

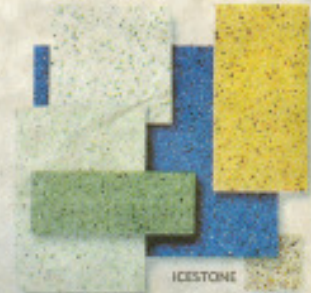


Improve indoor air quality
Ado's polyester fabrics and curtains (left) are designed to break down pollutants and combat bacteria.



THE ARIZONA
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Conserve energy
Compact fluorescent bulbs use 75 percent less energy than standard bulbs.



ICESTONE

Use recycled materials
IceStone countertop and flooring surfaces are made of 75 percent recyclable glass and concrete.

ADO

Green with empathy

Eco-friendly products are in demand

By Sue Doerfler
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Green is the newest decorating trend for your home. Green as in eco-friendly products and accessories, such as clay wall plasters, super water-saving toilets and cork flooring. These products are more readily available than ever before. That's because consumers are demanding them. Manufacturers and retailers are responding with green products that are just as decorative and functional as their non-eco-friendly counterparts, although usually pricier. These products can be found at many stores, including major retailers such as Wal-Mart, which has added organic gardening products, and specialty shops such as a.k.a. Green, in Scottsdale, which specializes in environmentally friendly items for the home.

In celebration of Earth Day today, here are seven ways to green up your home:

Use recycled materials

What to consider: Reclaimed wood, such as planks from old warehouses and barns, is a trendy way to use recycled materials. Another hot recyclable is glass.

Cool product: IceStone (www.icestone.biz/index.html), a durable countertop and flooring surface that's made of 75 percent recyclable glass and concrete. It's UV-resistant, must be sealed, and is available in 24 colors, including Amber Pearl and Denim Sky. Generally, \$90 to \$150 per square foot installed.

Improve indoor air quality

What to consider: According to the Environmental Protection Agency, levels of some indoor air pollutants can be two to five times higher, with some as much as 100 times higher, than the levels outdoors. Some

sources include secondhand smoke, pesticides, formaldehyde, pressed-wood products and household cleaning products.

Cool product: Ado's SmartFabrics' polyester fabrics and curtains (www.ado-international.com/us/), which improve air quality. One line, Ado ActiBreeze, is designed to break down pollutants, such as nicotine, formaldehyde and pet odors, into water vapor and carbon dioxide. The Ado BioProtect line is designed to prevent the spread and reproduction of bacteria. Available in numerous patterns and colors from \$56 to \$96 a yard (118 inches wide).

Conserve energy

What to consider: Saving energy helps prevent pollution. According to the EPA's Energy Star program, the amount of pollution that could be prevented if every household in the country replaced one standard light bulb with an Energy Star-approved compact fluorescent bulb would be equal to removing 1 million cars from the road.

Cool product: Compact fluorescent bulbs, which use 75 percent less energy than standard bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Plus, you can save money if you buy them now. Arizona Public Service has partnered with select local retailers to offer discounts on compact fluorescents. They cost less than \$2 for a 14-watt bulb, equivalent to 60 watts. Typically, the bulbs cost about \$12 each. For a list, look at www.arizonapublicservice.com.

Use renewable resources

What to consider: Renewable resources include solar energy and products made from renewable materials: bamboo, corn and cork.

Cool product: NovaCork, cork flooring from Nova Distinctive Floors (www.novafloorings.com/cork.html), available in 28 patterns and

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SHETKASTONE

Use resource-efficient products

ShetkaStone table surfaces are made of recycled paper, cloth and plant fiber.



CARDMA

Conserve water

The Caravelle 270 uses less than 0.8 gallon of water for liquid flush and 1.6 gallons for solid flush.

Need more inspiration to go green? Find books and where to shop in the Valley and online. **Home2 Section, H017**

Eco-friendly suggestions

GREEN

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colors. Because cork doesn't absorb dust, the floors are hypoallergenic. Cork also is great for sound insulation. Priced between \$4.99 and \$8.99 per square foot.

Conserve water

What to consider: A family of four can save up to 200 gallons of water a week just by turning off the water, instead of letting it run, when they brush their teeth, according to www.wateruseitwisely.com. Look at the Web site for recommendations and other tips: faucet aerator and water-saving toilet, run the dishwasher only when it's full, and fix leaky faucets.

Cool product: Caroma's Caravelle 270 dual-flush toilets (www.caromausa.com) use less than 0.8 gallon of water for the liquid flush and 1.6 gallons for the solid flush. A typical low-flow toilet uses 1.6 gallons per flush. Pre-1992 toilets use 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush. \$555 for the bowl, tank and seat (sold separately).

Go natural

What to consider: Organic and green are not interchangeable terms. However, many natural or organic products can be green, too.

Cool products: Wall finishes (www.medimports.net/main.htm). One is Terramed, which is made of clay, sand and cellulose. It's available in 12 colors, including Golden Wheat and Terra Cotta; all are found naturally. Combine the product with water and trowel it on the wall for a textural look. Terramed



Go natural

A Terramed wall finish is made of clay, sand and cellulose and comes in 12 colors.

MED IMPORTS

also is hypoallergenic. Retail price is \$135 for a 55-pound bag that covers about 100 square feet.

Another is American Clay's Marittimo finish (www.americanclay.com). The product, available in May, is based on a traditional Moroccan plaster known as tabi. It contains shells, which give a faceted backdrop to soft hues of blues, pinks, greens and taupes.

Use resource-efficient products

What to consider: Resource efficiency is doing more by doing less or doing it more efficiently. It can extend to manufacturing proc-

esses, labor practices and transportation issues, among other areas.

Cool product: ShetkaStone (www.shetkastone.com), work surfaces such as countertops and tabletops made of recycled paper, cloth and plant fiber. All byproducts created during the manufacturing process are recycled back into the process, instead of hauled to a landfill. No glues or ink are used. Price per square foot is about \$25 to \$75.

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