BASIX for new homes

BASIX is an on-line assessment tool that works by using design data such as location, size, construction material, water source and fittings, to determine the potential energy and water consumption of a new home or unit.

BASIX is flexible: rather than insisting on specific design and fixture requirements, BASIX allows the building designer to select from a wide range of options. Once these selections have been made, they are listed on the BASIX Certificate, and must be shown on the project plans. A building inspector will check that the project is being built according to these specifications.

The BASIX tool is divided into three sections:

Water

The Water target ranges from **40** to **0** across NSW, depending on the location of the house or unit.

90% of new homes are covered by the 40 water target, and no new home built in NSW will use more water than the current state average.

ⓘ For more information, read these documents:

- Map of BASIX water targets
- Map of BASIX water targets, showing Local Government boundaries
- List of NSW postcodes and corresponding BASIX Water target

Thermal Comfort

This section evaluates how efficiently the home will stay cool in summer and warm in winter. You either pass or fail the Thermal Comfort section

There are two ways to complete this section:

1. Do-It-Yourself –a method that should be completed by experienced designers
2. Simulation – requires paying an Accredited Assessor

ⓘ For more information, read the D.I.Y. Fact Sheet

Energy

The BASIX Energy target varies depending on building type and location. This ensures BASIX remains cost-effective and fair to everyone.

- Over 80% of all new homes will have to meet the maximum Energy targets.
- The average greenhouse gas reduction for all building types across NSW will be 36%.

ⓘ For more information, read the Multi-Unit Fact Sheet, the BASIX Energy Target fact sheet and the Energy Target Zone map.

TIPS on how to pass the three sections

Water

- ☑ Select star-rated showerheads, dual flush toilets, water saving aerators and flow regulators in your taps
- ☑ Install a rainwater tank and connect it to your toilets, laundry and/or garden use
- ☑ Increase the size of your water tank (rainwater or stormwater)
- ☑ Increase the amount of roof area diverted to your water tank (rainwater or stormwater)
- ☑ Nominate indigenous/low water use species as part of your landscaping plan

Thermal Comfort

- ☑ Insulate walls, ceilings, roofs and suspended floors
- ☑ Choose a light or medium coloured roof to reduce heat gain in summer. Black or very dark roofs can create significant discomfort and high loads on air conditioners.
- ☑ Design eave overhangs, pergolas or other external shading devices to permit winter sun and block summer sun
- ☑ Arrange your glazing to have at least some facing north in a living area. Reduce the amount facing directly west or south
- ☑ Performance glazing can also help to reduce heat gains and losses for south or west facing glazing
- ☑ In areas with a predominant cooling summer breeze, design your home to allow the breeze to flow through living and bedroom areas

Energy

- ☑ Choose a solar, high efficiency gas or an electric heat pump hot water system
- ☑ Use ceiling fans or evaporative cooling
- ☑ Install a high efficiency air conditioning system
- ☑ Choose a fixed flued gas heater or high efficiency reverse cycle air conditioning system
- ☑ Select energy efficient light fittings and make the most of natural lighting where possible
- ☑ Use indoor and outdoor clothes drying lines
- ☑ Install a pool/spa pump timer and cover

BASIX Contacts

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