



Green Questions To Ask Your Builder

1. Has the builder or any of their staff members taken green building classes or become certified by the Florida Green Builder Coalition, United States Green Building Council, or the National Association of Home Builders? This will be a good starting point in understanding their knowledge of green building practices.
2. In what ways does the builder minimize the demand for electricity in their homes? New homes in Florida must achieve a Home Energy Rating Score of 77. Have the builder discuss the things they do to achieve this score and whether they take any other steps to further reduce energy use. In the end, you'll be more knowledgeable about your home's energy use.
3. What does the builder do to voluntarily reduce water consumption in their homes? In some communities, there are mandates that govern water use, but there are also many ways to save water and money in the home. See if your builder is taking steps to protect our most precious resource.
4. Indoor air quality should be something you inquire about, especially if anyone in your family has a respiratory condition. Find out what the VOC (volatile organic compound) levels might be for the paints, adhesives, floor covering and even the cabinetry used in the home. There are a lot of easy ways to reduce VOC's and improve your home's air quality.
5. Are any of the materials used in the construction of your home recycled, renewable or reused? The use of lumber (trees) in home construction has dropped significantly through the years as concrete, steel and even composite materials enter the construction supply chain. Ask your builder what options you might have in this area.
6. How attuned is your builder to the outside environment? Can they recommend a home site or home orientation that could reduce your energy bill? Does the builder understand the importance of shading and do they install a low-water native landscape package?
7. Are there any tax incentives or rebates that the builder will receive for sustainable construction practices and are you entitled to receive them? Most builders will retain these, but it doesn't hurt to ask if a portion of any savings could come your way.
8. Is solar a viable option for heating water for home use or your pool? Community Associations may not like the look of solar, but new laws make it hard for them to actually prohibit its use.