

Hints For Homeowners

Green Living Keeps More Green In Your Pocket



Switching to energy-efficient lighting-control devices can help you use less electricity, reduce your electric bill and protect the environment.

(NAPSA)—There are many simple steps you can take to promote “green living” in your home and at work while keeping more green in your pockets, too.

A green home is good for you and the environment. It uses less water and energy than the average home, recycles more waste and avoids the use of toxic cleaning agents and lawn and garden chemicals.

According to the experts at Leviton Manufacturing Company, a provider of eco-friendly electrical products, there are many ways you can make your home more energy smart:

1. Replace light switches with easy-to-install dimmer switches. These are available in a variety of different models, including rotary, slide, toggle and touch versions, to blend with your decor.

2. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. Increase energy savings even more by installing dimmable CFLs and a CFL dimmer switch for problem-free dimming.

3. Install motion sensors to control outdoor floodlights and

occupancy sensors for indoor lights in hallways, closets and garages. These devices turn lights on and off automatically and use electricity only when needed.

4. Install programmable or preset timers in place of standard switches. Timers turn lights, bathroom fans and pool pumps on and off on a predetermined schedule. Preset versions offer a range of timed intervals.

5. Use Energy Star-qualified appliances and devices. Specialty lampholder products that use CFL bulbs provide safe, energy-efficient lighting for small spaces like closets, basements, workshops and stairwells in the home.

6. Make sure your HVAC system is up-to-date, in top operating condition and runs on a schedule to maximize energy savings.

7. Plug home electronics, such as TVs and VCRs, into power strips and turn power strips off when equipment is not in use to eliminate “phantom power draw.”

Following these simple measures can help you live energy wise and ecologically smart.