Are you building what consumers want?

85% of homeowners believe they have a right to homes that meet national standards.

For more materials and information visit:
http://www.dhbc.ky.gov/bce/ecd/consumer.htm

The consumer education campaign is made possible by the combined efforts of the following organizations: Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence, U.S. Department of Energy, Kentucky Department of Housing, Buildings, and Construction, and the Building Codes Assistance Project.

BCAP
Dedicated to the adoption, implementation, and advancement of building energy codes

June 2011, Professional Brochure.
Windows – New or Remodeled Homes.
Energy code requirements specify a U-factor for windows and skylights. A U-factor is a rating that indicates how much heat loss the window allows. The required U-factor for Kentucky is 0.40 for new windows and 0.60 for new skylights.

Insulation: Check under the house and get to know the crawl space. Either the floor over the crawl space should be insulated or (preferred) the crawl space walls should be insulated and the crawlspace should not have vents.

Look for sources of air leakage. All joints, seams and penetrations between the inside and outside of the home must be sealed. Typically, caulk, spray foam or weather stripping is used to seal air leaks.

Energy Certificate. As of November 2007, the energy code in Kentucky has required builders to attach permanent certificates on or in the circuit breaker box (i.e., electrical panel box) listing the materials and equipment values and ratings that demonstrate that a new home meets code requirements.

HVAC. If a new or a replacement system has been installed, verify that a licensed installer was used and the system was inspected.

Why Building Professionals Should Care...

- When home buyers learn that national minimum energy standards for homes exist, they assume those standards are being met in their communities. You can go beyond code and build to the ENERGY STAR standard for the most efficient homes.
- Energy codes save money and resources, but they also improve the quality of homes. When builders understand code requirements and address these important details, it’s a good indication of the quality of construction. It’s also a good indicator of whether the home will be comfortable to live in and affordable to heat and cool.

The Kentucky energy code could be updated with these requirements in the near future:

Programmable Thermostat. Programmable thermostats can generate annual energy savings of 10%.

According to the current code, homes with forced-air furnaces must have programmable thermostats installed. Regardless of the heating and cooling system in a home, programmable thermostats can save money.

Insulation: Check the attic access hatch/door. Hatches/doors to the attic must be weather stripped and insulated. They should be well-made so that they are airtight when you close them. (Test by closing door or hatch on a piece of paper. Can the paper be easily pulled out when the hatch/door is closed? If yes, the door/hatch is not airtight and should be fixed.) The insulation should be attached so that it isn’t damaged or loosened when the hatch or door is opened and closed.

Find more materials at:
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