Trial Home Energy Rating Certificate Guide

This guide explains the trial Home Energy Rating Certificate for participants in the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme's (NatHERS) 2024-25 trial of existing home assessments. When assessments of existing homes are officially launched from mid-2025, households will have access to a more extensive online guide. This will help them interpret their home's rating, compare ratings between homes and begin upgrade planning.

RATING INFORMATION

NatHERS ratings are a reliable way to predict and compare the energy performance of homes. Information about your home and appliances is entered into a computer model. The computer model uses data on the local climate and standard assumptions for how the occupants will behave to predict the energy needed to run your home.

Your certificate contains two ratings:

STAR RATING

The star rating is on a scale of 0 to 10. It indicates the thermal performance of the home's structure.

Homes with higher star ratings need less heating and cooling. They provide better protection from hot and cold weather, so they are more comfortable to live in. Your star rating is calculated based on the home's local climate, design, materials and construction.

HOME ENERGY RATING

The Home Energy Rating is on a scale of 0 to 100. It indicates the energy efficiency of the whole home including appliances, on-site solar and batteries.

Homes with high Home Energy Ratings cost less to run. They have better designs, efficient appliances and may also generate their own electricity. Your Home Energy Rating considers the home's thermal performance (Star Rating) and the energy used for heating, cooling and major appliances, minus energy generated from solar panels.*

Most Australian homes were built before the introduction of minimum energy efficiency requirements for new buildings.

"How does my home compare?"

They were also designed without much consideration of the local climate, which can significantly impact the energy efficiency of your home.

The average home in Australia has an estimated Star Rating of less than 3 out of 10 stars.

Currently, the minimum requirements for the energy performance of new homes under the National Construction Code 2022 are:

- A minimum star rating of 7 out of 10
- A minimum Home Energy Rating (called a 'Whole of Home' rating in the Code) of 60 out of 100 for houses and 50 out of 100 for apartments.

A word of note...

Your home's actual energy use and greenhouse gas emissions may vary from the estimates on your certificate, depending on how many people are in your home and how they use their appliances.







Your home's energy

Here is information on your home's renewable energy systems, including rooftop solar and battery storage (if you have them).

Renewable energy generation results in a higher home energy rating because your home will use this free energy instead of purchasing electricity from the grid and export any excess energy it doesn't use.

If you have solar, we've also provided a hypothetical rating for your home if it *didn't* have solar. This helps you compare your home to a home without renewable energy systems. It also shows a home's performance without the impact of renewable energy systems.

Annual emissions are also provided with and without solar to show the impact of renewable energy systems on your household's emissions.

Your building's details

These are the details of your home that were assessed as part of the star rating. These can usually be upgraded to improve your home's performance. An energy assessor can help you to understand what the information means for your home's comfort and energy performance.

This section also shows specific performance values (e.g. R value of insulation) and how the data is collected:

- <u>Measured values</u> have been collected by the assessor on-site.
- <u>Documented values</u> have been based on documentation such as plans and receipts from a renovation.
- <u>Assumed values</u> are a default based on the age of your home and the construction type. They may be used when your assessor is unable to verify details on-site, e.g. insulation inside walls where access isn't available.

Your appliance energy use

Here you'll see which of your appliances are using the most energy.

If you want to reduce energy bills, plan to upgrade the appliances using the most energy first to maximise your savings.

Even if you're not currently ready to upgrade an appliance, you can plan for endof-life replacement now. We recommend it!

In an emergency (like your hot water system breaking down), it can be harder to upgrade to a more efficient option unless you already know what you want. Having an upgrade plan for your appliance in place means you can avoid buying replacements that lock you into higher running costs for the lifespan of the new appliance.