



in controlling the cost of your new **green** home. Proper planning and effective construction management can also eliminate excess waste and further reduce your budget.

Please see our handout entitled "**Going Green ... what does it mean?**" for more information on going **green** and the professionals certified in **green** construction. You will also find links to helpful hints on the different **green** organizations, **green** certifications, and types of **green** building products that are available to all of us today.



Building green is not just eco-friendly, building green is energy smart!
See our Website for Terrapin Passive, a Certified Passivhaus Design.



For any questions, comments or suggestions on how we can serve you better, please email or call:
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**BUILDING GREEN ...
what does it mean?**



Building green does not have to take an extreme approach to your new home design. A **green** home can look like any other home. You cannot tell that a home is "**green**" just by looking at it. **Building green** requires a common sense approach to building strategies and modern construction methods to achieve the most sustainability possible. In other words, a new **green** home is resource efficient, has a minimal negative impact on the world environment, and fosters healthy living for everyone.

Building green will take a comprehensive and integrated look at the design and construction of any project. Whether we call it **green** building, sustainable construction, or high performance building, it has now become mainstream. It is the fastest growing segment of the building industry and there is no end in sight.

A **green** home should be as self-sufficient as you can make it. If your home could produce its own electricity, collect all of the water required for your needs, and reduce or eliminate pollution at the same time, you would not be held hostage if the electrical grid went down or the reservoir dried up. **Building Green** is smart building but it also has to make sense to you. You can achieve **green** many different ways. So, let's find your comfort level, and begin.

Building green combines proven construction techniques with new advanced materials and systems that will result in a reduced impact on our environment and your own pocketbook over the life of your



home. If you are considering **building green**, you should do all of the research necessary to determine which **green** factors are most important to you. Some of the frequently used **green** elements (new energy efficiency windows and doors, a very tight high performance envelope, and a good lighting strategy) will put money back in your pocket very quickly. Energy efficiency is one of the most exciting areas of **building green** because you can realize the cost savings right away in your monthly electric bill. Your energy efficient new home is less likely to have temperature fluctuations, requiring fewer adjustments of the home's mechanical systems, resulting in lower energy bills to you.

Indoor air quality is another very important consideration in **building green**. When it comes to the health of your family, anything that you can do to improve indoor air quality will pay you big dividends. Make sure that your contractor has a plan to keep contaminants out of your home's HVAC system during construction and that a thorough flushing of the system is completed

before you move into your new **green** home. You will also want to be aware of the pollutants that you can introduce through the products you select for your new **green** home. Be aware of and use low or zero VOC adhesives, paints, varnishes, carpeting, and flooring in order to protect your family and ensure good indoor air quality.



Water efficiency strategies are equally important and can immediately lower your water bill. You will feel good about doing your part to save this precious resource. These strategies can include dual-flush toilets, low flow showerheads and faucets, as well as outdoor landscaping techniques (xeriscaping and the use of native plants).

To keep your control on **green** construction costs, target those elements that make the most financial and environmental sense to you and your family. The more knowledge you gather on **green** technology before you begin can be the biggest factor