

GREENING YOUR SINGLE FAMILY HOME

LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS WITH A HIGH IMPACT

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| Sites | 1 | Create a more porous exterior walkway, driveway or yard. Minimizing asphalt surfaces reduces stormwater runoff, which occurs when water cannot be absorbed into the soil. |
| | 2 | Install a green roof for its rainwater retention properties as well as its superior insulation in both summer and winter. |
| | 3 | Plant street trees. |
| Water | 1 | Install an under-sink water filtration system to avoid using bottled water and a filter at the showerhead to reduce the absorption of chlorine ions into the skin. |
| | 2 | Consider a solar hot water system to use heat from the sun for your domestic hot water needs or an on-demand tankless gas-fired hot water heater. |
| | 3 | Insulate all hot water pipes. |
| Energy | 1 | Do an energy audit of your entire home with particular attention paid to the heating and cooling systems. |
| | 2 | Consider radiant heating for as many living spaces as possible. |
| | 3 | Provide as much daylight as possible to interior spaces to reduce the need for artificial lighting. |
| | 4 | Integrate natural cooling techniques such as operable skylights to vent hot air from the house or green roofs which will promote evaporative cooling in lieu of an air conditioning system. |
| | 5 | Alternative energy: If you are building a new house, consider on-site renewable energy sources such as geothermal, solar PV panels or wind turbines. |
| | 6 | Install Energy Star windows with a high R-value (insulation factor). |
| | 7 | Install insulation at the exterior walls, roof and foundation with as high an R-value as possible. |
| | 8 | If there are family members who don't turn off lights, use occupancy sensors. |
| Materials | 1 | For new millwork and cabinetry, specify substrate that is urea- and formaldehyde-free. |
| | 2 | During construction, work with the Contractor to divert as much waste as possible from the landfill. Many materials, such as wood and gypsum board can be recycled or sold. |
| | 3 | Maintain and re-use existing walls and building components where possible. |
| | 4 | Use salvaged, re-used or re-furnished materials. |
| | 5 | Specify materials with recycled and rapidly renewable content. |
| | 6 | Specify FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified wood products. |
| Air | 1 | Ensure adequate filtered fresh air ventilation year-round. |
| | 2 | During construction, protect all absorptive materials such as insulation, carpeting, ceiling tiles and gypsum wallboard from moisture damage. |
| | 3 | Use low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) sealants, adhesives, paints, coatings and carpets. |
| | 4 | Specify green or organic insulation materials. These are made of natural fibers with a high recycled content, and have a minimal environmental impact as opposed to conventional insulation. |
| | 5 | After construction ends and prior to occupancy, conduct an appropriate flush-out with new filters and 100% outside air. After the flushout, replace the filtration media with new filters. |

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