

## PROS OF GREEN BUILDING

### What is a Green Building?

A 'green' building is designed, built, or renovated to meet a certain list of objectives such as improving occupant health, conservation of water and energy, and reducing the overall impact on natural resources and the environment. Some green changes cost very little but can save you big money in the long run.

### Green building has the potential to

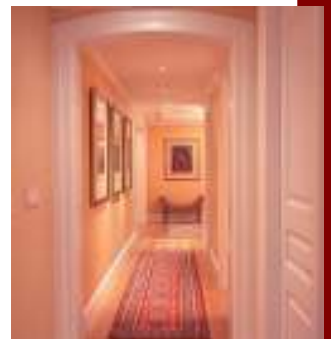
- Provide a healthier and more comfortable environment
- Implement energy efficient technologies
- Reduce construction and demolition waste
- Use renewable energy to lower the cost of electricity
- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels as energy sources
- Improve indoor air quality and occupant satisfaction
- Raise your homes resale value by as much as 10% per ft<sup>2</sup>



### Ways to go Green:

Whether building new or remodeling an existing home, going green can be easier than most people think. Below are some simple approaches to consider.

- Use of advanced framing techniques
  - Will improve your insulation efficiency, save money on your budget and help to decrease construction waste by planning rooms to better accommodate standard material sizes.
- Use of ENERGY STAR certified products
  - Using ENERGY STAR certified windows, appliances, light fixtures, and heating & cooling systems, to name a few, can increase the comfort of your home and greatly reduce your energy consumption, thus lowering your power bills.
- Use of engineered building materials
  - Plywood, OSB, glu-laminated beams and I-joists are just some products common to construction that are made of smaller-sized trees and recycled wood scraps. These products discourage logging allowing larger, older trees to remain standing.
  - Use decking materials made of recycled wood or plastic scraps as opposed to solid-wood beams.
- Use of alternate energy sources
  - Home generated solar, wind, and geothermal energy systems can provide electricity, heat, or both through the use of renewable energy sources.
  - Not only lowers your power and heating bills, but also benefit the environment by creating zero pollution.
- Improving ventilation and air quality
  - Use of toxin-free building materials which help cut down on indoor air pollution, which can be up to ten times worse than that outdoors.
  - Ensure proper air circulation which will leave occupants not only more comfortable, but healthier.
- Choose warm colors
  - Interior – using lighter shades of paint, fabrics, tile and carpet helps increase the way which natural light is reflected about your home, helping to make your home brighter and at times even seem warmer.
  - Exterior – using lighter shades of paint, vinyl siding and roofing materials helps minimize the amount of solar heat absorbed by your home by reflecting the sun's rays.



[www.greenhomeguide.org](http://www.greenhomeguide.org)



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**Did you know?**

Buildings represent 70% of all U.S. energy consumption and 38% of all carbon-dioxide. Green homes use 26% less energy and 33% less greenhouse gases than that of comparable standard homes, and produce of this, more and more insurance companies are offering discounts on policies relating to green homes.

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