



RAL HOMES

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MAJOR POINTS TO NOTE TO IMPROVE RAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT THE DESIGN STAGE.

- **Orientation:** Position the home so that a majority of the windows face within the Northwest to Northeast quadrant. Minimise south facing glass (no heating benefit). If necessary particularly for views, East facing glass is more desirable. West facing glass is best avoided in Australia because of summer sun.
- **Placement of Utility areas** (ie. Bathroom, Laundry, W.C. etc.) is beneficial to position these within the boundary of the End Window Walls, preferably on the South side. It is also beneficial to position the kitchen / living areas with a Northerly aspect.
- **Consider End Window Walls** that are not “floor to ceiling glass” ie. up to height of second panel, with timber infill above.
- **Double glazed windows** - thermal benefits re heating and cooling..
- **Consider concrete slab** if site is suitable (thermal mass storage).

Finally, keep in mind:

1. Insulating under timber sub-floor (highly recommended). Additionally, consider enclosing (using brick, Colorbond or timber etc.) the area partially or completely (with minimum number of sub-floor vents required by the Building Code) for an enhanced improvement to the Energy calculation.
2. Glazing (to achieve correct rating you may be required to double-glaze some or all windows, low E coat may suffice. Amount of glass compared to floor area (less glass = better rating).
3. Shading devices for windows such as eave extensions, deck roof covers and external blinds.
In particular, West facing is most beneficial, South facing has no advantage, East facing is minimal, but North facing can be a penalty to the Energy calculation.
4. Note, The area where your site is located; ie each postcode has an applicable climate rating level for the 5 star standard... Should you require an energy rating in an area where First Rate is not accepted, you will need to check with Council to find out how to obtain the relevant rating required in your area.