

5 SECRET BENEFITS OF BUILDING A PASSIVE HOME THE INTERNET WON'T TELL YOU

Passive House is a voluntary, global standard for buildings that aims to produce healthier, more energy efficient homes and commercial spaces.

We believe these principles are the way of the future, both for Wanaka & New Zealand.

We won't keep you in the dark. We want to give you this information, to share our knowledge and make kiwi homes better homes.

Few people know the real difference that a passive home makes.

1 | You Are Building A Healthier Home

It's no secret that the the **huge temperature fluctuations** we experience here in the South Island can be uncomfortable. They also aren't great for our health when they permeate our home.

Just imagine. A brand new home, with all the bells and whistles... with condensation, heating bills higher than the flash new roof & time off work when winter flus inevitably take hold. It's not what you want.

For many of us living here in New Zealand, we can't imagine living in a home where the indoor temperature remained at a comfortable 20°C without a roaring fire. But this is **exactly what a passive home achieves.**

The air is also regulated through the mechanical ventilation system, so that the moisture is removed and your indoor air is **fresher than ever.**

2 | Upfront Investment Could Save You In The Long Run

One of the main goals of a passive home is to **reduce the energy demand for heating by 90%**.

One element that has a major impact on the required heating demands of a home is how much air is exchanged from outside to in/the air tightness of the home.

A standard home has 4-6 full air changes per hour - the house we are currently building has 0.32 air changes per hour.

Consider your heating bills, the cost of fire wood, the cost of maintaining air conditioning units and heaters.

The standard a Passive Home Is Built to also means it is likely to last a hell of a lot longer thanks to the **sheer quality of the materials** and workmanship.

3 | You Are Future Proofing Your Home

New Zealand **building codes changed in 2023** to move ever so slightly closer to our principles. Scotland (who share our climate) is moving to a **building code with Passive Building principles by 2024** for all new builds.

One of the key features of Passive House design is excellent insulation. The entire building envelope including floor, walls and roof needs to be suitably insulated to create a controllable indoor environment.

For a Passive House, the aim is to combine elements with enough insulation to **double or triple the heat resistance** compared to what is required in current New Zealand building codes.

Where will building codes be when you come to sell your property?

4 | There Is No Bigger Luxury Than Being Able To Breathe Easy

Covid joke? Absolutely not sorry. Another key feature of Passive House design is the addition of a **mechanical ventilation system**.

Due to the airtight nature of a passive home, it's a very important addition. Without mechanical ventilation to provide fresh air, moisture, odours, and other pollutants can build up inside a home.

Mechanical ventilation systems **actively circulate fresh air** using ducts and fans, rather than relying on airflow through small holes or cracks in a home's walls, roof, or windows.

This means for you as the homeowner, you receive **better indoor air quality**, more control and improved comfort.

As a home owner, you can **breathe easier** knowing your home has good ventilation.

5 | Know That You Are Ahead Of The Game

If you are planning to build an architecturally designed home to be proud of, you want the security of **knowing you're doing the right thing**.

Know that by being here, you **have more insight** than the 1% building hugely luxury villas. Many of whom **do not even know** that Passive home principles exist.

We predict that in decades to come, there is likely to be a wealth of properties in Wanaka (and beyond) that miss the mark. What they may have in terms of bells and whistles, they will **lack in comfort**, quality and meeting regulatory standards of the future.

In New Zealand there were a grand total of 56 Passive House projects registered in 2021.

The fact that you have taken the time to read this far puts you within the top tier of home builders in New Zealand right now.

Take the knowledge and make a choice that feels right for you.

Don't take it from a Free Download

Ask the expert...

Being in the building industry for almost 20 years, we've realised that this way of building just makes sense.

For years, we've felt disheartened to see how cold and draughty brand-new homes can be, despite being designed and built to the current building standard.

We know, as an industry, we can do better.

Email us now to discuss your upcoming building project to see if a passive home, or a home with passive elements, is right for you.