

Quality Assurance

Another FPB principle is using quality materials, correctly installed by trained professionals. When designing a Future-Proof home, special attention should be given to quality assurance testing programmes for key components of the home. Insist on products and materials that meet NZ Standards, carry BRANZ appraisals or International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) certification where applicable. Strict attention to quality also applies to fabrication, installation or application.

Building Code Requirements

Your home is one of the most important assets you own, so it pays to build to the highest quality you can. The government has laid out a prescriptive document known as the Building Code which sets the minimum standard any materials must meet if they're to be used, but to ensure your home is Future-Proofed, simply meeting the requirements isn't enough. What is the minimum today may fall below that in 10 years time. To avoid costly upgrades later it pays to spend a little more now and build your home to exceed the current minimum requirements.

Quality Tradespeople

When you have any building, renovating or maintenance completed on your home, the best way to ensure the highest level of quality is to use the right tradesperson. The Registered Master Builders Federation represents New Zealand's premier building and construction companies, who pride themselves on delivering the highest quality houses and buildings. Registered Master Builders also offer a 7 year warranty on all the work they do - another assurance you're getting the best.

Insist on a MASTERelectrician to ensure you are working with a quality electrical contractor that meets the New Zealand Electricity

Regulations. MASTERelectricians are members of the Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand (ECANZ) and have met the high safety standards and commercial criteria set by the association. Not only are MASTERelectricians endorsed by ECANZ, their work is also covered by a \$10,000 guarantee for your peace of mind and security

Quality Structure

A quality home needs quality foundations and structure. Ensure that you choose NZ manufactured and engineered wood products that have precisely controlled, higher performance properties for applications such as floors and roof rafters, where strength and stiffness are important. Timber frames and trusses are independently audited to ensure consistent quality and are made from a renewable New Zealand resource. Steel framing is an alternative option.

Quality Appraisals

When you choose to build or renovate, it's always wise to seek independent advice on all products to ensure you are building the best quality home for you and your family. BRANZ provides an independent and unbiased research, testing, consultancy and information resource for the building and construction industry. So look for BRANZ appraised products to incorporate into your home.

Quality Plumbing

Plumbing is one of the key elements of your home. Quality plumbing is vital to eliminate water damage and maintain the value of your investment. The location of your appliances will also ensure an efficient, smooth flow of water to outlets around your house that's quieter and less intrusive.



Tips:

- Save water by installing a low-flow shower head or restrictor, and a dual-flush cistern.
- There are a variety of high quality recycled materials available that you can use to build or renovate. Take a look around before you buy.