

Four Green Home Design Basics

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. And so green home design, formerly a small market, is spreading steadily over the world. Some experts predict that green home design will soon make up a huge slice of the real estate industry.

In the United States, homes create 38% of the total 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.

Rule 1 in Green Home Design: Go Small

Large homes are a symbol of wealth, status, and success. But large homes use up an incredible amount of energy for heating and cooling-- and this energy generally comes from nasty fossil fuels that muck up our environment. 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.

Green Home Design Rule 2: Incorporate Passive Solar Design

Passive solar cooling and heating is one of the most important elements of green home design. This kind of heating and cooling is relatively simple, and uses the climate to dictate the design of the home. 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). Using locally produced renewable materials can help reduce the amount of damage your building can do. 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.

Rule 4 in Green Home Design: Shrink your AC

Heat and AC systems are the most energy-consuming elements in almost any home. 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. Large AC systems overcool the air, and tend to cycle on and off too frequently. 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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