

GREENING YOUR SINGLE FAMILY HOME

LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS WITH A HIGH IMPACT

Outdoor Space	1	Create a more porous exterior walkway, driveway, or yard. Minimizing asphalt surface space 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 for 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 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	Use natural cooling techniques, such as operable skylights to vent hot air from the house, or install green roofs to 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 reuse existing walls and building components where possible.
	4	Use salvaged, reused or refurbished 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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