

Thermal performance (energy rating) assessment reports

Building regulations set minimum standards for energy efficiency in new houses and an energy rating report is one way to fulfill parts of these regulations.

An energy rating uses a scale from zero to 10 stars. The need for heating and/or cooling to stay comfortable is reduced if the home is more energy efficient (i.e. achieves more stars in the energy assessment). Some simple building works will not require an energy rating report whereas all new homes and building projects including home extensions and major renovations will need to comply.

The rating depends on:

- The layout of the home;
- The construction of its roof, walls, windows and floors;
- The placement of windows and shading to the sun's path and local breezes;
- How well these suit the local climate.

From May 2011, a 6 star energy efficiency rating is the current minimum requirement for most of Australia. This means it is compulsory to have the following:

- A 6 star rating for the building fabric (i.e. roof, walls, floor and windows)
- A rainwater tank for flushing toilets OR a solar hot water system

FirstRate5 is the software we use to determine energy ratings for new houses which is accredited by NaTHERS (Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme). A number of our team are qualified thermal performance assessors and the assessments/reports are prepared in-house.