



Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Frequently Asked Questions

If you are attending or planning to attend a Southface HERS training, please take a few minutes to review the following frequently asked questions. If after reviewing these, you still have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at courses@southface.org.

When is your next HERS training?

Please check the Southface Calendar at www.southface.org for a list of available dates.

Is your _(pick your month)_ class full?

Please check the HERS page on the website at www.southface.org for a list of available dates.

Can I get on the waiting list for your _(pick your month)_ class?

Very few people sign up and then do not attend the training. We therefore do not keep a waiting list for any openings. If a spot becomes available, we contact the individuals that have signed up for a later class and give them the opportunity to come to the earlier training.

Do you need the full tuition amount up front?

Yes. Because our classes fill 2-3 months ahead of time, we require you to make full payment when you schedule your training.

What if I need to change from one class date to another?

If there are changes in your schedule and you will not be able to attend a class that you have signed up for, please send us an email at <mailto:courses@southface.org> and we will work with you to see what works best for you.

How long after training will it take to know if I have passed the class?

You will know your score on the exam right after you take it. We ask that you allow us 2-3 weeks to grade the software files that you will develop while in training. Successful class completion is based on the software grades as well as the exam grade.

What if I do not pass the RESNET exam?

We can work with you to schedule a retest on the RESNET exam. We ask that you find a proctor in your area who can administer the exam. You can find proctors at local libraries, community colleges, etc. There is a \$175 fee to retake the exam.

Is there a fee to retake the RESNET

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What if I do not pass the software portion of the training?

Every attendee will receive a letter grade on the software file as well as comments from the instructor(s) to assist you in making corrections. If you did not receive a passing grade, then we will ask you to make the necessary corrections and resubmit the file for us to regrade.

Once I complete your training course, am I then a Certified Rater?

No. We will provide your training and administer the RESNET National Certification Exam, but you must also complete up to 5 provisional ratings with a local provider. Local providers can be found on the RESNET site at <http://www.resnet.us/programs/providers/directory.aspx>.



What is a Rating Field Inspector (RFI)?

A Rating Field Inspector is an individual that has been certified by a Provider to do site data collection. A Field Inspector works directly for a Rater who is ultimately responsible for the work performed by the RFI. RFI's must pass the Rating Field Inspector exam, the Combustion Appliance Zone Work Safety exams, and do 5 probationary ratings in the field before they are eligible for certification.

What is a RESNET provider?

More information about RESNET providers, including how to become a RESNET provider, can be found directly on the RESNET website, www.resnet.us.

Can Southface be my provider?

Certainly. You will have an opportunity to meet team members of the Southface Energy Rated Homes (SERH) Providership during HERS training. SERH serves raters in the Southeast and beyond with a wide range of services. You can find more information at www.southface.org.

Will there be homework during the HERS training?

YES. You will have 2-3 hours of homework each night. We have found that students who take the time to complete their homework tend to do better in class.

Are there jobs out there for raters?

As energy efficiency takes on a greater importance in America, the need for raters also increases. RESNET lists career paths on its website at http://www.resnet.us/rater/career_paths.htm.

How much money can a rater make?

There is no way for Southface to answer this question directly. There are many variables, such as location, number of raters in your area and market conditions.

How much does it cost to become a rater?

In addition to the cost of training, becoming a rater requires purchasing equipment (check pricing at <http://www.energyconservatory.com/products> or <http://retrotec.com/products>) and paying local provider fees (these vary by provider).

Is there any information that I can study ahead of time?

We will send you several files to work on before coming to training. We suggest that you be familiar with basic construction terms, and we encourage you to check out videos on the Blower Door and Duct Leakage Tester on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/energyconservatory> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNOFSYgt83w&feature=related>) before the course.

I do not have a laptop. Can I rent one from Southface?

We do have laptops available. However, we suggest that you rent one at a location near you. You may need the laptop after the class portion of the training to revise files and we are limited in our ability to load the software at a later time.

Will the software work on Macs?

No. At this time the REM/Rate™ software will only work on Windows-based computers. If you are able to "dual boot" your Mac into Windows, it should work fine.



Will we be out in the field or is the training all in the classroom?

Most of the training is conducted in the classroom and locations inside our training facility. We do go out in the field for hands on diagnostic equipment training.

Will I get a copy of the software to use after training?

We will load a 90 day trial version of the software to use during training. The full licensed version will be provided by your local RESNET provider.

Can I get a copy of the software before coming to training to practice?

We do not send out copies of the software ahead of time. Because this is a 90 day trial version, we want to make sure that you have time left on your trial at the end of class if you need to make revisions to your software files. The software version changes from time to time and loading it on everyone's computer at the same time ensures that we are all working from the same version.