

Building a greener house

A home's impact on the environment can be reduced in many ways. Some elements of a greener house:

SITE:

Smaller, already developed, close to transit, work and shops.

INSULATION:

Blown-in cellulose or fiberglass.

WOOD:

Especially for exotics, choose Sustainable Forestry Council-certified wood.

ROOF:

Metal instead of asphalt shingles.

SIDING:

Fiber cement board, or re-used wood shingles.

PAINT, FINISHES:

Water-borne, low volatile organic compound (VOC) formulas.

HEATING:

Natural-gas heat and an efficient heating system.

LANDSCAPING:

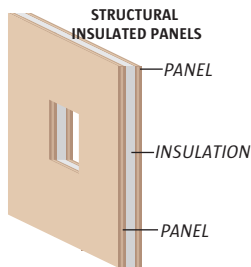
Drought-tolerant, native plants. Minimize lawn space.

CERTIFICATION:

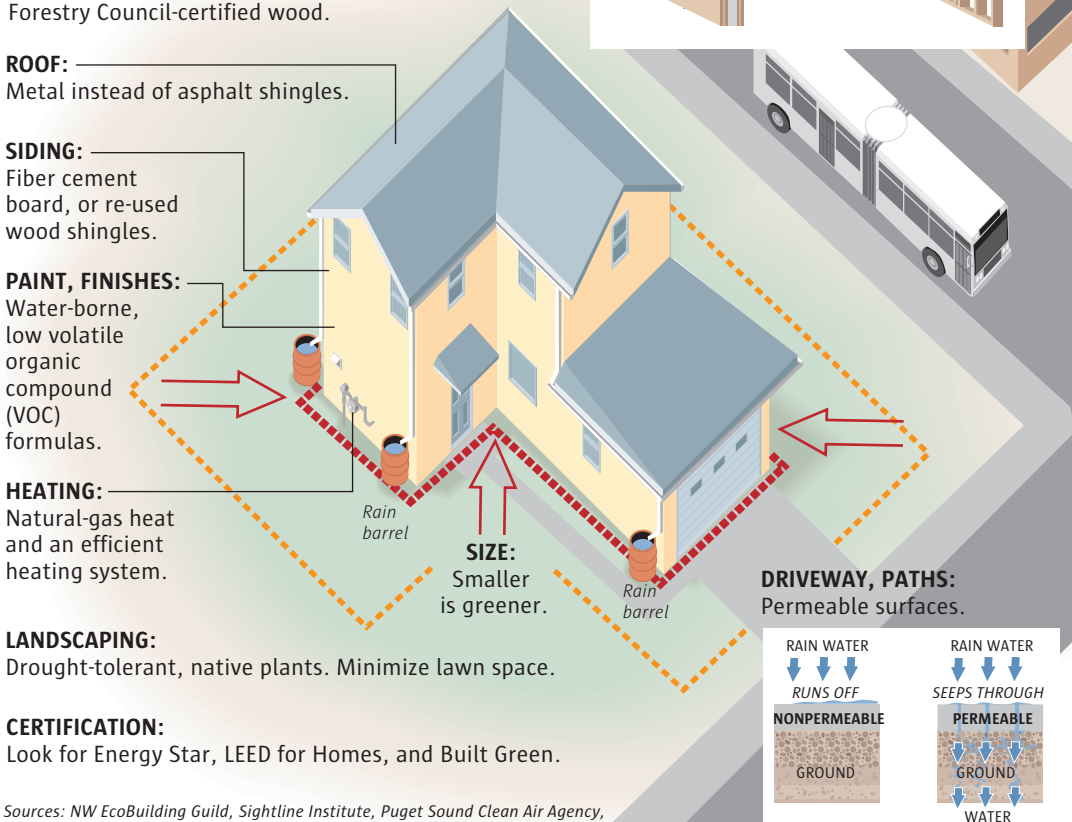
Look for Energy Star, LEED for Homes, and Built Green.

FRAMING:

Structural insulated panels instead of wood.

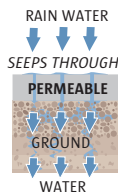
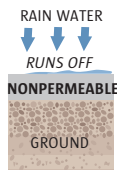


CONVENTIONAL WOOD FRAMING



SIZE:
Smaller is greener.

DRIVEWAY, PATHS:
Permeable surfaces.



Sources: NW EcoBuilding Guild, Sightline Institute, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Office of Community Trade and Economic Development