



Our homes protect us from nature's extremes, yet they also affect our health and the environment. Green or sustainable building creates and uses healthier and more efficient construction, renovation, operation and maintenance.

What is green building? According to John Eischen, green building is a systems approach in five key areas:

1. water conservation
2. energy efficiency
3. indoor environmental quality
4. resource efficiency
5. site/community impact.

How do I build a “green” home and/or complete a “green” remodeling project? To ensure a project is built “green,” it is important to select a Green Building Program. The Rochester Area Builders endorses Minnesota GreenStar, a non-profit, new home and remodeling green building program specific to Minnesota. GreenStar certifies the project, not the builder or remodeling contractor. To learn more about Minnesota GreenStar visit www.mngreenstar.org

How do I find a builder/remodeling contractor that can build to Minnesota GreenStar? Rochester Area Builders has a list of builders who have attended Minnesota GreenStar training. If you have already chosen a builder, talk with them to see if they would be willing to attend the training to build to Minnesota GreenStar standards.

Industry Trends

As the environmental impact of building becomes more apparent, “green building” is gaining popularity. Building green is not just a trend, but an overall quality improvement of building practices.

Building green starts at the beginning of the building process from finding property to finding a trained green builder. Building green is not just installing products with green attributes to call it a green home or remodel. Building green looks at all aspects of the construction process and how each of these “parts” contribute to the home’s overall performance and how the project will benefit the homeowner in regards to health, lower operating costs, durability, and the impact of the project on the local and global community.

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GREEN BUILDING ARTICLES



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Certified Green Homes
and Remodeling