

What is your orientation?

Why face north?

Orienting your house to make best use of the sun involves maximizing north-facing living spaces, ensuring proper shading, promoting cross ventilation, and incorporating high thermal mass materials. These strategies will enhance comfort and reduce energy consumption.



Benefits

Proper orientation maximizes natural light, enhances energy efficiency, and improves overall comfort. It helps in reducing energy bills by optimizing heating, cooling, and lighting. Sun in the winter and shade in the summer are the goals.



Solar access.

Seek land that allows good solar access where you can place living areas and large windows facing north to maximize sunlight during winter and reduce heating costs. Position bedrooms to the south or east to avoid excessive heat during summer evenings and if possible position utility rooms like bathrooms and laundries on the western or southern side, or western side to act as a buffer for living areas against the hot afternoon sun.



Shading solutions.

Using eaves, pergolas, and verandahs will provide effective shading for north-facing windows in summer while allowing warming winter sun. Planting deciduous trees or vines on the north side will provide natural shading in summer and sunlight access in winter.



Cross ventilation.

Designing windows and doors well will promote cross ventilation, allow cool breezes to pass through the house and reduce the need for air conditioning. Aligning windows on opposite sides of the house will create effective airflow.

Ask your sales consultant or builder

Buying a block that allows for north-facing living areas will provide the best outcomes. Ask your builder or sales consultant how you can achieve this.

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