

Marc Rutenberg Homes The Castaway III - Who Wouldn't Want One?



The Castaway III is a 4,552-square-foot model home that boasts a Florida-Friendly landscape where 90 percent of the plants are drought tolerant. With a HERS of -15, it also qualifies as a Net Zero Energy home.

Marc Rutenberg Homes prides itself on being a green builder. The Castaway III, a 4,552-square-foot model home in Palm Harbor, is not only drop-dead gorgeous, it's efficient in many areas, smart and powerful. It produces its own energy with solar panels, shuts down power-consuming devices when not needed, and provides feedback to the homeowner in real time. Many of the products used in construction were made from recycled or renewable materials.

The Castaway III model home was the company's first No Electric Bill home. It received a platinum-level certification from the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) under the "Florida Green" Home Standard. With a HERS of -15, it also qualifies as a Net Zero Energy home. FGBC Certifying Agent Drew Smith of Two Trails, Inc. in Sarasota thinks the Castaway III may be one of the most efficient and green homes in the Tampa area.



But Rutenberg didn't stop with energy efficiency. Proving you don't have to sacrifice beauty for efficiency, the Castaway III earned the Florida Water StarSM certification for water efficiency. The home boasts a Florida-Friendly landscape where 90 percent of the plants are drought tolerant. It also has a variety of options for high-efficiency appliances and fixtures that help conserve water inside the home. Learn more about [Florida Water Star](#) and how to

incorporate it into your projects.

The home features:

- LED lighting. Although initially more expensive, LED lights are cooler, longer lasting and cost less to operate.
- 60 solar panels generating enough electricity to serve the needs of the home plus return power to the grid
- A solar water heater with an electric backup for cloudy days
- Energy Star windows
- A 5-zone heating and air-conditioning system
- Air venting systems designed to keep the indoor air healthy
- A foundation made of low-carbon footprint cement
- Aerated Autoclaved Concrete block walls
- Synthetic gypsum drywall made from recycled material
- Low-Flow water fixtures, including faucets, toilets and appliances
- Special shower systems for mildew-free showers
- Carpet made from recycled plastic bottles
- Bamboo floors
- Recycled glass tile
- Countertops made from concrete and recycled materials
- Wood treatments made from Goodwin Company's (Micanopy, FL) river-recovered logs
- Smart irrigation system that senses environmental conditions and adjusts the amount of water output
- Electric vehicle charger in the garage