

Reference Guide to Keeping Your Home Green



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Energy Efficiency

- Learn how to program your thermostat. Set it to turn the temperature a few degrees cooler in the winter and a few degrees warmer in the summer for times when you are asleep or away from the home.
- Replace your furnace filter monthly to maintain HVAC efficiency.
- Clean your clothes dryer's lint trap regularly to improve air circulation, cut down on drying time, and save on energy costs.
- Wash and rinse clothes in cold water to save water heating costs. Look for detergents designed for use with cold water.
- Unplug computers and other electronics when you are not using them. You can plug items into a power bar to easily cut the power when finished.
- Close your curtains on hot days to reduce heat from sunlight.
- Shield your refrigerator from sunlight or heating vents to prevent it from having to run excessively.

Indoor Environmental Quality

- Avoid toxic cleaning products and laundry detergents. Choose fragrance-free, eco-friendly versions.
- Remember to use the ventilation fans in the bathroom and kitchen to reduce moisture and fumes in the air.
- Keep your home clean by wiping your feet or removing your shoes when you enter the home to reduce dust and prevent tracking in pesticides or other outdoor pollutants.
- Keep the floor and other surfaces clean. Dust build up is inviting to dust mites and food residue attracts other pests.

Water Conservation

- Wash full loads of clothes to use water more efficiently.
- Wash full dishwasher loads to use water more efficiently.
- Turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth and while you shave.

Resource Conservation

- Recycle paper, plastic, glass, and metal from household products, food containers, and product packaging.