



Luxury. Style. Design. *Personalized.*

Commitment to Green Building

Mid-Atlantic Builders is committed to a sustainable future by developing and building communities that preserve the natural landscape with environmentally conscious site designs, providing a balance of beautiful, eco-friendly neighborhoods along with affordable quality housing to support the growing needs of our economy. With more than 30 years experience and our long-standing team of design professionals, we create communities focused on the preservation of natural resources that promote a healthy environment.



Suggestions for Living Green

Mid-Atlantic Builders is a National Association of Home Builders “Green Certified Builder” and believes in preserving the earth’s resources, promoting a clean environment and reducing our impact on the ecosystem. As an extension of our building philosophy, we welcome you to join us in our efforts towards **Living Green**. Below are some suggestions that you might consider while living in your new Mid-Atlantic Builders home:

Recycle – Most local jurisdictions operate recycling programs where they will provide you with a recycling bin for paper and plastics and some offer weekly pickups. If you pay for private trash removal, you might be able to reduce your pickup to once a week. In some cases, trash vendors will give you a reduced rate. For information on Prince George’s County’s recycling program, please visit http://www.co.pg.md.us/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/about_recycling.asp.

Program Your Thermostat – All Mid-Atlantic homes include programmable thermostats. You can save money on utility bills and preserve energy by programming the temperature to be higher (summer) or lower (winter) when you are away for extended lengths of time. Our thermostats offer 7-day coverage so you can customize the temperature for specific days when you are home for longer hours. You can also adjust the temperature in the evening and save money while you are asleep.

Insulate Your Electric Water Heater - Wrap an insulation blanket around your water heater to save up to 45% of heat loss. This could also come in handy during a power outage.

Maintain your HVAC Systems - A regular cleaning or replacing of air filters in your cooling and heating systems and repairs of leaks in your duct system will go a long way towards saving energy and money. As will opening windows and doors when the weather permits, also benefitting you with the fresh air that most HVAC systems do not.

Install Ceiling Fans - By using ceiling fans set a low speeds in various rooms throughout your home you improve the air circulation which helps balance the temperature and allow your heating and cooling systems to be even more efficient. This will reduce your energy usage, save on your utility bills and provide greater comfort all at the same time.

Use Fluorescent Bulbs - Replace traditional incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs and save on your electric bills for years to come. Fluorescent bulbs also operate at a cooler temperature and will reduce the heat load on your home in the summer.

Turn Off or Unplug Your Lights, Appliances and Other Small Appliances – There is nothing more wasteful than leaving a light on in a room when there is no one in the room! This simple practice can help you save significantly on your electric bill and avoids wasting electricity that reduces the burning of coal or oil used to produce it. Even better, kill “vampire” or “phantom” electric charges that plugged in small appliances and electronics rack up when not in use. Use dimmer switches to dial down electric fees as well.

Change the Time of Running Appliances - To help reduce electric demand during peak use hours consider operating your dishwasher or washer/dryer during off peak hours. Many dishwashers have a memory cycle that you can set to run late at night when water and electric demand is much lower. And remember to only wash full loads!

Don't Preheat Your Oven and Turn It Off Early - Meals that will be cooked for an hour or more do not require a preheated oven. And a preheat of no longer than 10 minutes is necessary for breads and cakes. Turn off the oven 10-15 minutes prior to the length of time recommended for casseroles and meats and they will continue baking for the recommended time.

Use the Correct Burner - Heating a large burner for a small pot or a small burner for a large pot wastes energy and can increase your gas or electric bill by as much as \$36 annually. If possible, use the microwave -- it can reduce up to 70% of energy use for cooking!

Do Away with Plastic Water Bottles - Stop the accumulation of plastic in our landfills and use tap water to fill reusable water containers. Or, if you prefer more purified H₂O, buy a water filter for your kitchen faucet, use a portable water filtration system (like Brita) or your refrigerator's filtered water dispenser.

Do Away with Plastic Bags - Sturdier reusable bags are available everywhere -- sometimes even as a free giveaway -- and can be used for carrying purchases and transporting items in general. Plus, many retailers offer cents-off incentives for customers who bring their own shopping bags to the store.

Conserve Water While You Brush - When brushing your teeth, turn the tap off until you are ready to rinse. Annually, each person could save up to 1,825 gallons of water with this simple and easy habit.

Use Low-Flow Water Devices - Low-flow showerheads as found in all Mid-Atlantic homes plus low-flow hose nozzles and faucet aerators are additional ways to conserve water.

Green Your Laundry - For some types of laundry consider slowly reducing your water usage by changing the time of the rinse cycle, helping to save on your water bill and promoting water conservation. Do your laundry during off peak hours and don't overload it. Switch to cold water or warm instead of hot, saving up to 50% of energy per load. And use eco-friendlier detergents, which typically cost no more than standard products. When possible, air-dry your clothes, saving \$100 a year on dryer usage, and when you cannot, check your dryer lint screen with every use.

Use Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products - Using eco-friendly cleaning products help make your home safer by eliminating toxins around the house while reducing the impact to the environment. There are many natural substitutes to consider like baking soda, white distilled water or lemon grass. There are also many low impact cleaners on the market that your local grocer also has available for sale.

Add Shade Trees to Your Yard - Take an old tip from a farmer and plant shade trees around your home to provide shade in the summer and save on your cooling bill. Evergreen trees planted on the northwest side of your home will help block the winter wind and keep your home warmer.

Grow a Garden - Growing some of your own fruits and vegetables can be fun, save you money and help the environment all at the same time. Enrich your garden soil with composted waste from your yard and kitchen -- much better than using commercial chemical fertilizers and helps reduce the amount of waste in U.S. landfills. Even used coffee grounds are terrific for acid-craving plants like azaleas and rhododendrons.

Add Some Live Plants to Your Decor - Keeping indoor plants not only adds a nice green touch to our homes, but some indoor plant species have proven to be effective filters for air pollutants.

Use Low or no-VOC Paints When You Want to Redecorate - Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) found in many household wall paints, paint strippers and other household products can release toxic gases for months after application and cause serious illness. Low or no-VOC paints significantly reduce this air pollution and are available at most major home-improvement stores.

Buy Organic Products - There are many organic products to consider, from clothes made with organic cotton to organic groceries. As a consumer who purchases organic products, you support industries that do not use pesticides or herbicides to grow their products and harm the environment. Look for these symbols when shopping in the grocery store:



USDA Organic

What it means: Food is produced without antibiotics, genetic engineering or most synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides. (Seen on food products)



Rainforest Alliance Certified

What it means: Companies harvesting the food practice soil and water conservation; they also reduce the use of pesticides. (Seen on coffee, chocolate, bananas)



Fair Trade Certified

What it means: Food is grown on small farms; farmers receive a fair price. (Seen on coffee, tea, chocolate, fruit, rice, sugar)



Certified Humane

What it means: Animals raised for dairy, meat, and poultry products are treated humanely. Growth hormones are prohibited, and animals are raised on a diet without antibiotics. (Seen on eggs and meat)



Green Seal

What it means: Products are evaluated for environmental impact; they must meet recycling and bleaching standards. (Seen on napkins, paper, towels, and toilet paper)

Buy Local Produce - Most grocers now also offer consumers an opportunity to buy produce that has been grown locally. If you buy local whenever possible, you help preserve the environment by lessening the amount of produce transported from outside regions, and you strengthen your community by investing your food dollar close to home.

Stop Junk Mail - Reduce pollution and save trees by opting out of junk mail and catalogs that fill your mailbox and then landfills.

Pay Your Bills Online - Save paper and postage, and with automatic payment plans prevent the possibility of late fees.

Walk When You Can, Carpool or Take the Bus or Subway - Reduce your carbon footprint and cut fuel costs by combining all your separate errands into one trip. If possible, run your errands and go to work, school, entertainment and sports in the same vehicle with others -- whether it be carpool or one of our area's mass transit providers. Please visit <http://www.wmata.com> for more information.

Go to the Local Car Wash - Commercial car washes not only use significantly less water than you would by washing your car at home, but they often recycle and reuse the rinse water. If you prefer hand washing your car at home, consider installing a rain barrel that catches rainwater from your home's roof for use in doing so.