



---

## Process for including (the properties of) new materials/products into NatHERS accredited software

### Introduction

It is a principle of the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) that only generic or default option for a material/product is available for selection by assessors. The inclusion of a material/product by a commercial name is not supported, but may be adopted by individual software tool providers, only:

- after approval by the NatHERS Steering Committee (Energy Efficiency Advisory Team (EEAT)), and
- when it is shown that an assessor cannot select a generic in all modelling situations.

Before applying for inclusion of a material/product, prospective manufacturers should review the list of material/product properties included in NatHERS accredited software tools (available on the NatHERS website at [www.nathers.gov.au/](http://www.nathers.gov.au/) or by request from the NatHERS Administrator). This will ensure that an applicant does not propose a material/product that is similar to an existing generic brand.

The addition of a new material will be available in the software as soon as practical after the all steps described in this note have been completed.

### Steps for a new material/product to complete

The following steps must be undertaken for a new material/product to be considered for inclusion into NatHERS software tools:

1. Manufacturer emails the NatHERS Administrator requesting a new material/product thermal properties be added to NatHERS.
2. The manufacturer will be asked to provide acceptable certified testing results for the material/product, based on its properties.
  - a. Acceptable testing results should have been undertaken by a NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accredited laboratory or a similar international laboratory registered under an ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) accredited body – refer to ILAC website for more information [www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org).
  - b. If the testing has not already taken place, the NatHERS Administrator will recommend that the manufacturer approach a NATA accredited laboratory (or an international equivalent laboratory) to arrange for the testing to be carried out – refer to the NATA website for details [www.nata.com.au](http://www.nata.com.au).
  - c. If an international laboratory is used, the tests conducted need to be applicable to Australian conditions, with results and reports supplied in a format appropriate for the Australian context.

3. The reports from the material/product testing will go to the NatHERS Software Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review.
  - a. The TAC will act as the technical auditor for the material/product approval process. A sub-committee may be delegated the responsibility to confirm the testing and supporting documentation is to an acceptable standard.
  - b. The TAC will make a technical judgement on the material/product and the results, and recommend if it is actually “new” and warrants being added to the NatHERS material/product list, or whether an existing generic value will be an appropriate default.
  - c. The NatHERS TAC meets quarterly or as-required and the research documentation will be put to the next available meeting for advice after being received by the NatHERS Administrator.
4. If the material/product is close to an existing one, it will not be added but advice to assessors will be included to the Software page on the NatHERS website as to the appropriate generic/default to use.
5. If the new material/product is approved, the NatHERS Administrator will work with CSIRO to add it to the database of materials/products and distribute an updated list to the accredited software tool providers for inclusion.
6. New versions of the software tools will be released in accordance with the *Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) – Software Accreditation Protocol* and changes will be announced on the NatHERS website.
7. Any manufacturer who believes the TAC has not dealt reasonably with their product can appeal the decision through the NatHERS Administrator.

#### Disclaimer

The material in this document is made available for information only and on the understanding that the NatHERS Administrator, state and territory governments, and Commonwealth (the Participating Bodies) are not providing professional advice, nor indicating a commitment by the Participating Bodies to a particular course of action. While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the information is accurate, correct and reliable, the Participating Bodies, and all persons acting for the Participating Bodies preparing this publication, accept no liability for the accuracy of, or inferences from, the material contained in this publication, and expressly disclaim liability for any person’s loss arising directly or indirectly from the use of, inferences drawn, deductions made, or acts done in reliance on this document. The material in this document may include the views or recommendations of third parties, which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Participating Bodies, or indicate their commitment to a particular course of action.

NatHERS supports improvements to the thermal performance (energy efficiency) of Australia’s residential buildings by providing a standardised approach and guidelines for energy rating software used to assess dwellings across Australia.

NatHERS is administered by the Department of the Environment and Energy on behalf of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

**For more information visit [www.nathers.gov.au](http://www.nathers.gov.au)**