

PRESS RELEASE

Greywater recycling gets NZ's first 10-star Homestar house over the line

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The launch of a new home in Addington, Christchurch has been welcomed by Mayor Lianne Dalziel. This eco-home is certified with the highest possible rating of 10 stars in the Homestar ratings guide. It is the first home in New Zealand to achieve this perfect score. Mayor Lianne Dalziel notes that 'this is important for Christchurch, for New Zealand, and actually the planet – because this is the future.'

The Homestar rating is an independent certification system that determines how environmentally sound, energy efficient, and healthy a home is. It is also a demonstration home for the Superhome movement - which aims to debunk the myth that environmentally responsible energy efficient homes are too expensive. What is just as important is the ongoing running costs of a home and the entire ecological footprint of a building, according to Superhome promoter and architect Bob Burnett "no power bills – why can't all New Zealand houses be like this?!"

The house in Church Square has up to 20 innovations of sustainable features that are new to New Zealand, says Burnett. 'We had to tick all the boxes to get to a 10-star Homestar rating and one of the last things was the greywater – which gave us the extra 3 points we needed.'

Vanessa McGrath is the Manager of the Homestar ratings tools of the New Zealand Green Building Council. She says 'we definitely encourage greywater recycling where its appropriate for the building.' Greywater recycling reduces 'the amount of potable water going into the house and it also reduces the amount of water going into sewerage.'

The Intewa Aqualoop greywater recycling system collects the hand basin, shower and bath water, treats it without the use of chemicals to a high standard, and then combines it with rainwater where it is reused, in this instance, in the toilets, washing machine and laundry taps. Greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting system designer, Martin Pfaff from Aloaqua in Christchurch says the beauty of the system is that it is modular 'we can arrange the components to suit the size of the project and how people use their water'.

Martin has been advocating water conservation since moving to New Zealand from Germany eleven years ago. 'It's great to see people are starting to see that it's better to use recycled water for some household purposes and not to flush good drinking water down the toilet – it's better for the environment and infrastructure.' The Aqualoop system is designed and manufactured in Germany and meets stringent British and European greywater quality standards.

A home needs over 95 points out of a possible 100 to gain a near perfect score, and this house in historic Church Square, Addington is near perfect - a home with virtually no power bills and yet still cosy and warm in the winter. Some of the other features include – a fully insulated foundation pad, high spec triple glazed PVC windows, passive solar design, photovoltaic panels for energy and hot water heating which also services the underfloor heating, wastewater heat recovery in the shower, rainwater harvesting, and permeable landscaping.

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Picture: Martin Pfaff of Aloaqua with the INTEWA AQUALOOP greywater system installed at Church Square, Addington, Christchurch.



Picture: Mayor Lianne Dalziel, Architect Bob Burnett, and NZGBC Homestar ratings manager Vanessa McGrath attending the launch of New Zealand's first 10-star Homestar home



Picture: Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Architect Bob Burnett cut the green ribbon.



Picture: The launch of the 10 star Homestar home



Picture: New Zealand's first 10-star Homestar rating home.



Picture: NZGBC Homestar ratings manager Vanessa McGrath discuss the advzntages of the greywater recycling system with designer Martin Pfaff from ALOAQUA in Christchurch.