

Green Criteria Checklist Single-Family New Construction (SFNC) Program



The following items are required for projects being assisted by the Single-Family New Construction Program. This checklist provides a mechanism for informing contractors/developers of Green Criteria requirements/expectations for the Single-Family New Construction program. It will also be use to verify that SFNC program requirements have been fulfilled. The checklist is to be completed by the developer with review by NIACOG staff.

PRE-INSPECTION ITEMS

Developers are to provide documentation of the following items prior to the NIACOG inspection. Documentation may include 3rd party letters, test results, product labeling, or invoices/receipts that indicate the requirements have been met.

- **Construction to locally adopted building codes or in the absence of local codes, the State's building code standards**
 - Explanation: Provide a copy of the building permit / approval letter from the State or, where available, from a city with its own locally adopted building code (Clear Lake / Mason City). When it becomes available, also provide the Certificate of Occupancy issued by the State or City with building code jurisdiction.
- **A blower door test to demonstrate Energy Star home efficiency rating**
 - Explanation: The blower door test results must verify that the home meets the requirements for residential energy efficiency tax credits under Section 1332, Credit for Construction of New Energy Efficient Homes, of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or less than 2000 cfm at 50 pascals, or less than .45 air exchanges per hour. Contact NIACOG to schedule this test.
- **Low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) paints and primers**
 - Explanation: Architectural paints, coatings and primers applied to interior wall and ceilings must contain no more than 50 g/L for Flats or 150 g/L for Non-flats. Provide documentation (specifications or label) listing VOC's.
- **Low or no VOC adhesives and sealants**
 - Explanation: For the following **ADHESIVES** VOC levels must be at or below 50 g/L: indoor carpet, carpet pad, subfloor, VCT and asphalt tile, dry wall and panel, cove base. Otherwise the following VOC levels apply for other **ADHESIVES**: outdoor carpet (150), wood flooring (100), rubber floor (60), ceramic tile (65), multipurpose construction (70), structural glazing (100), single ply roof membrane (250). Provide documentation (specifications or label) listing VOC's.

Builder: _____

Site Street Address: _____

- **Urea formaldehyde-free composite wood**
 - Explanation: Please provide documentation that shows that the composite wood contains no added formaldehyde or no added urea formaldehyde OR states that the product is in compliance with A208.1 or A208.2 OR specifies formaldehyde composition of less than 0.1%.
- **Green label certified floor coverings**
 - Explanation: Please provide documentation that any carpeting used meets the carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label or Green Label Plus certified carpet, pad and carpet adhesives standards. (www.carpet-rug.org).
- **Install 30-year warranty shingles**
 - Explanation: Please provide a copy of the receipt for the shingles that shows that they are 30-year warrantied shingles.
- **Properly size exhaust fans**
 - Explanation: Please provide documentation of exhaust fan capacity. Kitchen exhaust fans should have a capacity of 200 cfm or 100 cfm if operated continuously. Bathrooms exhaust fans should have a capacity of 50 cfm or 20 cfm if operating continuously.
- **Vapor barrier under basements and concrete slabs**
 - Explanation: Provide a receipt for proof of purchase of the sheeting or a receipt for the subcontractor that installed the vapor barrier under the basement or slab that will prevent water from saturated solids from being pushed by hydrostatic pressure through small cracks in the basement/slab.

INSPECTION ITEMS

NIACOG staff will complete an on-site inspection for the following items.

- **93% energy efficient furnaces**
 - Explanation: Heating equipment must be at least 93 AFUE for furnaces.
- **14 SEER air conditioning units**
 - Explanation: Air conditioning equipment must be at least 14 SEER.
- **Cold and hot water pipe insulation**
 - Explanation: Insulate exposed cold water pipes to reduce moisture condensation and insulate hot water pipes to retain heat in water
- **Water heater with mold prevention**
 - Explanation: Install conventional water heaters in rooms with drains or catch pans with drains piped to the exterior of the dwellings. Drain pans shall be sloped and corrosion resistance with drains at the low point. Condensate lines shall be drained to drainage systems, not just deposited under the slab.
- **Energy Star appliances if appliances are offered as part of the sale price**
 - Explanation: If developer is providing the respective appliances, install Energy Star refrigerators, Energy Star dishwashers, Energy Star labeled washers, and dryers with built in moisture sensor.

■ **Efficient lighting**

- Explanation: Integrate proper use of daylighting (windows/sky lights/etc.) and install Energy Star Advanced Lighting Package in all interior units AND/OR use compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's) or light-emitting diodes (LED's).

■ **Water conserving fixtures in compliance with Green Streets minimum standards**

- Explanation: Toilets 1.3 GPF (or less), Showerheads 1.75 GPM or less, kitchen faucets 2.0 GPM or less, bathroom faucets 1.5 GPM or less.

■ **Install power vented fans or range hoods that exhaust to the exterior**

- Explanation: Kitchen and bathroom fans must be vented outside

■ **Rigid type vent directly to the outdoors for clothes dryers**

- Explanation: Clothes dryers must be exhausted directly to the outdoors with a rigid type vent or via a heat or energy recover ventilation system.

■ **Regulated construction waste**

- Explanation: Recycle/Reuse cardboard, lumber, dirt or other item that could otherwise be deposited in a landfill

■ **Prohibition of irrigation systems**

- Explanation: Do not install irrigation systems into the lawn, except that watering tubes for trees are allowed.

■ **Sidewalks when required by deed restrictions or on infill lots where adjacent sidewalks exist**

- Explanation: If sidewalks are required by deed restrictions or if adjacent lots have sidewalks, sidewalks must also be installed on the subject property.

■ **Erosion & sedimentation control during construction**

- Explanation: Stockpile and protect disturbed top soil from erosion. Use silt fencing to control the path and velocity of runoff

■ **Landscaping including a minimum of one tree and seeding of the yard**

- Explanation: Yard seeding and tree planting may be delayed for more suitable weather after closing if 125% of the cost is reserved in an escrow account to complete the landscaping when weather is more suitable. Planting and seeding must be completed by May 31st of the year following the closing.

■ **Positive site drainage**

- Explanation: Provide drainage of water to the lowest level of concrete away from windows, walls and foundations.

■ **Rain barrels or rain gardens to capture up to 1.25 inches per rainfall event**

- Explanation: Rain barrels or rain gardens are to be installed that capture, retain, infiltrate and/or harvest the first 1.25 inches of rain that fall in a 24-hour period. A rain garden is a smaller garden in a yard that is designed to capture rainfall by being purposefully planted in a low area preferably with native vegetation offering long root system that encourage rainwater to drain into the ground more quickly and minimize water runoff. A user-friendly guide about rain gardens and how to install them is available at the following web address: http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden_design/downloads/RaingardenHow2HomeownerUWExtension.pdf

■ **Garage isolation via door closures and CO detectors by garage/bedrooms**

- Explanation: Provide a continuous air barrier between conditioned (living) space and any unconditioned garage space to prevent migration of contaminants into the living space. Do not install HVAC equipment in a garage unless required by code. All connecting doors between living space and garage shall include an automatic closer (such as a self-closing hinge), and made air tight. Install a CO alarm inside the house near the door to the garage and also one outside the sleeping area.

■ **Smoke-free work site**

- Explanation: Maintain a no smoking policy within the home for contractors, subcontractors, and their employees.

■ **A homeowner orientation including all warranty manuals**

- Explanation: Provide a comprehensive walk-through and orientation to the homebuyer that includes: describing the home's green features, operations and maintenance, along with neighborhood conveniences that may facilitate a healthy lifestyle. Assembling and providing to the homebuyer all owner's manuals for all installed features and appliances.
- If the homeowner orientation will be provided at a later date, check here _____.

■ **Exceptions/Conditions:**

All of the above criteria have been met; any exceptions or conditions are indicated above.

Developer/Contractor

Date

To the best of my knowledge, the above requirements appear to have been met with any exceptions or conditions listed above.

NIACOG Inspector

Date