





Setting the standard for energy-efficient homes®

# TAKE THE SMART-BUY CHALLENGE

Ask a Meritage team member how to complete these seven insider checks that reveal if a home really makes the grade.

	MERITAGE HOMES	OTHER HOMES
 <p><b>1. CHECK THE TEMPERATURE</b> If it changes when you're wandering around the house—especially from the first to second floor—the house isn't well insulated.</p>	 <b>REAL COMFORT</b>	
 <p><b>2. TOUCH THE WINDOWS</b> Put your hand against the sunniest one in the house. A cool window indicates that it's higher quality, so it won't let in heat or furniture-fading UV rays.</p>	 <b>MORE SAVINGS</b>	
 <p><b>3. LISTEN FOR OUTSIDE NOISE</b> Blast music on your phone, leave it outside, and close the door. The less you can hear from inside, the better the home's framing, insulation, and windows.</p>	 <b>REAL COMFORT</b>	
 <p><b>4. LOOK FOR WATER-SAVING APPLIANCES</b> Ask whether or not the appliances are certified by WaterSense. If they are, you'll use less water and energy without sacrificing function.</p>	 <b>MORE SAVINGS</b>	
 <p><b>5. FIND THE AIR CONDITIONING UNIT</b> Notice the size, because it matters: the bigger the air conditioner (or the more units you see), the worse the interior insulation.</p>	 <b>REAL COMFORT</b>	
 <p><b>6. STUDY THE HVAC RETURN</b> Big? Small? The larger it looks, the more likely it is that the filter and fan inside can better remove dust and allergens to help improve your home's air quality.</p>	 <b>BETTER HEALTH</b>	
 <p><b>7. ASK UNCONVENTIONAL QUESTIONS</b> Start with, "What do you do beyond the building code to make this home healthy?" Next? Ask about the builder's awards and certifications.</p>	 <b>PEACE OF MIND</b>	



CHAT WITH A MEMBER OF THE MERITAGE TEAM FOR MORE SMART-HOMEBUYER TIPS.