

green products



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Key Ingredients for Remodeling Your Home

Improving the quality of our environment seems to be on everyone's mind, but where do we start? No matter how hard we try, it just seems to keep getting worse. We hear talk about global warming, poor car emissions, deforestation, water pollutants, and so on. It can get overwhelming just thinking about it. However, there is some relief in knowing that there are things you can do in your home to conserve earth's resources, and enjoy a healthier environment.

So What Are "Green Products?"

Green building is the practice of increasing the efficiency with which homes use and harvest energy, water, and materials, while reducing the homes impact on human health and the environment. The products used in green building are "green products" and by incorporating them in your home it increases the value and quality of your living environment.

The essence of home remodeling embraces the concept of taking something that is old or outdated and finding creative ways to make it new, or that it appears to be. Whether it is an addition, reconfiguration of space, or cosmetic makeover, green building techniques may be applied to any remodeling project.

There are four key principles that green building should address when implementing them in your home.

The Quality of Living Environment

The first thing visitors notice when they walk into a "green" home is the air quality. They immediately get an impression of cleanliness by the smell (or lack of odor). Many products you currently have in your home emit harmful gases during normal use and throughout the lifespan of the product. The use of green products, such as wood or paper countertops, reduce toxic substances and off-gassing, while improving your homes air quality and your quality of life. Preventing or limiting the use of adhesives that release Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) during the installation of countertop or flooring surfaces will also contribute to the improvement in air quality.

Paint has a knack for announcing how fresh it is by the strength of its odor; however, this odor is harmful to the human body when inhaled. Advances in paint have been made by altering the ingredients to exclude VOC's and use more natural resources, which virtually make "green paint" odorless.

Using Sustainable, Renewable, and Recycled Resources

As the earth's population continues to grow, we put a constant strain on earth's natural resources. We are using natural resources at a rate faster than the earth can regenerate them. By

using green products in your home, you will contribute to the conservation of earth's natural resources, while enhancing your environment. Many green products are gaining popularity as floor coverings. Eucalyptus, bamboo, Marmoleum and cork are products that regenerate rapidly so their use does not exceed the resources ability to replace itself. These products also provide a durable surface that adds long-lasting beauty and value to the home. Many recycled products are also being used as flooring, such as reclaimed rubber, railroad ties, and wood from demolished buildings.

Energy Conservation

With the rising costs of energy, there is growing interest to search out products that not only save energy, but protect the environment. The use of high efficiency HVAC systems in combination with a high level of insulation will create a synergy which significantly reduces energy costs.

Energy efficient windows assist with warming your home in cold weather and blocking heat from the sun in warmer weather. An abundance of natural lighting may also cut back on the use of electricity for lighting and solar energy may be stored to limit electric consumption.

Water Conservation

We live in a society that loves to use water. People water their lawns, wash their cars and pets, and take leisure showers. We use water with a mind set that we will never run out. Although that may be the case in our lifetime, we progressively watch our water quality and supply diminish. The use of gutters to collect potable water for car and pet washing and landscape irrigation significantly reduces the consumption of the municipal water supply.

When deciding to implement green products in your home, it is important to seek out a professional who understands the products and concepts of green design and will guide you in implementing green design that embraces the four principles and fits your lifestyle.

Consumers get more excited about making their product selection when they know the product is natural and can help protect the environment. Fortunately for consumers, green building has been embraced internationally. Manufacturers are scrambling to produce green products at a rapid rate due to demand.

We may have only one earth, but you have many opportunities to utilize the natural beauty and quality of its resources while securing its future.

