

## Eagle Construction of Virginia Proves High-Volume Builders can Build Green

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Green is the latest “in word.” As much as the dot com-era affected everyone in the late 1990s, the same can be said about the green movement in the past few years. As recently as 5 years ago, green building was viewed as a niche market comprised of a small group of builders and an even smaller group of consumers. Today the average consumer is more conscious of their purchasing decisions, opting for hybrids instead of SUVs, CFLs instead of incandescent bulbs, energy efficient green homes instead of conventional code built homes.

Eagle Construction of Virginia--having recognized this consumer shift--has incorporated green building practices in their homes and certified 32 EarthCraft houses in 23 developments across the state under the EarthCraft Single Family Program in 2009 alone, with several homes currently under construction. When asked about Eagle's choice to incorporate EarthCraft standards in their construction approaches, Adam Copenhaver, a Project Manager, noted, "The decision for implementing the EarthCraft Certification Program into our building process was simply a matter of deciding to do the right thing. Not only does EarthCraft's standard increase Eagle's quality while growing environmental awareness, but the EarthCraft certification program insures our EarthCraft home product also pays dividends to our customers through substantially lower utility bills and maintenance costs, a healthier living environment, and provide greater comfort to our customers."

With so many people claiming to be green these days, Eagle Construction recognized the need to back up their claim of being a high-performance green builder. This was achieved through the EarthCraft Program's 3rd party verification requirement, utilizing RESNET (Residential Energy Services Network) certified HERS (Home Energy Raters) to inspect, test, and perform energy modeling on every house built to the EarthCraft standard. All Eagle certified EarthCraft homes are blower door tested to ensure thermal envelope tightness and duct blasted to confirm that duct leakage to outside of the thermal envelope does not exceed 6% of the conditioned floor area of the house. Eagle Construction of Virginia should be proud to market that their average EarthCraft certified home is 27% more energy efficient than the same house built to code.