

ENERGY STAR® Requirements Change

Consumers have indicated that ENERGY STAR® is the most trusted symbol for energy efficiency. That is why it is important to understand the changes to geographic zone requirements that Natural Resources Canada has made to the ENERGY STAR® program as of October 2010. Please be aware of the changes as the ENERGY STAR® program has increased it's already high standards for efficiency.

What are the new requirements?

Qualification levels for all products are more stringent – the previous Zone A standards has been eliminated and all zones move up one level. A new qualification has been set for Zone D windows:

Windows (Effective October 1, 2010)				
Zone	Heating Degree-Day Range	Compliance Paths		
		Energy Rating (ER)	or	U-Factor
		Minimum ER (unitless) Maximum U-Factor 2.00 W/m²·K (0.35 Btu/h·ft²·°F)		Maximum U-Factor W/m²·K (Btu/h·ft²·°F) Minimum ER (unitless)
A	<= 3500	21	or	1.80 (0.32) 13
B	> 3500 to <= 5500	25	or	1.60 (0.28) 17
C	> 5500 to <= 8000	29	or	1.40 (0.25) 21
D	> 8000	34	or	1.20 (0.21) 25

ENERGY STAR® has created a separate set of standards for doors:

Doors (Effective October 1, 2010)				
Zone	Heating Degree-Day Range	Compliance Paths		
		Energy Rating (ER)	or	U-Factor
		Minimum ER (unitless) Maximum U-Factor 2.00 W/m²·K (0.35 Btu/h·ft²·°F)		Maximum U-Factor W/m²·K (Btu/h·ft²·°F) Minimum ER (unitless)
A	<= 3500	21	or	1.80 (0.32) N/A
B	> 3500 to <= 5500	25	or	1.60 (0.28) N/A
C	> 5500 to <= 8000	29	or	1.40 (0.25) N/A
D	> 8000	34	or	1.20 (0.21) N/A

Mandatory labelling is required for all production models registered with Natural Resources Canada.



Our Commitment to You

At All Weather Windows we know that the more thermally efficient windows and doors are, the more comfortable your customer will be in their home. Your customers will also be reducing their energy costs and their environmental footprint. Our company is proud to be the 2010 Window and Door Manufacturer of the Year and we work closely with Natural Resources Canada to ensure our products meet the new requirements.

So no matter what climate zone your customers live in, you can count on All Weather Windows to provide ENERGY STAR® qualified windows and doors. It's just part of our commitment to bring you superior products with superior energy efficiency.



Compliments of:



Home Owners helping homebuilders.

PROTECTING FAMILIES FROM DEADLY RADON GAS

As Canadians, we all want the cleanest, safest, most secure home environment

to live in and raise our families. One way to do this is to monitor our homes for the quality of the air we breathe. Radon gas is not something we hear about every day in Canada however; radon exposure is a leading cause of lung cancer – second only to smoking.

Radon is a radioactive gas present in the soil and rocks around and beneath your home. Radon gas enters your home through cracks and gaps in floors and walls. It can be an issue in all types of homes: new or old, with finished or unfinished basements, regardless if they're heavily sealed or drafty. While problems can be more concentrated in some areas of Canada, any home can be at risk.

While all Canadians should be concerned about the level of radon gas in their homes, it appears smokers are at a higher risk of developing lung cancer because of their exposure. In fact, the combined effects of radon exposure and smoking create a risk greater than the two separately.

However, non-smokers are not immune: radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in this population segment. In Canada, long-term exposure to radon causes around 2000 deaths every year.

There is nevertheless a bright side to all of this: a home with radon problems can be fixed, and the costs of repair are often low. But first, you need to find out if your home is affected by high concentrations of radon.

Testing your home's radon levels is the key and the good news is - it's easy. Radon is measured in units called "becquerels per cubic meter (Bq/m³)" and the Government of Canada's guideline for radon in indoor air is 200 Bq/m³. Health Canada recommends that steps be taken to reduce radon levels in any home that tests above the guideline. Inexpensive commercial testing units are available at Home Hardware and Building Centres across Canada. Health Canada recommends a minimum three-month testing period to maximize testing accuracy and be able to estimate your annual average level. The most popular long-term radon detectors are the electrets and the alpha track detector. These devices are placed in a home and exposed to its air for a specified period of time, and then the testing kit is sent to a laboratory for analysis.

If your test's result is above 200 Bq/m³, then you need to take action, but there's no need to panic. Because health risks occur only after long-term exposure, Health Canada provides timelines for homeowners to remedy a radon problem. If your home's radon levels are between 200-600 Bq/m³, then you should remediate your home to lower the radon level below the guideline within two years. If your home's radon concentration is above 600 Bq/m³, then look to remedy that within a year.

Some quick and easy steps you can take that may help reduce radon levels in your home include:

- Renovating existing basement floors, particularly earth floors.
- Sealing cracks and openings in walls and floors, and around pipes and drains.
- Ventilating the basement sub-floors.

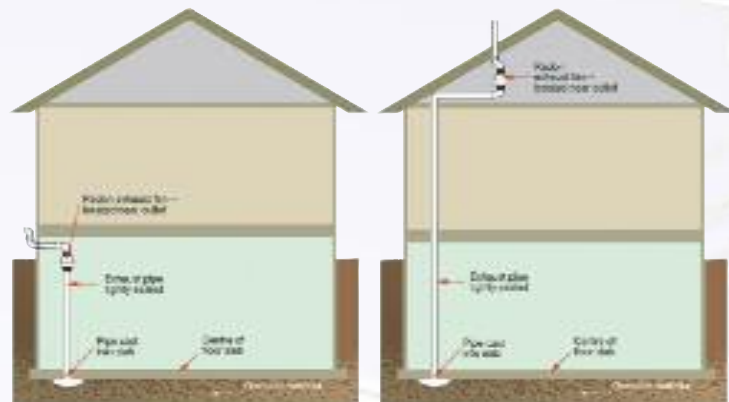


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For contractors, this is an opportunity to educate your clients about the dangers of radon gas. In addition to creating awareness, you may have the opportunity to create sales too! Whether it's the mitigation (removal) of the radon gas, finishing a basement to contain the radon or merely gaining the trust of your client for potential projects in the future, the potential to add additional projects looms large.

There is a wealth of information about radon on Health Canada's website, at www.hc-sc.gc.ca, (do a word search for radon) including information on how to obtain a free booklet called Radon - A Guide for Canadian Homeowners. Knowing the risks of radon and testing homes for radon will go a long way towards ensuring a safe home for you and your community.



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Moulding to your success

by ALEXANDRIA Moulding

Getting FIT at McDonald's

It's not very often you read the words "fit" and "McDonald's" in the same sentence but, after one look by McDonald's Home Hardware Building Centre at the Ontario Power Authority's FIT program, it was time to shed dollars not pounds.

Nestled in the rural farming community of Brussels, Ontario, John and his son Michael saw a unique opportunity to not only give back to the environment, but also to their pocket book. In May of 2009, the Ontario Power Authority launched the Feed-in Tariff program to entice the public to invest in green energy. Once launched, the light bulb (pardon the pun) came on for this father and son team. In an effort to better serve their customers, they decided to design and build a new shed. Under the FIT program, they could build a shed using a solar panel roofing system and recoup the expense by taking advantage of the generous FIT program. While they faced the usual hang-ups in building permit process (you haven't heard that one before, have you?), construction of the 15,000 square foot drive through storage shed began.

Approached by Galaxy Energy from Germany, the McDonalds agreed upon an in-roof solar system that covers roughly 9,000 square feet. Steel frames were specifically engineered to support this type of roof system. Snow load is always a concern with solar panels but this shouldn't be an issue as the panels face directly south (to gather more sunlight) and the panels

will heat and melt any snow that they gather. Additionally, the solar paneled roof will allow light transfusion into the shed and therefore require very little in the way of artificial lighting.

With the size of the shed, they anticipate delivering approximately 100 kW annually back to the grid, while also enjoying the benefits of a payback of 71.3 cents per kWh (kilowatt hour). With a 20-year contract from the OPA to supply energy back to the grid, this program is seen as an investment by the McDonalds and not an expense. Interestingly enough, banks seem very willing to work on projects under the FIT program with some of the major banks funding 100% of the loan.



"I would encourage anyone who is building a new building with a minimum sized roof of 20'x 40' to investigate the FIT program" says Michael. "It's money in the bank and more importantly, you feel like you're making a difference in the world. And your customers will take notice too!"

For more information on the OPA's FIT program, visit www.fit.powerauthority.on.ca



Home Owner Michael McDonald shows off the Galaxy Solar Panel.

Contractors will remain busy in 2011!

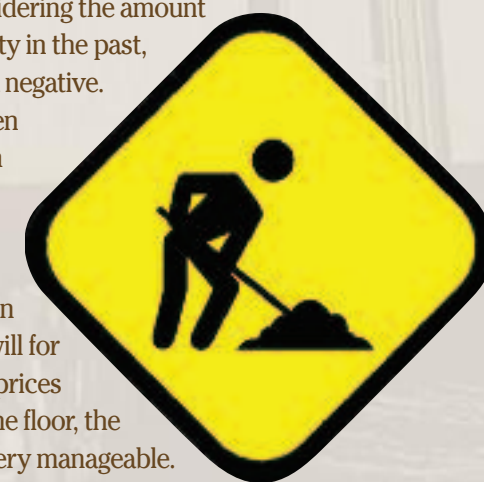
You may not read about it in the newspapers or see it on the evening news, but contrary to what most in the media suggest, many economists that have ties to the building industry suggest that 2011 will be another good year.

Recent meetings of the Canadian Home Builders' Association held in Ottawa suggest that the economy is on track and poised for steady growth. Economist Dr. Peter Anderson, for one, is very optimistic that 2011 should be a good year. Anderson's prediction of 190,000 housing starts is up from 2010 due to pent up demand from the shortage of inventory. However, he feels that renovation market will either flat line or decline from the past few record breaking years that the market has

experienced. Considering the amount of renovation activity in the past, this is not seen as a negative. While there has been negative discussion surrounding consumer debt, he suggests that if interest rates remain low (he feels they will for 2011) and housing prices don't fall through the floor, the service debts are very manageable.

Anderson is also bullish on the global economy which is going at a 3% rate and feels that the United States is finally gaining momentum and hopes that will translate into an increase in housing starts but doesn't expect major gains there until 2013.

All in all, it should be another great year for Tough As Nails Contractors!



Home Hardware Building Centre's 2011 Tough As Nails Contractor Tradeshows are coming to a city near you! Come and check out the latest building materials, power tools and innovations for 2011. Ask your Contractor Sales Rep for more details!

Sarnia Tough As Nails Contractor Tradeshow
RBC Centre - January 17/2011

Barrie Tough As Nails Contractor Tradeshow
Barrie Molson Centre - January 19/2011

Ottawa Tough As Nails Contractor Tradeshow
Lansdowne Park - January 26/2011

Kelowna Tough As Nails Contractor Tradeshow
Prospera Place - February 7/2011

Calgary Tough As Nails Contractor Tradeshow
Stampede Park - February 10/2011

Winnipeg Tough As Nails Contractor Tradeshow
Red River Exhibition - March 8/2011

Halifax Tough As Nails Contractor Tradeshow
Exhibition Park - April 19/2011