

# EnviroDevelopment – Materials

Whenever you see the **EnviroDevelopment – Materials** icon, it means that the development displaying that symbol has met the requirements to qualify for **EnviroDevelopment – Materials** certification.

**EnviroDevelopment – Materials** recognises a development that has taken steps to ensure environmentally responsible materials have been used in the development's construction; including the use of recycled materials, and consideration of the life-cycle environmental costs of materials. In particular, the development will be designed to achieve the following:

- Use of materials from environmentally responsible sources for 20% or more of the development such as: reusable resources, use of materials with recycled content, renewable sources, non-polluting sources, low lifecycle energy materials, and responsibly sourced and manufactured materials.
- High indoor environment quality through non-toxic, low emission products such as paints, floor coverings, sealants and adhesives.
- Where possible, use of local manufacturers or suppliers to assist in the reduction of transportation-related fossil fuel consumption.
- Minimisation or recycling of product packaging.

## Homebuyer and Occupant Benefits:

Developments awarded **EnviroDevelopment – Materials** certification are designed to present significant advantages including:

- Reduced 'ecological footprint'<sup>1</sup> which leads to reduced greenhouse gas production, pollution and detrimental impacts on ecosystems
- Healthier areas through reduced toxic surfaces or gases and reduced allergens
- Potential for reduced operating costs and ongoing maintenance costs as a result of more durable materials

<sup>1</sup> Ecological Footprint: a measure of how much land and water is needed to produce the resources we consume and to dispose of the waste we produce. Source: [http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmental\\_management/sustainability/industry/sustainability\\_roadmap/glossary/](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/sustainability/industry/sustainability_roadmap/glossary/)

<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Year Book Australia 2003, Available at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/1301.0Feature%20Article282003?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=1301.0&issue=2003&num=&view=>

<sup>3</sup> CSIRO Manufacturing and Infrastructure Technology, 2006, Sustainable Built Environment – Embodied Energy, Available at: <http://www.cmit.csiro.au/brochures/tech/embodied/>



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[www.envirodevelopment.com.au](http://www.envirodevelopment.com.au)

*All calculations and estimates have been made using current data where available. For further information, see the EnviroDevelopment standards at [www.envirodevelopment.com.au](http://www.envirodevelopment.com.au). Actual development performance will vary depending on usage patterns and inhabitants.*



**MATERIALS**



## Fast Facts:

- In 1997, Australia produced 98 million tonnes of construction materials - an average of over 5,200 kg per person<sup>2</sup>.
- The average household contains about 1,000GJ of energy embodied in the materials used in its construction<sup>2</sup>.
- The reuse of building materials commonly saves about 95% of embodied energy which would otherwise be wasted<sup>3</sup>.