

[\(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM\)](http://ottawacitizen.com)

[\(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life)

HOME

LIFE

[\(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/HOMES\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/homes)

HOMES

[FOOD \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/FOOD\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/food) •

[STYLE \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/STYLE\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/style) •

[OUR OTTAWA \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/STYLE/OUR-OTTAWA\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/style/our-ottawa) •

[WORLD OF BIRDS \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/WORLD-OF-BIRDS\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/world-of-birds) •

[LIFE STORY \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/LIFE-STORY\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/life-story) •

[HEALTH \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/HEALTH\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/health) •

[FASHION & BEAUTY \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/FASHION-BEAUTY\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/fashion-beauty) •

[PARENTING \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/PARENTING\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/parenting) •

[RELATIONSHIPS \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/RELATIONSHIPS\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/relationships) •

[ROYALS \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/LIFE/ROYALS\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/royals) •

[TRAVEL \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/CATEGORY/TRAVEL\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/travel)

Planned building code updates will mean more efficient homes



ANITA MURRAY

[More from Anita Murray \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/AUTHOR/ANITA-MURRAY\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/author/anita-murray)

SECTIONS



Ross Elliott of Homesol Building Solutions conducts a blower door test as part of a home energy audit in this 2013 photo. *BRUNO SCHLUMBERGER / OTTAWA CITIZEN*

Updates coming to the Ontario Building Code will force new homes to be more energy efficient and while it will cost more to build them, homeowners will save at least that much in lower energy costs, says an expert in residential energy efficiency.

“Energy efficiency is not something that’s just a fad,” says Ross Elliott, president of Homesol Building Solutions, who was speaking Tuesday at a meeting of housing industry professionals hosted by the Greater Ottawa Home Builders’ Association.

Here's what he says to expect from the code update, which will take effect in 2017.

- New homes will be required to be 15 per cent more energy efficient than those built today, which will be achieved through more insulation, better windows and homes that are less leaky.
- Furnaces can be 30 to 40 per cent smaller, allowing for more efficient distribution of heat for greater comfort.
- All new homes will have HRVs (heat recovery ventilators), which will bring better air quality and better moisture and condensation control.

Although the changes will be incremental — today's Energy Star homes are already more efficient than what the 2017 code will require — they will have an impact, Elliott says, offsetting the \$2,500 to \$5,000 increase in cost to build.


“The energy savings is actually going to end up being about double what the additional mortgage cost would be,” he says. “Energy efficiency more than offsets the additional cost to make a better home.”

But he admits that he is often told it can be a tough sell. “Energy efficiency is hard to see; it's hard to understand. It's not a granite countertop.”

As the building code is beefed up, the Energy Star and R2000 programs will also step it up to keep them ahead of the code.

To help get ready for the changes, the federal government will introduce a new EnerGuide rating system that will make it easier to compare the energy performance of one house to another and one builder to another.

“This is really going to change how buyers are looking at houses,” Elliott says. The new system is expected to be introduced April 1.



RONA HOME & GARDEN

THE 2ND AT FLOORING EVENT

Buy one and get the second at 50% off ON ALL IN-STOCK LAMINATE FLOORING

50% OFF

25% OFF

HOVER FOR FLYER

RONA



Visions ELECTRONICS

SHHHHHH! SECRET SALE!

THURSDAY AUGUST 27TH THRU WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND

PRICES SO LOW THE INTERNET CAN'T KNOW! SALE PRICING IN-STORE ONLY!

DON'T TELL YOUR FRIENDS... They May Get The Deals Before You!

SAVE UP TO 75% OFF


RIGHT NOW TAKE ADVANTAGE ON STOREWIDE SAVINGS ON BRAND NEW BRAND NAME ELECTRONICS

AT, NEAR or BELOW COST!

YOU HEARD RIGHT... INCREDIBLE PRICES... UNBELIEVABLE DEALS!

HOVER FOR FLYER

Visions ELECTRONICS



PETSMART

Save up to \$7

SUMMER \$5 BONUS + DUCKS

HOVER FOR FLYER

PETSMART



hp days

GO BACK TO SCHOOL WITH HUGE SAVINGS

THIS WEEK ONLY AUGUST 21 - 27

HOVER FOR FLYER

BEST BUY

Comments

We encourage all readers to share their views on our articles and blog posts. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion, so we ask you to avoid personal attacks, and please keep your comments relevant and respectful. If you encounter a comment that is abusive, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment box to report spam or abuse. We are using Facebook commenting. Visit our FAQ page (<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/story.html?id=7195492>) for more information.

1 Comment

Sort by Top



Add a comment...



Ross Elliott · CPHC at Homesol Building Solutions

I'd like to mention that although better insulation, fewer cold leaks and higher efficiency mechanical systems aren't as sexy as granite countertops, the energy savings can help PAY for that countertop! Thanks Anita.

Like · Reply · Jan 28, 2015 3:04pm

([HTTP://WWW.POSTMEDIA.COM](http://www.postmedia.com))

© 2015 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

Powered by WordPress.com VIP (<https://vip.wordpress.com/>)