

TOP 10 WAYS TO GREEN YOUR HOME

1. GREEN YOUR LIGHTING

Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and install room occupancy sensors. CFLs last 10 times longer and use 66% less energy than incandescent bulbs. Don't forget to recycle your CFL's at these locations:

In Sonoma County:

Household Toxics Facility located at 500 Mecham Rd. in Petaluma. Free drop off is available Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Community Toxics Collections – By appointment only, contact them at 795-2025 or toll-free 1-877-747-1870

In Mendocino County

HazMobile located at 298 A Plant Road in Ukiah. Free drop off (for up to 15 lbs.) is available every Tuesday from 8 AM – 2 PM. Contact them at 468-9704 for additional pick up times and locations.

2. TURN DOWN THE THERMOSTAT 3 DEGREES

By doing this in the winter and up three degrees in the summer, you can prevent the emission of nearly 1,100 pounds of carbon dioxide annually. Check out the Energy Star Rated Thermostats in Friedman's Electrical Department!

3. TURN DOWN THE HOT WATER HEATER OR REPLACE IT WITH A TANKLESS HOT WATER HEATER

Set your water heater to 130° F. While you're at it, turn down your house thermostat during the winter to 55° F when you go to bed or leave home. These simple actions can have enormous positive consequences, preventing the emission of more than 1,100 pounds of carbon dioxide over the course of the year, while cutting your energy bill by more than 10 percent. Or better yet, switch to a tankless water heater, which are over 40% more efficient than current federal standard water heaters!

4. DETECT AND PREVENT ENERGY LEAKS (ALSO KNOWN AS PHANTOM LEAKS)

Use an energy usage monitor, like the Kill a Watt to detect energy leaks and a Smart Strip power strip to prevent them.

A 2002 report found that: "*Lopomo [low power mode] energy use is responsible for about 10% of total electricity use in California homes.*" To make sure that computers, monitors, printers, photocopy machines, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, and microwave ovens are all the way off, pull the plug rather than flipping the switch on the machine.

5. WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME

Unfortunately many buildings suffer from poor insulation or leaky doors and windows which cause a loss of heat or cool air, causing HVAC systems to work even harder and to use more energy. By applying simple, affordable measures, like weather stripping to doors and windows, or placing reflective foil behind radiators, you can have a significant impact on your energy bills. You can even apply plastic glazing to windows to increase heat retention. Installing sun shielding shades and blinds can also go a long way to regulate light and temperature in your home. *Weatherizing windows and doors can save \$115 a year.*

6. GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

Have you ever considered the carbon footprint of your breakfast? How far did your banana and coffee have to travel to make it to your table this morning? Although many of aren't in a place where we can grow *all* the food we consume, growing your own food allows you make the choice on what pesticides have been used on your good and it can save you money if done right. Ask Friedman's Xpert Advisors for more tips on how to grow a garden that fits your needs!

7. USE DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Install a drip irrigation system for shrubs, vegetable gardens, flower beds or pots and save up to 50% in outside water use. It's easy, inexpensive and an efficient way to water. For additional information about when to water your plants, visit the California Irrigation Management Information System at www.cimis.water.ca.gov or ask a Friedman's Xpert Advisor today!

8. COMPOST LEFTOVER FOOD

Composting is easy and good for the environment! It helps prevent pollution by diverting material from our landfills. It also has the ability to prevent pollutants in storm water runoff from reaching surface water resources. Compost has also been shown to prevent erosion and silting on embankments parallel to creeks, lakes, and rivers, and prevents erosion and turf loss on roadsides, hillsides, playing fields, and golf courses. Check out Friedman's Tumbling Mix Composter, made of 100% recycled plastic!

9. CHECK FOR TOILET LEAKS AND FIX, OR REPLACE WITH A HIGH EFFICIENT TOILET

A silent leak in a toilet can waste up to 7,000 gallons of water per month. Detect and prevent leaks by utilizing free leak detection tablets, available at Friedman's. Also, consider retrofitting your toilet with a Hydroclean which allows you to adjust the amount of water used per flush and prevents silent leaks. Another Greener Choice alternative is switching out your toilet for a High Efficient Toilet that uses 20% less water than the standard 1.6 gallon per flush toilets.

10. USE GREEN CLEANERS TO CREATE A HEALTHY AND CLEAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Greener cleaners are typically non-toxic, bio based cleaners which work just as well as their more toxic counterparts and can be used safely around children, pets, and those with sensitive allergies. Green Cleaners are available for both indoor and outdoor cleaning. Ask Friedman's Xpert Advisors about the Green Choice alternatives available for your next cleaning project!

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