



5 Star Fact Sheet for Home Renovations & Relocations

From 1 May 2008, the 5 Star Standard will be extended to cover renovations and relocation of homes.

As a result of 5 Star, Victorians will enjoy new and renovated homes that are:

- better quality and more comfortable
- cheaper to operate
- environmentally sound
- good for Victoria's economy

This Fact Sheet provides information about the energy efficiency requirements for home renovations and relocations, what needs to comply, how to comply and where to go for advice.

What must comply from 1 May 2008

From 1 May 2008, the national energy efficiency standard applies to all relocated homes and alterations to an existing home. This standard is most commonly achieved in Victoria by achieving a 5 Star thermal performance of the building fabric.

The new standard for alterations and relocations of homes will not require a rainwater tank for toilet flushing or a solar hot water system.

Almost all building or renovation projects that involve home extensions will need to comply with the new regulations. Minor work that does not require a building permit will not be affected.

How to comply

If you intend to renovate or extend your home or re-locate an existing home after 1 May 2008, the design of your extension or renovation will need to take account of the new



energy efficiency standard. Your building designer or architect will be able to advise you on how best to achieve this.

If you are in doubt about whether your renovation needs to comply with the new standard, it is important to contact the relevant municipal or private building surveyor. The relevant building surveyor has discretion to allow partial compliance for smaller extensions and extensive alterations where they deem the requirement is unreasonable.

The benefits

5 Star homes save occupants money on energy bills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are more comfortable year-round.

5 Star homes require less energy for heating and cooling, which means they need smaller heating and cooling systems that cost less to buy and operate.

5 Star homes are around 5 degrees warmer in winter and up to 10 degrees cooler in summer compared with the average new Victorian home before 5 Star, which was rated around 2 Stars.

Feedback from residents of 5 Star homes shows that they enjoy living in their homes because they are more comfortable, more liveable and more economical.

With over 40,000 homes anticipated to be renovated, extended or relocated each year, the 5 Star energy rating requirement for the building fabric will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions while delivering home occupants greater comfort and lower energy costs.

Where to go for information

If you are planning or extending or renovating your home, or relocating a house from 1 May, there are a range of places to go for information.

You can contact the Building Commission on 1300 360 380, or visit www.buildingcommission.com.au

Other key sources of information on the 5 Star Standard in Victoria include: Sustainability Victoria, the Housing Industry Association, and the Master Builders Association.

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