# **BetterBuilt<sup>NW</sup>**



#### BUILDING HOMES FOR LIFE

#### The Consumer's View: Finding Common Ground

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#### The Need for Efficient Homes

#### **Pushing Efficiency**

What are your motives for creating efficient homes?





Thousand units

SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

### In the U.S.

- One birth every 8 seconds
- One death every 12 seconds
- One net migrant every 35 seconds
- Net gain of one person every 14 seconds





# The Consumer's Path to Purchase

Research objectives:

- Generate insights regarding the purchase process for new homes:
  - Path to Purchase
  - Key influences to purchase
  - Consumer needs/priorities
- Gain an in-depth understanding of how to position benefits of efficient new homes

Interviewed recent buyers of new homes in Boise, Billings, Spokane, Portland

Consumers journey through three key steps in the Path to Purchase process:

- 1. Explore
- 2. Engage
- 3. Execute

- 1. Explore
- Consumer is interested in ownership, but passively browsing
  - Checking listings online, casing neighborhoods, asking friends and family about experiences
  - Exciting and highly NOSTALGIC
  - Often triggered by a life event (marriage, pregnancy, etc.) which is associated with heightened attention to COMFORT and SECURITY

- 2. Engage
- Consumer is getting more serious, taking a closer look at ownership
  - Looking at finances, establishing price range, obtaining preapproval for loans
  - Getting more emotionally invested, may become OVERWHELMED or APPREHENSIVE at how these realities will affect their dream of ownership
  - In searching for a Realtor, they look for someone they can TRUST

Note: this is the stage when consumers start to prioritize features.

- 3. Execute
- Consumer decides to pull the trigger
  - Many don't realize new homes are within reach when they begin the process
  - The uncertainties that come along with existing homes can make this choice feel less SECURE than new home purchase

Note: Once consumers decide to buy, they become easily lost, confused, and stressed out

Consumers are drawn to new construction due the CONTROL it offers:

- Older/existing homes may need updating or have hidden issues, points to SECURITY
- New homes are FRESH they haven't been lived in
- Consumer gets to weigh in on design picking finishes, floor plan alterations, etc.
- Control allows the consumer to create a home that says something about themselves and their values

#### The Role of Efficiency

#### **Defining Efficiency**

What are the features that make a house efficient?



Key finding:

- Overwhelming number of decisions during purchase causes consumers to deprioritize EE
  - What does matter to consumers?

#### **Consumer Priorities**

Typically prioritize:

- School district
- Distance to work
- Land/lot size



#### **Consumer Priorities**

• Builder reputation ranks high

NEW TRADITION HOMES BUILDING HOMES FOR LIFE

- Quality workmanship is expected....actually demanded
- Yes, Energy Efficiency IS desirable

Consumers focus first on the structure:

- Solid foundation not cracking or crumbling
- Solid structure floors level, walls straight, proper insulation/air sealing

After this, they are concerned with proper fit and finish:

 Cabinets are level, ductwork and landscaping are good to go

Energy efficiency options are desirable, but not necessary – Icing on the cake

During the sale process:

- Buyers rarely ask about EE features, even those who are passionate about conservation
- Builders rarely bring up EE during sales

Consumers trust and expect builders to make EE Choices for the home

I don't really know what KIND of insulation it is but the builder said they put in more than they have to so that's good. I don't know how much more though or how much better it is..."

#### Many believe code dictates an efficient home

Well, they have to build the house to code and the code is energy efficient so yes, the house is energy efficient.

### **Consumer Sensibilities**

So, what features do consumers think makes an efficient home?

- When prompted, consumers often talk about the following as best ways to affect efficiency
- Beyond this, most consider more advanced features out of reach

Insulation



Water Heater



Doors



### **Consumer Expectations**

From our experience with customers, they either already know that we offer, or simply expect to receive...



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- Efficient insulation, windows, heating/cooling systems, LED lighting and tankless water heaters
- Items such as solar, rain water catchment, and recycled products are rarely mentioned

We are facing a VERY informed buyer!













#### **Consumer Expectations**

This is what we are up against!





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# Finding Common Ground

How can we communicate about efficiency in ways that speak to consumer needs/priorities?



## **Finding Common Ground**

#### **Dare to Compare!**

Display that is used in sales models to highlight Unique features of a New Tradition Home









healthier, and better built. Compare standard fe	aturesthen get the value you deserve, only at New Tradition Homes.	and the	14 - N	
			a subscription	100
NEW TRADITION HOMES FEATURES	HOW THESE BENEFIT YOU	NTH	Other Builder:	Ot Bui
	TRUE ENERGY EFFICIENCY			
Natural Gas Tankless Water Heater	Endless hot water and higher energy savings	<ul> <li>Image: A second s</li></ul>		
95+% High Efficiency Gas Furnace	Exceptional comfort for less money	✓		
Furnace and Air Ducting Inside Conditioned Area	Reduction in heating/cooling loss to attic/garage/crawlspace	<b>√</b>		
Advanced Insulation Package	Less heating/cooling loss: R-23 BiBs in walls, R-49 in Attic, R-38 in Floor	~		
The NEST® Smart Thermostat	Allows you to control your heating/cooling system remotely; saves energy	~		
ENERGY STAR® Windows with an average .28 U-Value	Heat stays in during winter, out in summer	~		
ENERGY STAR® 100% LED Lighting Package	Very long life expectancy (4 to 16 times longer than CFL) & more efficient	<b>√</b>		
ENERGY STAR® Rated Dishwasher	Clean dishes using less energy and water	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>		
All Hot Water Pipes Insulated	Keeps water in pipes warm longer, saving energy	~		
	HEALTHIER INDOOR AIR			
GREENGUARD® Certified Insulation	No off-gassing of petroleum-based products	<b>√</b>		
4" High Efficiency Air Filter	Superior filtration of dust, pollen, and particles	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>		
Heat Recovery Ventillation (HRV) System	Brings fresh filtered air in and exhausts stale air; saves energy	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>		
Air Transfer Vent in Bedrooms	Rooms will still have fresh air exchange when doors are closed	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>		
Humidity Sensing Exhaust Fans in Bathrooms	Effective Moisture Control	~		
All Low-VOC Paints	Less odors and off-gassing from paints			
Sealed Combustion Fireplace & Furnace	Eliminates chance of carbon monoxide in the home			
	ND WATER TIGHT CONSTRUCTION			
All Wall Penetrations Sealed to ENERGY STAR® Standards	Keeps heated/cooled air inside the home	✓		
Tyvek® Weatherization System w/ 10 Yr. Warranty	Acts like a windbreaker for your house, keeping rain and wind out	<b>√</b>		
Upgraded Insulation and Air Sealing Package	Improves thermal envelope of the home - more insulation and less leaks	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>		
Trained and Certified House Weatherization Team	Minimizes potential for air or water to enter the home	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>		
	MANCE TESTED (BY A THIRD PARTY)			
Blower Door Test	Test proves heated/cooled air stays in home	<b>√</b>		
Duct Tightness Testing	Confirms that your ductwork was installed and sealed correctly	1		
Complete System Analysis	Proves your home is more efficient and comfortable	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>		
Moisture Testing Before Drywall is Hung	Ensures no excess moisture is in your walls			
· · ·	VIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY			
Native NW Landscaping	Disease resistance, less maintenance, and lower water needs	<b>√</b>		
GREENGUARD® Certified Insulation	Made from recycled products and is formaldehyde free	1		
GREENGUARD® Certified Laminate Countertops	Less off-gassing and safer for the environment	· ·		
Water-Conserving Bath Faucets	Water conservation and lower water bills	· ·		
Advanced Framing Techniques	Saves wood and ensures more insulation in walls	· ·		
Limited Lifetime Warranty on Roofing Shingles	Environmentally responsible and provides peace of mind	~		
Concrete Contains Fly Ash (by-product of burning coal)	Strengthens concrete and recycles waste	· ~		
concrete contains hy ron (by-product or burning coal)	PEACE OF MIND			
In-House Building Science Team	Bringing the latest proven technologies into your home	1		
New Tradition Homes 2-Year Warranty	Covers all workmanship and materials in the home	×		
2-10 Home Warranty (2 yrs. Mechanical; 10 yrs. Structural)	Powerful third-party home warranty grants peace of mind			

## The HERS rating

Marketing the value of the projected monthly utility costs.

This is done for every available plan



**BetterBuilt**<sup>№</sup>

#### ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATING





LDING HOMES FOR LIFE healthy | comfortable | durable | safe | energy efficient

"For more information visit www.energystar.gov.and www.restrut.ss. Actual savings may vary and may depend in part on occupant behavior, timing, and/or Micrutaring costs of energy usage and actual climate zone occutions. Saving will be based on house type, orientation, size, ullimy rates, climate and operation of the homes. Scores are not guaranteed energy tills. All referenced energy savings, water reduction, and ultravelot ny reduction in based on tobus the micro occution of the homes. The formation of the homes of the homes of commonships are subject to charge without notice or obligation.



**Best Energy** 

# The Homebuying Roadmap

This Roadmap highlights key steps in the journey

of buying and building a new home.



