

Several Ideas On Green Home Design

As a people, our current wasteful lifestyles won't be sustainable for long. This is something we become more aware of as we see its effects. Because of this, green home design is becoming a more and more mainstream part of the housing market. Some experts predict that green home design will soon make up a huge slice of the real estate industry. In the U.S., housing accounts for 38% of the country's carbon emissions. Especially if we want to stop global warming, building our homes with green home designs will have a significant effect on the future. For those who want to give their houses a bit of green home design, there are many little steps that can be taken. But for those into truly lowering their homes impact on the environment, there are four basic green home design rules to follow.

Green Home Design Rule 1: Smaller is Better There's something gloriously attractive about large, mansion-like homes. Unfortunately, large homes need a huge quantity of fuel for heating and cooling-- fuel which is generally in the form of environment-killing fossil fuels. Large homes also use up more building materials and so, of course, create more waste. So it's important for you to build small if you want to incorporate a green home design.

Rule 2 in Green Home Design: Use Passive Solar Planning Passive solar heating is one of the backbones of green home design. The relatively simple concept behind passive solar design is to design a home according to the climate. In warmer climates, homes are designed to absorb less heat. In cold climates, the amount of heat lost is reduced. Green home design uses the building's orientation to the sun, window positioning, stone flooring, and other building elements to control the temperature and save energy.

Green Home Design Rule 3: Use Recyclable or Renewable Materials Almost everything used in a traditional home harms the environment in some way, either by its manufacture (plastics and artificials) or its transport (naturals). The use of renewable or recycled materials which are manufactured locally helps to reduce the damage building can have on the environment. Consider installing bamboo or recycled wood flooring and incorporate a green home design using recycled materials, such as cellulose insulation and lumber composites, throughout the home.

Green Home Design Rule 4: Optimize your Heating and Cooling Heating and cooling a home accounts for the huge majority of its energy consumption. And no matter how tempting a large AC system might sound during the hot summer months, this type of system can ruin your good intentions for a green home. Big air conditioning systems cool the air too much and too quickly, causing them to turn on and off constantly. This constant on-and-off cycle gives large AC systems a short lifespan, making them create extra waste along with using up extra fuel.

About the Author

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