



Green home features to benefit the environment and your wallet

Eco-friendly home features are advantageous for both the planet and your bank balance. Here are seven ways you can lower your bills, reduce carbon emissions and make your home more appealing to future buyers.

1. Eco-friendly materials

Whether you're remodelling or starting from scratch, take into consideration eco-friendly building materials, like recycled ceramic or porcelain tiles, bamboo flooring, local stone and salvaged fixtures and fittings.

2. Renewable energy systems

Many South African homeowners are already using alternative energy sources to keep the lights on during prolonged power outages. **Solar technology** will reduce your carbon footprint as it converts sunlight into electrical energy.

Did you know?

When you install solar panels as a homeowner, you may be eligible for a tax rebate from **SARS** if you complete the installation before February 2024.

3. Energy-efficient lighting

Most light bulbs can be replaced with LED options. They consume less energy, emit the same amount of light as traditional options and last an average of 25 000 hours, lighting your way to greater cost savings.

4. Water-conserving bathroom fixtures

Low-flow shower heads, which release roughly 10 litres per minute compared to typical shower heads that release 15 litres per minute, are an alternative for homeowners looking to reduce **water consumption**.

5. Eco-friendly insulation

Insulating your home can reduce your heating and cooling costs by retaining heat when it's cold and releasing heat when it's warmer. Consider cellulose fibre for eco-friendly ceiling insulation.

6. Energy-conserving measures

Many electrical appliances continue to consume power when they are on "stand-by" after they have been turned off. Unplug electronic devices from the wall socket if you really want to reduce your electricity bill.

7. Heat pumps

Heat pumps provide a sustainable alternative to air conditioners and heaters.

They transport heat from the earth, water or air into your house in winter and transport the heat from within your home outdoors in the summer. They can also be used to heat the water in a swimming pool or as an alternative to a solar geyser.

Good to know: A heat pump generates 4kW of thermal energy for every kW of electricity consumed, resulting in a 200-600% efficiency rate, and greatly lowering your home's carbon emissions when compared to gas or electric heating.

Making your home more environmentally friendly can help you live a healthier and happier life. Lowering your energy and water usage, as well as your overall environmental impact, benefits the planet and your wallet.

Looking for an eco-friendly estate or home? Chat to a [Chas Everitt's property professional](#) about finding your perfect green home to provide their expertise.