



These high-performance features are included on **Earth Advantage[®] Gold** certified **Ostercraft Homes**.

Upon certification this Ostercraft home will have achieved the rigorous standards set by Earth Advantage for Energy Efficiency, Healthier Indoor Air, Materials Responsibility, Land Conservation, and Water Conservation, delivering a superior built home to buyers. This level of achievement is designed to help the house perform better and exceed those that are built to standard building practices.

Energy Efficiency

Duct Leakage Test This test ensures that the duct system has been properly sealed to help maintain indoor air quality and that energy normally lost through leaks in the duct system is conserved. Duct leakage can account for up to 30% of all heating/cooling loss.

ENERGY STAR[®] Lighting Package Eighty percent or more of the lighting fixtures of this home are fitted with ENERGY STAR[®] rated fluorescent lighting products or LED products. Fluorescent lighting products use one quarter of the energy of standard incandescent lighting products.

Thermal Bypass Checklist This is a detailed list of best practices prepared from ENERGY STAR[®] guidelines, which helps ensure that multiple areas of heat loss and air leakage are addressed.

Sealed Gas Fireplace with Electronic Ignition This feature eliminates the pilot light, saving energy and reducing the risk of harmful gas leaks. Additionally, this system uses outside air for combustion and venting, effectively sealing off the living area from any stray combustion byproducts.

Blown-in Fibrous Wall Cavity Insulation Insulation in wall cavities have two performance issues: quality and quantity. At minimum, Earth Advantage suggests blown-in insulation or sprayed-in-place foam that fill the cavity without leaving voids. Insulation levels above the code minimum are encouraged.

Healthier Indoor Air

Green Label Plus Carpet and Pad

This carpet contains little or no VOCs (volatile organic compounds). The Carpet and Rug Institute's (CRI) Green Label Plus designation identifies carpet that has passed the CRI Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Carpet Testing Program, which specifies low emission criteria. This label is the industry standard that the product is a low-emitting carpet that contains low or no VOCs and other toxins that affect indoor air quality over time.

Low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Wall and Ceiling Latex Paint

Reduces the amount of irritating and harmful chemicals in the home for occupants and workers.

Low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Exterior Paint/Stains

This paint and/or stain is better for air quality.

MERV Filter Rated 10 or Higher MERV is a standard used to measure the overall efficiency of an air filter. MERV scores range from 1–16. A higher MERV rating offers better filtration, which means fewer dust particles and other airborne contaminants pass through the filter.

Land Conservation

Access to Public Transit This home is located within walking distance of public transportation, providing homeowners with the option to use alternative transportation and maximize the associated environmental benefits.

Access to Community Amenities

This home is located within walking distance of essential services, allowing household members the option to walk to services rather than drive.

Developing and Implementing Erosion Control Measures Developing and implementing erosion control measures on the home site prevents eroding sediment and pollutants from contaminating storm drainage systems and other local bodies of water.

Recycle Jobsite Waste 95% percent of clean wood and cardboard was recycled. Wood and cardboard are two major components in a group that accounts for 70 to 95% of all construction waste.

Material Responsibility

Cradle-to-Cradle Certification This indicates that the home uses products that were designed based on patterns found in nature, eliminating the concept of waste entirely and using the product at the end of its life cycle as feed stock for either nature or other human industrial systems.

Integrated Weather Barrier A moisture management system that increases the longevity of materials by preventing outside water from damaging the interior of the home while allowing trapped moisture to escape.

Durable Roof These roofs are extremely durable. They eliminate the maintenance and replacement required by traditional roofing materials. Concrete or clay tiles have a more eco-friendly manufacturing process compared to traditional roofing materials, can be recycled, and are durable and long lasting.

Fiber Cement Siding This material is extremely durable (40+ years), making it an efficient alternative to traditional wood siding.

Durable Exterior Trim Fiber cement trim is made with Portland cement, sand, clay, and wood fiber. It is very durable and requires less painting and caulk repairs than spruce-pine-fir (SPF) trim products. When properly installed cedar trim will provide the same durability as the fiber cement products.

Exterior Doors Made of Steel or Fiberglass These doors are better insulated and are more durable than wood doors.

Water Conservation

Water Efficient Lavatory Faucets

These faucets use aerators to mix air with the flowing water. The perceived flow is comparable with normal fixtures, can save up to 500 gallons of water per year, and reduces energy bills.

High Efficiency Toilets These use up to 20% less water than the federal standard and can conserve up to 4,000 gallons a year.

NOTE All features are subject to change, please check with the home builder to verify measures. For more information visit our web site at www.earthadvantage.org