



## What's New with RND

Our Riverpark Green model home, The Orchard, is nearing completion and anticipating our open house at the end of March. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer!



We are thrilled to announce RND and our president, Roy Nandram have been named finalists in four categories in this year's EnerQuality or EQ Awards. Here are the categories:

- Building Innovation - Low Rise: RND Construction
- ENERGY STAR for New Homes Builder of the Year: RND Construction
- R-2000 Building of the Year: RND Construction
- ENERGY STAR for New Homes Champion of the Year: Roy Nandram

## Net Zero Energy vs. Net Zero Energy Ready Housing

Over the past decades, energy efficiency in housing has been increasing due to advancements of the building code and various certification programs.

RND has been building ENERGY STAR®, R-2000\*, LEED® for years and is now embarking on a "Passive" home. All of these homes have one thing in common: they are more energy-efficient and produce less green house gases than code built homes.

The new buzz word in the housing industry is Net Zero Energy (NZE) and Net Zero Energy Ready. Here's the difference between these two terms: a Net Zero Energy home is one that produces as much energy as it consumes, saving you money, reducing your dependence of fossil fuels and providing you an extraordinary healthy and comfortable living environment; a Net Zero Energy Ready home does not have solar panels and must have an EnerGuide rating above 86 (89 or 90 is preferred) to qualify. Both R-2000\* and Passive homes are examples of Net Zero Energy Ready homes and are perfect candidates to upgrade to a Net Zero Energy home.

## Seasonal Tips

RND would like to remind our clients and associates of the following seasonal maintenance information:

- Clear excessive snow from roof and inspect gutters to prevent ice damming, leaks and ice sliding off;
- Drain p-traps in unused plumbing fixtures as these tend to dry out quickly during the winter. By filling unused drains with water periodically, you can ensure the traps remain full and avoid sewer gases backing up into your home (often the cause of an unpleasant odour);
- Add extensions to downspouts to divert water away from the home foundation;
- Shovel snow from around the heat pump so that air can circulate across the coils (if applicable);
- Switch ceiling fans to run in the opposite direction, to push warm air downward & force it to recirculate;
- Clean air vents/registers and move furniture & curtains away from them to help circulate hot air better;
- Increase energy efficiency of windows by using caulking and weather stripping to seal any cracks or leaks around the frames. You can also add a layer of plastic (kits are sold at most hardware stores);
- Perform necessary maintenance of your furnace to keep it running at its maximum efficiency and prevent it from breaking down in the middle of the night;
- Clear out excess snow in basement window wells to prevent leaks on warmer days;
- Inspect hot water tank and furnace and replace filter if necessary;
- Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide sensors.

