



## RHIANNON'S ARBOR

# Green Home Checklist

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A green home is an earth and people-friendly home, protecting the health of your family and the environment. It's easier and more economical to live in, because it's low-maintenance, and energy and water efficient. This checklist will help you make a more informed choice about your present or future home.

## Whole House/Utility Room

- Install a programmable thermostat. Winter temps should be 68 degrees F, and 60 F or less while you sleep. In the summer, set the air conditioner at no cooler than 78 degrees F.
- Adjust hydrostat on water heater to 120 degrees F.
- For old water heaters, install insulating blanket on tank and insulate pipes.
- Consider upgrading to an Energy Star water heater. For ultimate efficiency, buy a "flash" (also called "on-demand" or "tankless") water heater or a solar water heating unit.
- Check home insulation in attic, basement and walls. Is it adequate?
- Seal any gaps in walls. Pay special attention to plumbing outlets, vents, and recessed light fixtures.
- Seal ducts to maximize HVAC efficiency.
- Keep AC and furnace filters clean.
- Install weatherstripping and caulking on drafty doors and windows.
- Replace single-paned windows with double-paned windows designed for your climate.

## Major Rooms

- Consider installing ceiling fans.
- Use curtains, shades, and shutters for insulation and shade.
- Use task lighting rather than ambient lighting when possible.
- Switch out incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents, especially in the most-used light fixtures.
- Turn off lights when not in use, and consider installing motion and occupancy sensors where appropriate.

## Kitchen

- Always buy Energy Star appliances.
- Use water- and energy-saving features on dishwasher. (Do not use dishwasher to dry dishes.)
- Only run full loads.

## Home Office

- Consider using a laptop instead of a desktop PC.
- Do not buy a bigger monitor than you need.
- Set computer to go into sleep mode when not in use.
- Turn off computer and peripherals at power strip so that transformers do not continue drawing power even when "off."
- Turn off printers and copiers when not in use. They consume considerable energy even in standby.

## Outdoors

- Install compact fluorescents rated for outdoor use.
- Install motion detectors on security lights.

## Laundry Room

- Buy Energy Star appliances. As a rule, front-loading washing machines are more efficient than top-loading machines.
- Wash and rinse clothes in cold or, if you must, warm water.
- Only run full loads; if you must run smaller loads, adjust water level if possible.
- Install and use a clothesline.

## Bathrooms

- Install aerating shower heads and faucets to reduce hot-water consumption.
- Take showers instead of baths.
- Do not run vent fan more than necessary.