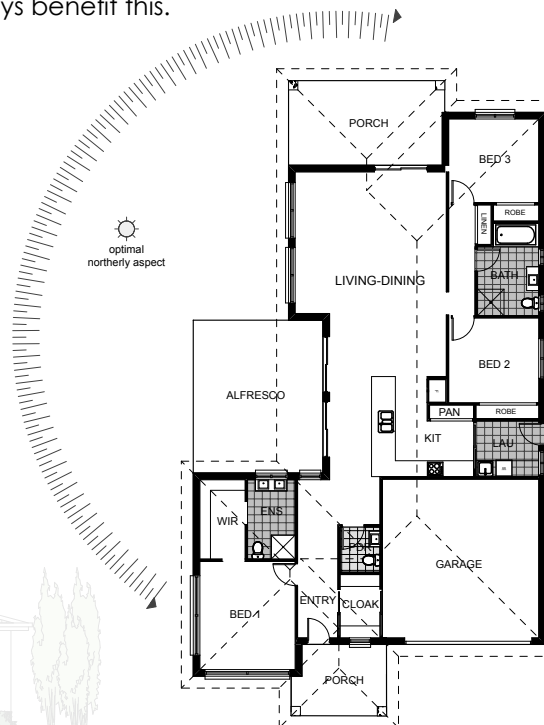
Correct eave length will control when the sun's energy enters the home, and when it doesn't. Shorter eaves suit cooler climates, and longer eaves in hotter climates.

WINDOW POSITION AND GLAZING

Windows are correctly positioned with reference to eaves and shadow lines, ensuring maximum benefit. Correct glazing for your climate is essential, and the cost of glazing options versus efficiency gains needs to be carefully considered.

VENTILATION

A well designed green home encourages natural breezes through the home, affording the best opportunities to cool the home naturally, and at no cost. Doors, windows and general layout should always benefit this.



SIZE OF YOUR HOME

When designing your home, consider the amount of space that you will use. The larger the home, the more it will cost to heat and cool.

MATERIALS

The use of the right materials in the right places can further boost a home's efficiency. Again, cost of material versus efficiency gains needs to be carefully considered.

WATER & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Solar Hot Water can deliver one of the biggest energy savings in a green home, while harvesting rainwater and using in the home further boosts efficiency. Solar PV can also be of benefit in many green home situations.

FITTINGS & APPLIANCES

Choose sustainable, high efficiency and environmentally friendly fittings & appliances to ensure your home is performing as efficiently as possible.

LANDSCAPING

A well designed garden can improve your home's ability to maintain a constant temperature all year round. Well placed trees and plants can reduce air temperature flow coming into your home.

WORK WITH THE RIGHT BUILDER!

It's important that you choose a builder who understands what you want, and knows how to build a green home using practical and realistic principles.

