

# 5 Ways to Build Greener

According to the EPA, Green or Sustainable building is the practice of creating and using healthier and more resource-efficient models of construction, renovation, operation, maintenance and demolition. The overall goal of green building is to reduce impact on the environment. This requires close cooperation by all involved in the design, construction, maintenance and management processes – including the client, architects, engineers and material fabricators. **Following are 5 essential ways to build greener from start to finish:**

## ONE: Consider resource efficiency and renewable energy

All of earth's resources can be used in more sustainable ways — from water to metals, timber, minerals, and fresh air. Utilizing sustainable building products is a simple way to keep resource efficiency in mind. As well, renewable energy resources such as solar and wind power and geothermal heat can be considered and utilized to make projects greener during every phase of the design, build and maintenance process.

## TWO: Reduce toxins

Toxins such as lead paint and asbestos may be lurking in existing structures. Buildings constructed prior to 1960 are at high risk for lead contamination; asbestos was commonly used to insulate pipes and walls and it was also a common component of shingles and floor tiles.

Mold is another toxin of increasing concern. Proper design, construction and the use of quality materials may help prevent water seepage and mold spore production. Testing and careful removal of mold, lead paint and asbestos prior to any building modifications or additions is essential in order to keep workers and employees.

## THREE: Ensure indoor air quality

Keeping employees and/or building residents safe and healthy will improve worker efficiency, reduce sick time expenses and opportunity costs and improve overall quality of life. Silent and invisible pollutants such as radon and carbon monoxide need to be monitored and rectified immediately. Off-gassing from paints, cabinetry and carpets can be reduced through sustainable choices from the start.

## FOUR: Reduce waste

Reducing waste during the construction process is important for a "sustainable build," and proper planning and design may help reduce waste generation from the start. Whenever possible, standard sizes should be utilized during the design phase to reduce waste created during install. As well, using high-quality and engineered products may reduce material flaws and rejects.

On site, materials such as lumber, masonry, cardboard, appliances (if remodeling), plastics, metals and roofing materials may be eligible for recycling, depending on local recycling and waste reduction guidelines.

In order to ensure success, on-site preparation — for example, securing proper disposal and recycling bins as well as providing worker education — is vital.

## FIVE: Use environmentally friendly, green building materials

The simplest and easiest way to build greener is to use green building materials.

All FABLOGIC metal composite wall panels meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accreditation standards, which helps earn points toward the building's Green Building rating — and ultimately LEED certification.

The FABLOGIC systems are fabricated using Lean manufacturing principles and are ASTM tested and approved, guaranteeing a superior-quality product that withstands the test of time.

### ASTM tests and approvals include:

- ASTM E283-04: Tests rate of air infiltration through exterior windows
- ASTM E331-00: Tests water penetration of exterior windows, skylights, doors, and curtain walls by uniform static pressure difference
- ASTM E330-02: Tests structural performance of exterior windows, skylights, doors, and curtain walls by uniform static pressure difference
- AAMA 508-07: Tests structural performance of pressure-equalized rain screen cladding

To learn more about how FABLOGIC metal composite wall panels can help you build greener, visit [www.fablogic.com/about/why-Fablogic/](http://www.fablogic.com/about/why-Fablogic/)