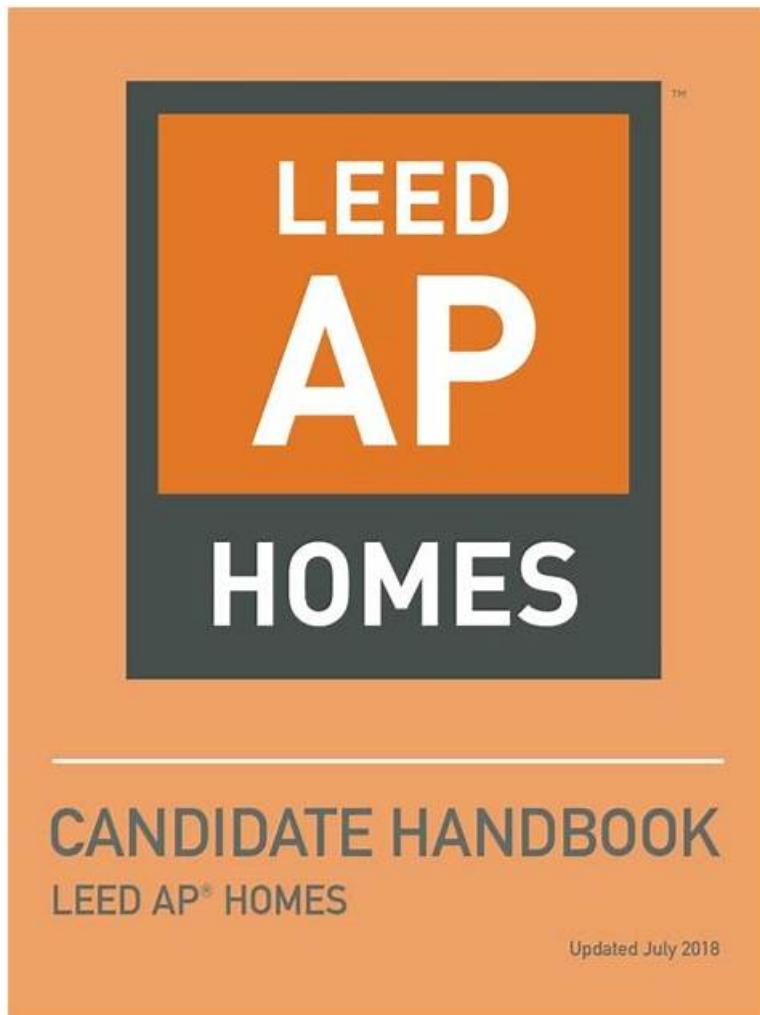


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## USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q37-Q42):

### NEW QUESTION # 37

Energy losses due to supply duct leakage are most likely to occur when:

- A. Ducts are located within conditioned envelope but joints are unsealed.
- B. Interior wall cavities are used to conduct return air.
- C. Duct layout includes multiple 90-degree bends on a single branch.
- D. Ducts are located in unconditioned attics, basements, or exterior walls.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Duct leakage in HVAC systems can significantly increase energy losses, particularly when ducts are poorly sealed or located in areas that exacerbate the impact of leakage. This issue is addressed in the LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) under the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) category, specifically in credits related to Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4), the location of ducts plays a critical role in energy losses due to leakage:

EA Credit: Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems

To minimize energy losses, locate all heating and cooling ducts and air handlers within the conditioned envelope of the building. Ducts located in unconditioned spaces, such as attics, basements, or exterior walls, are more likely to lose energy due to leakage, as air escaping from ducts in these areas is lost to the outside or unconditioned zones, increasing heating and cooling loads.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Credit:

Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system further clarifies this:

EA Credit: Optimize Energy Performance

Ducts located in unconditioned spaces (e.g., attics, unconditioned basements, or exterior walls) contribute to significant energy losses when leakage occurs, as conditioned air escapes to areas outside the thermal envelope. Sealing ducts and locating them within conditioned spaces are best practices to minimize losses.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

Ducts in unconditioned attics, basements, or exterior walls are particularly problematic because any leakage results in conditioned air being lost to spaces that are not temperature-controlled, requiring the HVAC system to work harder to maintain indoor comfort. This scenario maximizes energy losses compared to ducts within the conditioned envelope.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 127, which discusses return air strategies but not as a primary leakage concern.

B). Duct layout includes multiple 90-degree bends on a single branch: Multiple 90-degree bends increase airflow resistance, reducing system efficiency, but they do not directly cause duct leakage. Leakage is related to unsealed joints or poor duct construction, not the geometry of the duct layout. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126, which prioritizes duct sealing over layout.

C). Ducts are located within conditioned envelope but joints are unsealed: While unsealed joints cause leakage, ducts within the conditioned envelope leak into spaces that are already temperature-controlled. This reduces the energy impact compared to leakage in unconditioned spaces, as the conditioned air remains within the thermal envelope. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit:

Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126, which notes that ducts in conditioned spaces minimize energy loss from leakage. The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook confirms that the exam tests knowledge of EA credits, including duct system design and energy performance, referencing the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a primary resource. The handbook ensures that the exam is based on LEED v4, aligning with the focus on duct location and sealing.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126-127.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming duct location impacts.

### NEW QUESTION # 38

Which of the following credits awards exemplary performance?

- A. Materials and Resources Credit, Durability Management Verification
- B. Energy and Atmosphere Credit, Envelope Insulation
- **C. Location and Transportation Credit, Compact Development**
- D. Sustainable Sites Credit, Heat Island Reduction

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) allows certain credits to award exemplary performance points under the Innovation (IN) Credit: Innovation for exceeding standard credit thresholds, promoting exceptional sustainability achievements.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

IN Credit: Innovation (1-5 points)

Exemplary performance points are awarded for achieving significantly higher thresholds than required for specific credits.

For Location and Transportation Credit: Compact Development, exemplary performance is awarded for exceeding the maximum density or proximity requirements (e.g., higher dwelling units per acre or closer proximity to services).

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Innovation Credit: Innovation, p.

190; Location and Transportation Credit: Compact Development, p. 57.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

IN Credit: Innovation

Exemplary performance is available for credits like LT Credit: Compact Development when projects achieve significantly higher densities or connectivity than the standard credit requirements.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is Location and Transportation Credit, Compact Development (Option B), as it is explicitly identified as offering exemplary performance points for surpassing density or connectivity thresholds.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Durability Management Verification, p. 162.

C). Sustainable Sites Credit, Heat Island Reduction: This credit does not list exemplary performance in LEED v4 for Homes. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Heat Island Reduction, p. 80.

D). Energy and Atmosphere Credit, Envelope Insulation: This credit focuses on insulation quality, not exemplary performance thresholds. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Envelope Insulation, p. 120.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes IN credits, including exemplary performance, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of compact development.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Innovation Credit: Innovation, p. 190; Location and Transportation Credit: Compact Development, p. 57.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming exemplary performance credits.

### NEW QUESTION # 39

A gut rehab LEED for Homes project will maintain the building's existing exterior wall and floor framing.

Under Materials and Resources Credit, Environmentally Preferable Products category, these components get credit for being:

- **A. Reclaimed**

- B. Recycled
- C. Refurbished
- D. Restructured

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) awards points for the Materials and Resources (MR) Credit:

Environmentally Preferable Products for using materials with sustainable attributes, such as reused or salvaged materials. In a gut rehab project, maintaining existing exterior wall and floor framing qualifies these components as reused materials.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products (1-4 points)

Use products that meet one or more of the following criteria for at least 25%, 50%, or 90% (by cost) of the total materials:

\* Reused or salvaged materials: Materials that are reclaimed from the same or another project, such as existing framing maintained in a gut rehab. In gut rehab projects, existing structural components (e.g., wall and floor framing) that are reused in place qualify as reclaimed materials. Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Materials and Resources Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products

Reclaimed materials, such as existing framing reused in gut rehab projects, contribute to the percentage of environmentally preferable products based on their cost.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The term reclaimed (Option B) is used in LEED to describe materials that are reused or salvaged, such as existing framing kept in place during a gut rehab. This reduces the demand for new materials and aligns with the credit's intent.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

C). Refurbished: Refurbished materials are restored or repaired for reuse (e.g., refinished doors). Framing maintained in place is not refurbished but simply reused, so this term does not apply. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

D). Restructured: This term is not used in LEED and does not describe the reuse of existing framing.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes MR credits, including Environmentally Preferable Products, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource.

The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the term "reclaimed." References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Materials and Resources Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming reclaimed material criteria.

**NEW QUESTION # 40**

Within 1/2 mi. (0.8 km) of a project there are three restaurants, one school, two pharmacies, one church, and one grocery store. How many of the community resources listed above will contribute toward the Location and Transportation Credit, Community Resources?

- A. Seven resources
- B. Eight resources
- C. Five resources
- D. Six resources

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Location and Transportation (LT) Credit:

Community Resources and Services, which awards points based on the number of publicly accessible community services within 1/4 mile (0.4 km) for single-family homes or 1/2 mile (0.8 km) for multi-family projects. The question specifies a 1/2-mile radius, suggesting a multi-family context.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

LT Credit: Community Resources and Services (1-2 points)

Earn 1 point for at least 4 community services or 2 points for 8 or more services within 1/2 mile (0.8 km) walking distance for multi-family projects. Qualifying services include restaurants, schools, pharmacies, grocery stores, and places of worship (e.g., churches), provided they are publicly accessible.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Location and Transportation Credit: Community Resources and Services, p. 56.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

LT Credit: Community Resources and Services

Community services such as restaurants, schools, pharmacies, grocery stores, and churches within 1/2 mile (0.8 km) of a multi-family project count toward the credit if publicly accessible.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

Evaluation of resources:

- \* Three restaurants: All qualify as community services.
- \* One school: Qualifies as a community service.
- \* Two pharmacies: Both qualify as community services.
- \* One church: Qualifies as a place of worship.
- \* One grocery store: Qualifies as a community service.
- \* Total:  $3 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 1 = 7$  resources.

The correct answer is seven resources (Option C), as all listed services are publicly accessible and within 1/2 mile, contributing to the credit.

Why not the other options?

- \* A. Five resources: This undercounts the qualifying services (7 total).
- \* B. Six resources: This also undercounts the total (7).

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Community Resources and Services, p. 56. The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes LT credits, including Community Resources and Services, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource.

The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of counting community services.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Location and Transportation Credit: Community Resources and Services, p. 56.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming community resources criteria.

## NEW QUESTION # 41

For a typical single-family home, plumbing fixtures may account for what fraction of the home's total indoor water use?

- A. 3/4
- B. 1/2
- C. 1/3
- D. 2/3

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) addresses indoor water use in the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit:

Indoor Water Use, which focuses on reducing water consumption through efficient plumbing fixtures (e.g., toilets, faucets, showerheads). Understanding the contribution of fixtures to total indoor water use is key to this credit.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

WE Credit: Indoor Water Use (1-6 points)

In a typical single-family home, plumbing fixtures (toilets, showerheads, and faucets) account for approximately two-thirds (2/3) of total indoor water use. Installing high-efficiency fixtures can significantly reduce water consumption.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Water Efficiency Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96. The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+Crating system confirms:

WE Credit: Indoor Water Use

Plumbing fixtures typically represent about 2/3 of indoor water use in single-family homes, making their efficiency critical for achieving water savings.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is 2/3 (Option C), as plumbing fixtures account for approximately two-thirds of a typical single-family home's indoor water use.

Why not the other options?

\* A. 1/3: This underestimates the contribution of plumbing fixtures, which are the primary indoor water users.

\* B. 1/2: This is closer but still underestimates the typical proportion (2/3).

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes WE credits, including indoor water use, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the 2/3 fraction.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Water Efficiency Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming indoor water use proportions.

## NEW QUESTION # 42

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