

Sustainable design principles

Building homes according to sustainable design principles involves making the best use of Brisbane's unique landscape and subtropical climate. Sustainable design means:

- simple construction
- using durable and renewable materials
- installing energy efficient and water efficient appliances

Key design principles

Following these design principles will help you create a sustainable home:

- orientate your main living areas to the warmer northern side and bedrooms to the cooler southern side
- plan the laundry, garage, bathrooms and storerooms to face the hotter afternoon western sun
- where possible, minimise windows on the western side
- plant or retain native shade trees, especially towards the western side of your home for cost effective and energy efficient cooling
- position windows and doors to provide cross-ventilation, catch breezes and channel air through each room. For existing windows, consider tinting and/or shading with awnings, particularly to the west and east
- think about how your home relates to neighbouring houses and the streetscape

Energy efficiency compliance

Before building a new house or extension in Brisbane, you will need to check the energy efficiency of the design to ensure it meets the Brisbane City Council's requirements. There are two ways of doing this:

- have a Housing Energy Rating assessment and achieve the minimum requirements of a 3.5 star rating, or
- comply with the Council's standard requirements for shading, ventilation and insulation