



# Step Up to Indoor AirPlus

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Help protect your clients' health and boost your bottom line by offering the EPA's Indoor AirPlus certification.

With Indoor AirPlus, you can create homes that help protect and enhance your clients' well-being with healthier living environments.

# Why does indoor air quality matter?

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The home is a sanctuary. Yet, indoor air pollution can significantly impact occupant health and comfort. In fact, levels of some air pollutants inside the home are often two to five times higher than outdoor levels. Improving indoor air quality is about enhancing quality of life.

**Poor indoor air quality is associated with a host of health problems, including:**

- **Respiratory issues:** Pest byproducts, mold spores, pet allergens, and other particle pollution can trigger allergies and asthma. Fine particles and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from household products and building materials can irritate lungs and worsen respiratory conditions.
- **Infectious Diseases:** Inadequate ventilation and air circulation can increase the risk of airborne disease transmission.
- **Depression:** Emerging research suggests a connection between indoor air quality and mental health. Indoor air quality can influence mood and energy levels.
- **Productivity:** Improved indoor air quality can boost productivity.
- **Sleep Quality:** Breathing cleaner indoor air can improve sleep quality.

Building Indoor AirPlus homes and promoting good indoor air quality is not only good for business but is an investment in the well-being and health of the community and comfort of families. Discover how your partnership with the EPA and the Indoor AirPlus certification can help create healthier home environments.



## Why design and build with Indoor AirPlus?

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Builders have the opportunity to offer homes that cater to the needs of modern families, setting themselves apart in the market with a competitive edge. Indoor AirPlus is a program committed to better indoor air quality and compliments eco-friendly living, contributing to a greener home and greater customer satisfaction.

Builders play a vital role in enhancing indoor air quality in new homes by implementing various construction practices and technologies.

By building to the EPA's specifications and meeting third-party verification requirements, builders can distinguish themselves as offering homes designed to deliver improved indoor air quality.

# What distinguishes new homes with the Indoor AirPlus label?

With Indoor AirPlus, the EPA offers a way for builders to distinguish themselves by building homes with professional best practices, including the following design and construction features:

**Moisture Control:** Additional protection from mold and other moisture problems in roof, wall, and foundation systems. Features include continuous drainage planes, proper flashing and air sealing, damp-proof foundation walls, capillary breaks, drain tile, and proper grading.

**Radon Control:** Radon-resistant construction, mitigation, or testing in medium to high radon potential areas, and homeowner education even in lower-risk areas.

**Pest Management:** First-line defense strategies against pest problems by fully sealing, caulking, or screening likely pest entry points, coupled with a tighter building envelope.

**Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC):** Improve indoor air quality with best practice design and installation of ducts and equipment to minimize condensation problems, whole-house and spot ventilation to help dilute and exhaust indoor pollutants, and improved air filtration to reduce airborne particulates.

**Pollutant Reduction:** Protect from potential exposure to harmful gases with direct-vented or power-vented combustion equipment, properly vented kitchen appliances and fireplaces, garages well-sealed from living spaces, and building infiltration testing to reduce exposures from outdoor sources.

**Building Materials:** Requirements for low-emitting building materials, tested to meet industry standards for product emissions.



## THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION AND HOMEOWNER EDUCATION:

Help ensure that homes operate as designed by verifying water management features, radon mitigation systems, heating and air conditioning systems, fresh air ventilation, and other features. Additionally, information is provided to educate occupants about their new home's indoor air quality features.

# Are you ready to step up to Indoor AirPlus?

## 1. Work with a Indoor AirPlus Verifier

Work with a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party Indoor AirPlus Verification Organization (e.g. home energy rating company) to ensure that your homes and apartments are designed and built to meet the Indoor AirPlus Verification Requirements.

## 2. Partner with the EPA

Sign up at [www.epa.gov/iap](http://www.epa.gov/iap). Just complete the Indoor AirPlus partnership agreement - a free, simple online application that outlines expectations between the EPA and industry partners, and provides for use of the Indoor AirPlus name and marks.

## 3. Verify and Label Homes

Have your homes or multifamily buildings inspected and tested by an Indoor AirPlus Verifier. Indoor AirPlus verification can generally be completed along with other certification inspections (e.g. ENERGY STAR or Zero Energy Ready Homes). Following certification, provide an Indoor AirPlus certificate and affix the Indoor AirPlus label to each certified home/apartment.

## 4. Consider the 100% Indoor AirPlus Commitment

Earn this designation by committing to build all of your new homes to earn the Indoor AirPlus label. You can make this commitment in your My ENERGY STAR Account ([www.energystar.gov/esa](http://www.energystar.gov/esa)), and use the 100% Commitment Mark to promote your Indoor AirPlus partnership and commitment to safer, healthier homes for your buyers.

## 5. Promote your Competitive Advantage

Use Indoor AirPlus promotional materials and resources to gain market advantage for your certified home, such as the Discover Indoor AirPlus customizable booklet, which describes the value of improved indoor air quality.

More about Indoor AirPlus  
at: [www.epa.gov/iap](http://www.epa.gov/iap)

# Complimentary home certifications

High performance home programs give homebuilders an opportunity to deliver unparalleled quality and performance to their customers and allow builders to offer superior energy efficiency, water efficiency, and indoor air quality with marks that their homebuyers can trust.

## ENERGY STAR

The ENERGY STAR mark identifies new homes, buildings, and more than 70 types of products that are energy efficient and offer the features, quality, and performance today's consumers expect.



## WaterSense

WaterSense is both a label for water-efficient products and a resource for helping you save water, making it easy to find products, homes, and programs that meet the EPA's criteria for efficiency and performance. WaterSense labeled products are certified to use 20 percent less water, save energy, and perform as well as or better than regular models.



## Zero Energy Ready Home

Zero Energy Ready Homes are carefully designed, built, and verified to meet rigid criteria for superior performance, comfort, and durability. This translates to lower utility bills and a significantly reduced carbon footprint, offering homeowners energy savings and environmental benefits.



## Phius

Phius' climate-specific standards address climate change through substantial energy savings. Quality assured through a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party, all Phius Certified homes use passive building techniques resulting in resilient, high-performance homes with comfortable living environments.



Look For



[www.epa.gov/iap](http://www.epa.gov/iap)



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