

## Modular Homes Go Green

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Allison Walker, *Your Home*



A couple visiting Orlando from North Carolina are curious to see a modular home that just got an ego boost at this year's International Builders Show at the Orange County Convention Center.

"This was the first modular home ever to receive the National Association of Homebuilders' Green Award at the Gold level," said Michael Wnek, senior vice president of sales marketing for [Palm Harbor Homes](#). "These houses are, on average, 40 percent more energy efficient than the standard energy code requirement in the state of Florida."

In other words, a Gold Level Award means if something can go green, it probably is.

Among the green appliances in the modular home are low-water usage faucets and shower heads, "Low E" insulated glass -- meaning much of the heat outside bounces off the glass -- low emission paint surfaces, and no air leakage.

Plus, since a modular home is built in sections, not all parts are the same.

"This has a 60-gallon water heater on this side that is totally powered by solar energy," Wnek said of one portion of the home.

Because of all the green modifications in the modular home, the home's air handler requires 40 percent less energy to work, ultimately translating into savings, but Palm Harbor Homes thinks a home of the future is more than just being green.

Got cold feet in the morning? A unit on the floor heats up the tile or hardwood.

There are no speakers needed near the bathtub -- the walls of it *are* the speakers.

While Carol, from North Carolina, is not convinced she will go all out when she returns from her Orlando vacation, this home of the future is not so far-fetched.

"I think they'd fit into any -- most communities," Carol said.

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