

## What design features and fixtures does **BASIX** encourage?

- passive solar design to make your home naturally warmer in winter and cooler in summer
- insulation
- gas or solar hot water systems
- rainwater tanks for use in gardens, toilet and/or laundry
- water-saving showerheads, taps and dual-flush toilets
- light coloured roof materials
- skylights to bring in natural light
- landscaping that requires less water
- wastewater for garden use

## Contact details:

[www.basix.nsw.gov.au](http://www.basix.nsw.gov.au)

BASIX Help Line:  
1300 650 908

Email:  
[help@basix.nsw.gov.au](mailto:help@basix.nsw.gov.au)

Address:  
**Department of Planning**  
**GPO Box 39**  
**Sydney NSW 2001**

## Key points to remember

- For current information on the BASIX timeline and targets, check the website: [www.basix.nsw.gov.au](http://www.basix.nsw.gov.au);
- A BASIX Certificate is valid for 3 months, prior to submission to Council;
- Any changes made to your project plans will mean completing another BASIX assessment and printing a new Certificate;
- The BASIX website has a wide range of resources to help you including:
  - > a checklist of all the information you will need to have available, prior to completing an assessment;
  - > On-line tutorials;
  - > Fact sheets and case studies;
  - > Help notes;
- The commitments you make for your project (as shown on the BASIX Certificate), must be noted on the plans, and will be checked at Council and during the building process. Any inconsistencies may result in costly changes;
- If BASIX cannot assess your design, you can apply for an Alternative Assessment – contact the BASIX Help Line for more information.

# BASIX

Building Sustainability Index

## Making homes sustainable



**BASIX**  
Building Sustainability Index

 New South Wales  
Government

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Government

BASIX is a web-based tool that ensures homes use less water, produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions and are more comfortable to live in.

## About BASIX

BASIX requires all new homes in NSW to use up to 40% less potable water and produce up to 40% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than the average home.

From 1 October 2006, BASIX will also apply to any major renovation work that needs Council consent.

### Key points about BASIX:

- Your development application (DA) or complying development certificate (CDC) must be submitted to Council with a BASIX Certificate;
- To get a BASIX Certificate, you must complete a BASIX assessment. This involves answering a range of questions about the home's size, location, construction materials, water supply and fittings;
- BASIX uses this information to assess the home's design. You may need to adjust aspects of the design in order to pass the BASIX assessment;
- Once you have passed BASIX, print your Certificate. This is a list of commitments showing how your home will comply with BASIX;
- The commitments must be marked on the house plans, and you are legally required to build the home as described – there will be checks at various stages of construction;
- If you change your mind about any of these commitments, you need to repeat the assessment, print the new Certificate and submit it to Council.

**BASIX is a web-based tool – all the information you need is on the website: [www.basix.nsw.gov.au](http://www.basix.nsw.gov.au).**

## BASIX for new homes

This BASIX tool has three sections: Water, Energy and Thermal Comfort.

The Water and Energy sections set specific reduction targets of up to 40%. The targets vary across NSW because BASIX is sensitive to climate, soil type, rainfall and evaporation rates, as well as building type.

The Thermal Comfort section is a pass or fail option, depending on whether the design includes adequate levels of insulation, window shading and performance glass (where appropriate).

You may need to adjust some of the home's design in order to pass all three sections.

BASIX encourages a wide range of sustainable features, and you can choose which ones to select in your home's design.

All new homes built in NSW will now be more sustainable, more comfortable to live in, and less expensive to run.



## BASIX for Alterations and Additions

This scheme is compulsory across NSW from 1 October 2006. It ensures major home renovations include cost-effective and practical measures to make homes more energy and water efficient.

You will need a BASIX Certificate for your renovation project if:

- Your Council requires a DA or CDC; and
- The renovation work is valued at \$100,000 or more. (From 1 July 2007, this drops to \$50,000).

Swimming pools (or a pool and spa) with a capacity greater than 40,000 litres will also require a BASIX Certificate.

If you don't need a BASIX Certificate, you can still choose to use BASIX voluntarily. This will ensure your renovations are energy and water efficient, saving you money on your utility bills. It also means you won't have to comply with any existing Council energy and water efficiency provisions.

Depending on the type of renovation project, BASIX will require you to include the following requirements:

- Insulation
- Glazing and shading
- Energy efficient lighting
- A gas, solar, wood or heat pump hot water system
- 3 star rated taps, showerheads and toilets.

The BASIX requirements only apply to the parts of the house or unit that are being renovated.