

If you are building a new home, you need a BASIX Certificate

Making your home more comfortable to live in, and cheaper to run

What is BASIX?

The Building Sustainability Index (BASIX), is a NSW government requirement that affects anyone building a new house, villa, townhouse or apartments.

The purpose of BASIX is to ensure that all new homes are built to be more energy and water efficient.

BASIX sets specific targets for energy and water reduction in new homes, based on how many people will live in the home, where it is located and it's size. To meet these targets, simple design features and fixtures will be needed. Because BASIX is a flexible tool, you can choose from a wide range of options in order to meet the targets.

Anyone can use BASIX – it's on the Internet, and is simple and free.

Your Council cannot accept a development application for your new home without a BASIX Certificate. This Certificate lists the things you must do to your house in order to meet the BASIX requirements.

How to get a BASIX Certificate

Your architect or building designer can do this for you, or you can do it yourself – it's simple and free.

1. Go to www.basix.nsw.gov.au and login to the BASIX assessment tool.
2. Complete the assessment form by entering the design details of the home.
3. The tool demonstrates how the proposed design is scoring, according to its potential to save energy and water.
4. Once the design meets the targets, you can print your BASIX Certificate.
5. Lodge your proposal at Council with the BASIX Certificate.

There are simple guides on the BASIX website, that tell you how to use BASIX, or you can contact the BASIX Help Line.

The BASIX Timeline

From 1 July 2004, BASIX applies to new houses and dual occupancies in the Sydney area.

From 1 July 2005, BASIX applies throughout NSW, for:

- Houses
- Dual occupancies
- Villas
- Townhouses
- Multi-unit apartments

BASIX means new homes will:

- save water
- save energy



What does this mean for my home?

Simple things that you may be required to do are:

- insulate ceilings and walls
- use eaves and window shading
- install a gas or solar hot water system
- choose light coloured roof materials
- make the most of natural light with skylights
- select landscaping that requires less water
- connect a rainwater tank to toilets and/or laundry; as well as for use in gardens
- fit water-saving showerheads, taps and dual-flush toilets
- site your living areas to the north, to make the most of the sun's warmth

Key points to remember

- BASIX is free and simple to use
- You must have a BASIX Certificate before you can submit your plans to Council
- The plans must show what you are going to do to reduce energy and water consumption
- The BASIX website has an on-line tutorial and other resources that will help you complete the assessment.
- If you have any questions, ring the BASIX Help Line is during business hours: 1300 650 908.

Contact details:

Visit the BASIX website for more information:
www.basix.nsw.gov.au

Ring the Help Line during business hours:
1300 650 908

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