Indoor air quality (IAQ) or indoor environmental quality

During and following construction, there are many ways to improve the air quality for the health of occupants. These include:

- Exterior grilles or fixed mats at building entrances
- Framing – Less than 19 percent moisture content before drywall
- HVAC
    - Supply registers covered during construction
    - Equipment properly sized and commissioned per ACCA Manual S
        - Minimum efficiency of 90 percent
        - Duct work sealed with mastic
        - Installed in the conditioned space
        - Heat recovery ventilator (HRV) for fresh air intake
    - Air filter ≥ MERV 8 with verification that system can accommodate the greater pressure drop
    - Ductless heat pump or ground source heat pump
- Spot ventilation vented to outdoors
    - Bathrooms
    - Clothes dryers
    - Kitchen exhaust units/range hoods
- Reduced VOC emissions levels in accordance with CDPH 01350 - see http://www.cal-iaq.org/phocadownload/d9_presentation_1_2009_10_23.pdf)
    - Hard surface flooring
    - Wall coverings
    - Insulation formaldehyde
    - Adhesives and sealants
    - Site applied architectural coatings
- Cabinets - No added formaldehyde and zero to low-VOC finishes
- Carpeting, including padding and adhesives, has reduced VOC emission levels as certified by a third party such as the Carpet and Rug Institute's *Green Label Plus Indoor Air Quality Program*
- Carbon monoxide detector
- Central vacuum system
- Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) pressure test
- Radon control systems
    - Active for EPA Zone 1
    - Passive for EPA Zone 2
- Garage – detached if possible or tightly sealed and gasketed

For more information:
EPA's Indoor airPlus (http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus/index.html)
PlanetClark (http://planetclark.com/indoor-air-quality/)