

## 5 Tips to Green Your Home

Here are five tips to help protect the environment, while helping to reduce high energy bills and improve comfort.

1. **Minimize water consumption** – Faucets, showers, baths and toilets typically account for two-thirds of a home's indoor water use and one-third of its total water use. Installing high efficiency fixtures and fitting is an easy strategy for reducing indoor water use.
2. **Replace your carpet** – To reduce the environmental impact of your carpet choice, consider the following options when it comes time to buy:
  - Use carpet tiles where appropriate to extend the life of the installed floor covering.
  - Buy carpet made from recyclable or natural materials like wool with a jute backing. Wool carpet is bio-degradable.
  - Buy refurbished carpet whenever possible.
3. **Purchase ENERGY STAR labeled products** – ENERGY STAR offers a wide range of energy-efficient and cost-saving items like programmable thermostats, compact fluorescent light bulbs, televisions, VCRs, dishwashers, refrigerators, windows, doors, washing machines and dryers. The typical household spends \$2,000 a year on energy bills. With ENERGY STAR products, you can save more than \$700 per year.
4. **Start a garden** – As produce prices continue to soar, growing your own can save you a considerable amount. Additionally, composting and harvesting rainwater can help your new garden thrive, while also reducing your footprint by reusing food scraps, yard trimmings and yes, even rain!
5. **Clean Green** – Eco-friendly cleaning products can be purchased at many retail locations. Not only do they perform well, but if you make your own using simple ingredients such as plain soap, water, baking soda, vinegar, washing soda (sodium carbonate), lemon juice and borax, you can save money at the same time.

