

For Submission of the "Super Nova" Star of Energy Efficiency Award

At Design Tech Homes, we require independent inspections to certify that our home meets the stringent requirements of the Energy Star® program. Design Tech Homes is one of the largest custom home builders in Texas to comply with, and exceed, the national Energy Star® program on every single home built. In 2008, Design Tech Homes completed 110 homes, 100% of which were Energy Star® certified. And once a new Design Tech home is complete, we present homeowners with an official Energy Star® certificate.

The components of our windows, insulation, orientation, heating and air conditioning along with structural tightness are all evaluated:

The Building Envelope – Design Tech Homes are inherently more tightly constructed. They are better sealed against heat transfer from hot walls, air drafts, noise, dust and pollen. The benefits of a more tightly constructed home are consistent indoor comfort and quiet from room to room.

- High-Efficiency Insulation – R-13 exterior walls; R-30 attic floors
- Radiant Barrier – reduces summer heat gain, winter heat loss and improves energy usage
- Low-E2 Vinyl Windows – sun radiation is reflected away in summer and heat retained in the winter

Air Conditioning & Heating Systems - Each air conditioning and heating system is individually engineered and sized per house plan in order to achieve optimum energy efficiency and comfort.

- HVAC Equipment – 14 SEER ratings
- ECO-Friendly Refrigerant – R 410A refrigerant is an environmentally safe liquid coolant
- Energy Star® Thermostat – adjusts temperature settings, saving energy while you're away
- Duct Performance – designed and properly sealed for comfort and energy efficiency

Appliances - Energy Star® qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10–50% less energy and water than other standard models. Better appliance energy efficiency comes from quality materials and technologically advanced materials.

Dishwasher – Energy Star® qualified dishwashers use less energy than the federal minimum standard for energy consumption and less hot water than conventional models.

High-Efficiency Hot Water Heating - We feature water heating systems in all of our homes that provide plenty of hot water and do so energy efficiently.

Water Conservation - We include Low-Flow plumbing fixtures - toilets, faucets and showerheads - that conserve water more efficiently when compared to conventional fixtures while providing the same utility.

We are currently conducting an in-house survey of our own Design Tech Homeowners, comparing their monthly utility bills with non-Energy Star® homes of comparable square footage. So far our findings show a savings of as much as 25 - 30% each month but we do not have enough data collected to provide a full report at this date, but we plan to do so this year. # # # #