

Who said it's not easy being GREEN?

Think of *green* renovating as home improvement with an emphasis on energy efficiency, conserving natural resources and creating a healthy environment. Whatever your personal style, Mid-Century Modern, French Country, Zen or Traditional you can incorporate green techniques. You have probably already been doing small things like recycling or buying energy saving light bulbs, so you have the right attitude.

If you are looking for a do-it-yourself change try one of the following:

- Update your kitchen by shopping for recycled hardware at antique



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shops or flea markets, install natural stone countertops and replace old appliances with ENERGY STAR® rated new ones.

- Upgrade your bathroom with water-saving showerheads and toilets.

- Refresh the color of a room with low VOC paint. You'll improve air quality and give the room a new look.

- Shop locally. Support Brevard merchants while saving on shipping costs and reducing fossil fuel emissions used to transport merchandise.

- Use native plants in the yard which are drought resistant and require less water.

If it is a remodel project you have in mind consider these tips when speaking with your contractor.

- Design your room to be illuminated by natural light instead of relying on electricity to do it for you. This can be achieved by removing a wall, adding a tubular skylight or changing the orientation of an addition.

- Think about using existing attic space

for your new home office, bedroom or playroom. You can accomplish this by upgrading to energy efficient insulation.

- Your landscape plan should provide summer shade or consider installing awnings or overhangs to keep the sun's direct light off the windows.

- Incorporate solar, geothermal, wind generators or other alternative energy sources.

- You can use insulating concrete forms (ICF), structural insulated panels (SIPs), quality insulated Low-E windows, natural wood flooring and so much more for a new addition or guest house.

With a little thought and planning green is easy to attain. Green isn't a fad. As you see it is becoming the norm and ecological awareness will be integrated into all standard designs. Using these tips and others allows you to become one of the front-runners.

Think of Balda Development & Construction and the environment for your next design and build project. ■

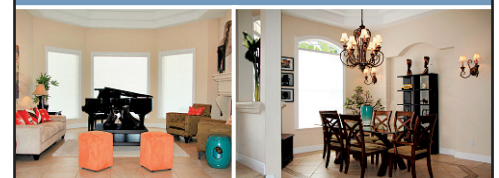
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1924 SOUTH PATRICK DRIVE,
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH
(321) 777-4026

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