

Renovating, Rebuilding, or Redecorating?

Renovating your home can have an impact on the environment - construction materials like wood, metal, glass, and other products present problems when not disposed of properly. Many paints contain VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds). VOCs pose long-term health problems and various synthetic building materials off-gas other harmful chemicals. There are many ways you can reduce the environmental impact of your renovation projects and improve the sustainability of your home without a big increase in work or expense. Having a green home will help the environment by decreasing waste and pressure on natural resources.



EcoDesign and Renovations

Take Action!

Here are our top 10 tips:

1. EcoFriendly Products - consider using sustainable materials when you can. Reclaimed wood can be used for flooring, you can install countertops made from recycled materials. Forest Stewardship Council certified wood is produced with minimal environmental impacts and you can check out Canada's Environmental Choice program which certifies and lists environmentally-friendly products.
2. Paint - an easy way to refresh your home! To reduce harmful toxins in your home check out different paint options such as low-VOC paint, recycled latex paint or natural paints made from clay, lime, or even milk.



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More Actions

3. Repurpose & Reuse - can an old piece of furniture give your laundry room a new counter? How about using left over wood materials to make a new shelving unit. As long as old pieces are still in good shape you can make an environmentally responsible choice and repurpose them.
4. Donate - opt to donate gently used furniture, appliances and leftover construction materials. You can donate to your local Habitat for Humanity ReStore or post a listing on trashnothing.com
5. Recycle - more than 70% of the waste we produce each year can be recycled. In your home reno projects metal, textiles, brick, glass and concrete can all be recycled into new materials.
6. Think energy efficient - if replacing appliances try and swap them out for EnergyStar certified. Replace your lighting with LED solutions.
7. Think water wise - Replace faucets and showerheads with low-flow devices and you'll save money on your utility bill too! Install a rainwater harvesting system to capture rainwater and manage stormwater runoff.
8. Shop Local - buying locally made materials saves money and cuts down on the environmental toll of transportation and shipping.
9. Hire a green designer or contractor - look for a local contractor who understands sustainability and will work with your green goals.
10. Plant native trees & shrubs. If your renovations extend to your yard and garden, include local plants, grasses and trees.