



## Considerations When Building a Green Home

When building a green home, there are two key processes that should be considered carefully: planning and designing. Remember that the design of your home determines two things: how much impact you'll have on the environment and how comfortable your living space will be in the long run.

With more people becoming proactive about preserving the planet, it's now easier than ever to find eco-friendly designers, sustainable design resources, and green construction materials you can use for your home. Study everything and plan thoroughly before you jump to the building process.

## Before You Build



Before building a green home, one of the things you need to look into is your family's habits. Do you remember to turn the lights off when you leave a room? Do you forget to unplug the appliances that are not in use? Do you recycle and reduce your garbage?

You might be wondering what your habits have to do with your green home. Well, it has everything to do with it. An eco-friendly residence can only be beneficial if the residents are just as eco-conscious.

Before you even plan or design, sit down with your family and agree to adopt more earth-friendly habits. Practice them daily and be accountable to each other. When you're ready, consider meeting with green building organizations and sustainable-design experts to guide you throughout the planning and construction process.

## Site and Size

Among the crucial factors in your green building plan is the site of your future home. Look for a strategic location that is near places or establishments you and your family frequent such as the grocery, the school or the office.



Make sure that your location is accessible by public transportation. Consider how safe the streets are, in case you choose to walk or to travel by bicycle. Having all these transport options available can help you save more energy because you won't have to use your own car every time you need to commute.



When conceptualizing your dwelling's design, the structure's position is also an important consideration. Work with your designer to come up with the best angle to take advantage of sunlight to warm your home and to provide natural illumination. Since you'll be consuming less energy, you'll also save on heating and lighting costs.

You can even study your house's direction and design the windows so that natural breeze can circulate inside the rooms. Aside from saving on cooling costs, this also helps improve the air quality inside your house.

While it's nice to live in a spacious home, consider building one that's just the right size and with ample space to accommodate your family comfortably. Having a smaller

home means you'll need fewer resources to construct it, and you'll spend less money to maintain it as well.

You can allot some space for a yard where you can have a composting bin and a garden to plant your own herbs or vegetables. You can also install a water recycling system that gathers rain water. This can be used to irrigate your small plot or to flush the toilet.

Building a green home doesn't mean you have to live in a mound of earth or a house made of sticks, although you can if you choose to. With a thorough plan and a conscientious design, it's possible to create an eco-friendly home that satisfies your need for a comfortable, beautiful and healthy living space.

