On January 1, 2011, the state of Idaho adopted the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Every new home in Idaho is required to meet these minimum standards. **What does this mean for YOU, the homeowner?** This checklist will help you identify the aspects of your home that meet Idaho’s energy code and protect your investment.

**Energy Certificate - Evidence of the energy efficient features of your home**

- The energy certificate is located on your home’s circuit breaker panel.
- This certificate lists minimum requirements for meeting the energy code. An alternative compliance method is used to calculate the % above code using REScheck software (www.energycodes.gov/rescheck) or a HERS Index (www.resnet.us/home-energy-ratings), which estimate the overall energy performance of the home.

**Air Sealing – Critical for comfort, air quality and energy efficiency**

- All holes between floors and through walls have been sealed with caulk or foam, examples include:
  - Where electrical, phone and cable wires enter the home
  - Where plumbing goes through walls, floors and ceilings
  - Around windows and doors
- Wood-burning fireplaces have doors with gaskets.
- Builders are required to either submit to a visual inspection of the air sealing package or to show the building jurisdiction compliance through use of an air leakage test. Code requires that a home’s air leakage rate is less than 7 air changes per hour at 50 pascals (think of a 20 mph wind) of pressure.

**Energy-Efficient Lighting - CFLs use about 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs!**

- High-efficiency light bulbs (such as compact fluorescents and LEDs) are installed in at least 50% of the permanent light fixtures.

**Windows - Enjoy light and views while saving on utility bills**

- Windows have a U-factor of 0.35 or less. Skylights have a U-factor of 0.60 or less. This can be found on the NFRC sticker attached to new windows.

For more information on energy codes, you can go to www.idabo.org/energy.htm or http://bcap-ocean.org/energycodes101.
Idaho Energy Code Checklist for Homeowners

Ensuring quality construction and efficient homes that save you money.

**Heating and Cooling - HALF of a typical energy bill comes from heating and cooling**

- Minimum federally prescribed efficiencies are met on all heating and cooling systems. SEER, AFUE and HSPF indicate efficiency, and the higher the rating the greater the efficiency.
- Forced-air furnaces must have a programmable thermostat. The more you use the thermostat to automatically lower temperatures when the home is unoccupied or during the night, the more you will save.
- Water heaters are rated by a minimum EF (energy factor).

**Insulation - Properly installed insulation will blanket the home for more constant temperatures**

- Insulation R-value measures the level of resistance to heat transfer. The higher the better.
- Code walls now have an R-20 baseline requirement.
- Ceilings are insulated to R-38 or higher in climate zone 5 and R-49 or higher in climate zone 6. If there is blown-in insulation in the attic, then there are markers to indicate the depth of insulation.
- Floors over an unconditioned (not heated) crawlspace are insulated to R-30 or higher.
- Perimeter walls of a conditioned crawlspace are insulated to R-10/13, R-10 (continuous rigid insulation) or R-13 (insulation in cavity), AND have a vapor retarder across the ground and securely taped to the crawlspace walls.
- Basement walls are insulated to R-10/13 in climate zone 5 and R-15/19 in climate zone 6.
- Insulation is installed per manufacturer’s specifications in walls, ceilings and floors.

**Ducts – Proper duct sealing optimizes the home’s comfort delivery system**

- All ducts and air handlers are sealed with mastic (duct tape is not permitted).
- If ducts are located in an unconditioned attic, crawlspace or garage, then ducts are insulated with R-6 or higher (R-8 for supply ducts in the attic).
- If any ductwork is located in unconditioned space, then it is required to measure air leakage through a DuctBlaster test.

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