

HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO ADDING SUSTAINABLE FEATURES IN YOUR NEW BUILD

Building a new home is the perfect time to choose sustainable upgrades. These options can reduce energy use, increase comfort, and add long-term value.



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At Barr Homes, we encourage homeowners to explore sustainable options during the planning stage. We can help you integrate these features early, so they fit seamlessly into your build and continue to benefit you for years to come.

1

SMART INSULATION AND AIRTIGHTNESS

Barr Homes includes sealed building envelopes and batt insulation. Buyers can upgrade to spray foam for better energy retention in attics and basements, which preserves heat better during the colder months.

2

ENERGY-EFFICIENT WINDOWS AND DOORS

Triple-glazed glass and Low-E coatings limit heat transfer and sun damage. You can also optimize window placement during design to reduce HVAC use and increase natural light throughout the seasons.

3

SOLAR PANEL READINESS

Request a “solar rough-in” to prepare wiring and roof angles for future solar panels. It costs less than installing a solar panel system once the house is ready. Ontario also offers incentive programs and net metering to support homeowners who invest in solar energy.

4

SUSTAINABLE FLOORING AND MATERIALS

Choose low-VOC flooring for better air quality. Engineered hardwood uses fewer raw materials. For cabinetry, ask about FSC-certified wood, which supports sustainable forestry and high indoor air standards.

5

WATER-SAVING FIXTURES

Install low-flow toilets, aerated faucets, and smart irrigation systems. These reduce water use without affecting performance and help manage utility costs, especially during peak usage months.

6

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES AND LIGHTING

Select Energy Star certified appliances and LED lighting during your design centre appointment. These upgrades lower energy use, last longer, and reduce utility bills over time.



7

EV CHARGING STATION OR 240V ROUGH-IN

Adding a 240V outlet in the garage now allows future EV charger installation without costly rewiring. Barr Homes can install conduit, breakers, and garage wiring for Level 2 charging now, so all you'll need later is the charger itself.

8

WASTE REDUCTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

Many builders now follow best practices to reduce construction waste. These include recycling drywall scraps, managing material orders carefully, and donating surplus materials when possible. Ask your site supervisor about how your project is minimizing waste.

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE VARIETY

Reduce water use with native plants, smaller lawns, and mulch beds. Ask about xeriscaping options that support local ecosystems and lower your maintenance costs long term.

Even small upgrades can make a lasting difference. Let your new home work smarter from day one.