



Chicago Title Goes Greener



SIMPLE THINGS WE CAN ALL DO TO HELP SAVE THE PLANET

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13 Steps to Going Green:

1. Turn off the lights when you leave a room if you're not going to be gone for more than 30 seconds. Put timers on lights if you have kids who forget to turn them off.
2. Raise your A/C a few degrees or lower your furnace a few degrees. A comfortable, recommended temperature is 74 degrees. Use ceiling fans whenever and wherever you can as they distribute air more efficiently.
3. Recycle! Some cities mandate recycling, but if your city doesn't, consider separating cans, glass, plastic, and paper and take it to a recycling center every month so that it is not such a chore. Have the kids help so they get used to the idea.
4. When you go grocery shopping, take along a canvas bag or permanent carrying bag instead of using the store bags. Another option is to simply save your paper bags and take them back to the store to be reused. If you forget your bags, consider using paper over plastic.
5. Try to buy local foods whenever possible. Food that has to travel a long distance is definitely not "green". If you don't have access to much local produce, or if you're not sure, try to buy from a local Farmer's Market if you can. It will be green as well as fresh.
6. Go with rechargeable batteries when possible. Be sure to properly dispose of your used batteries - they *must* be recycled.
7. Minimize use of your clothes dryer as they use a lot of energy. Air drying your clothes will help you save on the electric/gas bill and help the planet.
8. Appliances and electronic equipment use power even when they're in the stand-by mode. Plug those items into a powerstrip and turn off the powerstrip at night when you go to bed.
9. Keep your fridge and freezer closed as much as possible. Use the water and ice dispenser (if you have one), do quick open-and-closes, and keep little ones from opening them up with a child safety lock.
10. Check the seal on your refrigerator door. Put a dollar bill in doorway, close the fridge door on it, and try pulling out the bill. Try it at several points around the door. If the bill pulls out easily (even slightly) then have a professional replace all the seals on the fridge.
11. Give your water heater a blanket! Wrapping the water heater with an insulating blanket improves the efficiency and saves money. Also, wrap foam insulation around all your water pipes as it prevents heat loss during transfer.
12. Close your curtains! Heat and cool air loss from older windows can be substantial and the sun beating in the windows will warm the house causing the A/C to come on and work harder.
13. Don't leave the water running while brushing your teeth.

