

Fact Sheet - Energy Ratings

What is an Energy Rating?

House energy rating systems (HERS) have been developed to rate the energy efficiency of new and existing housing and allow comparisons of the heating and cooling needs of different homes. The purpose is to provide more comfortable homes that use less energy for heating and cooling and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficient housing is achieved through techniques such as the solar orientation of the home, placement and sizing of windows, levels of insulation, shading, thermal mass, double glazing and draught proofing.

Why do I need one?

Victoria and ACT have **mandated** that new housing must be built to meet a minimum 5 star energy rating. Put simply, if you are building a new home, you must have a 5 Star Energy Rating.

If you have ever lived in a heating climate then you might be tired of being hot in front of the fire but freezing in the bedroom. You might also be sick of paying high heating bills and wearing three jumpers inside! Rather than look at 5 star ratings as a mandated bureaucratic regime, look at the amazing opportunity to build a home that will cost so little to run and be so comfortable to live in. Our web site details a case study of one client who has reduced their energy consumption by 64% (and are reducing it even further!) just by upgrading to a 5 star home. In really well designed homes, your heating and cooling bills could be tiny!

Who can perform a rating?

We can! ecoMaster is accredited with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Victoria (SEAV) and can conduct energy ratings of your proposed new home. We will demonstrate how to optimise the energy efficiency of your home and even show you how to obtain a rating higher than 5 stars. The higher the rating, the more you will save over the life of your home. Wearing three jumpers in your home during winter can be a thing of the past!

Why choose ecoMaster?

- We are fast, friendly, professional and ever so helpful!!!
- We really do care about you, your home and its energy efficiency
- We are sympathetic to alternative construction of all types
- We also rate brick veneer homes
- We make it easy for you to achieve your rating:
 - NO ELECTRONIC FORMAT IS REQUIRED.
 - We will rate PAPER plans
 - Our fees and terms are set out up front – no nasty surprises!
 - We don't charge a premium for rush jobs

Energy Rating Fees:

For homes up to 500 sq metres:

- Single storey home up to 4 bedrooms - \$220
- Single storey more than 4 bedrooms - \$275
- Double storey up to 4 bedrooms - \$275
- Double storey more than 4 bedrooms - \$300

These fees include GST. Payment for half of the agreed fee is due when the preliminary rating is issued. The balance becomes due when final building plans are certified. Should your plans need to be modified in order to achieve a FirstRate 5 star rating, revisions will be charged at \$35.00 per hour or part thereof. For any other rating needs, please contact us.

What do I need to provide for an energy rating?

To rate the energy efficiency of your house, we will need 2 complete copies of the final building plans which must include the following information:

FLOOR PLAN

- Floor areas (including floor covering – e.g. carpet, tiles, cork etc)
- Perimeter of house (including external walls and shared walls)
- Length of internal masonry walls
- Area of roof glazing / skylights
- Depth of overhangs (eaves, pergolas etc) above windows
- Area and location of skylights
- Number of chimneys
- Number and type of exhaust fans (sealed or unsealed)
- Number of vented down-lights
- Full window schedule indicating type, manufacturer and glazing
- Full door schedule including any glazing

SECTION

- Floor to ceiling wall heights
- Extent of cathedral ceilings
- Tilt of skylight / roof windows
- Roof type and sarking

ELEVATIONS

- Shared floors and ceilings
- Upper floors
- Height and width of windows
- Distance between top of window and overhang

SITE PLAN

- Indication of north
- Distance from and height of adjacent buildings
- Distance from and height of large trees

OTHER

- Type of floor construction (e.g. slab on ground, waffle pod slab, timber floor on stumps)
- Insulation specifications for floors, walls and ceilings
- Sub floor ventilation (if applicable)
- Types of external walls
- Types of internal masonry
- Types of curtains
- Extent of external blinds
- Whether skylights are ventilated
- Extent of use of weather strips and draught excluders to doors and windows
- Address of home