

Introduction to Green Buildings

Written by Administrator

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Based on research, Green Building is the practice of:

- 1- Increasing the efficiency with which buildings and their sites use and harvest energy, water, and materials, and
- 2- Reducing building impacts on human health and the environment, through better site planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and removal — the complete building life cycle.

But Green Building is also sometimes known as "sustainable building", "environmental building", "green home building" or just simply "green" which also leads to additional confusion. The U.S. Green Building Council's definition of Green is "a high performing home that's energy and water efficient, has good indoor air quality, uses environmentally sustainable materials and also uses the building lot or site in a sustainable manner."

The definition of Green Building is the practice of designing, planning, and constructing buildings where the priority and emphasis is placed on the current and future environmental impact of the building.

But what is "environmental impact"? Environmental impact is a beneficial or negative change in the environment that has come about as a direct result of any part of the building process from conception to completion. Including any possible future impact the process or the building may have due to emissions or other unanticipated outcomes on the environment.

Here are the Key Elements of a Green Building:

- Energy efficient- a generally tight house with energy efficient use of water, energy efficient appliances, windows, Cooling and Heating units and HVAC and ventilation systems.

- Recycled content used in the building process

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- Uses environmentally sustainable materials
- Uses the building lot or site in a sustainable manner
- Use of locally manufactured goods
- Indoor environmental air quality

The bottom line is that the main focus of building a Green Home (“sustainable building”, “environmental building”, “green home building” or just simply “green”) is the environment.