



COLDWELL BANKER

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Living Green LAUNDRY

The Laundry Room uses more energy than any other room in your home. Here are some tips to help you reduce your carbon footprint in the laundry room.

- Use cold water when washing clothes. 85% of energy use comes from heating water.
- Line dry clothes to reduce massive energy waste through over using your dryer.
- Use green detergent without harmful phosphates.
- Upgrade your machines. A front loading washing machine can save up to 7,000 gallons of water a year.
- Never forget to clean the lint out of the dryer.



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CEILING FANS

Install ceiling fans throughout your home to aid in overall air circulation.

- Ceiling fans can decrease energy bills in summer months due to the overuse of air conditioning.
- In the winter, heat gets trapped at ceiling level. Fans can push warm air down, increasing heat efficiency.
- Run your fan clockwise in the winter, and reverse in the summer. This changes the direction of the push and pull of air. Cold air is denser and clockwise will pull cool air up, forcing warmer air down.



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Living Green PAINTING

Use earth friendly paints to eliminate unnecessary toxins and allergens from your home. Here are some helpful tips to reduce your carbon footprint when painting.

- Look for VOC-free paint. These contaminants are harmful to the environment and your home.
- Choose Latex base paint over oil. Latex paints are significantly more earth friendly than oils.
- Never pour paint thinners, solvents, or paint down the drain. Seal them in an air tight can or jar and have them sent to a hazardous waste disposal site.



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PLASTIC BOTTLES

Plastic water bottles are an easy grab-and-go solution for busy families. But at what cost?

- If you lined up water bottles end to end and wrapped them around the globe 190 times, you have the waste we produce yearly from plastic water bottles alone. Not to mention that they take 1000 years to break down.
- Most bottled water companies simply send tap water through a few filters and then bottle it for sale.
- Use a home water filter for the same bottled taste and stainless steel water bottles to avoid the harmful chemicals that leak from typical plastic bottles.



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Living Green REFRIGERATOR

Your refrigerator uses more energy than any other appliance in your home. And most people have their settings set much colder than necessary.

- Place a thermometer in you refrigerator to get a proper temperature reading. 37° - 40° F is ideal.
- Clean your refrigerator coils. Wipe down with a wet cloth and vacuum out any dust to increase overall efficiency.
- Old refrigerators use up the most energy, upgrade for a post-1993 version to vastly decrease energy waste.



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Living Green **WATER**

The average home wastes immense amount of water on a daily basis.

- Shorten your shower time by only a minute or two and save 700 gallons of water monthly.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth and save 5 gallons of water a day.
- Invest in low-flow shower heads. Some increase in flow volume as the water warms up. No more wasted water while waiting for the shower to warm up!



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Living Green COMPOST

25% of our countries food supply ends up in landfills. Composting is a great way to turn this unnecessary waste into a huge benefit for your gardening and landscaping.

- Composting can be done in simple containers like trash bins or even a garbage bag.
- The composted material is perfect for fertilizing gardens or landscaping.
- Compost yard waste, and organic food materials. Avoid things such as meat, egg yolk, oil and pet waste as to not attract bacteria or unwanted animals.



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Living Green LIGHT BULBS

Look for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) or LED's instead of common incandescent ones.

- CFL bulbs last 10 times longer than incandescents. LED's last 2-4 times longer than CFL's
- Not only do these offer immense energy savings on your monthly bill, but they release far less toxins into our environment.
- Even after replacing your bulbs, installing a dimmer switch is a great way to cut down on energy use through the use of light in your home.



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UPDATE INSULATION

Most homeowners are paying unneeded sums for poor energy consumption due to improper insulation.

- Updating old insulation will help keep heat in during the winter months, and out in the summer.
- Make sure to insulate attic spaces, even if they are rarely used. Heat rises. Attics can be one of the main culprits of heat escaping from your home.
- Up to 30% of energy loss can come from your basements lack of proper insulation as well.



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PAPER NOR PLASTIC

When it comes to paper or plastic, it is best to eliminate both from your home.

- Try reusable towels instead of paper towel. Or microfiber towels for cleaning. These work great on mirrors!
- Swap out plastic storage for glass. BPA and other harmful chemicals released from plastic containers are only worsened with heating and washing.
- Invest in some Eco-friendly shopping bags. Use these for grocery shopping, a gym bag, or hauling items to and from work.



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Living Green CLEANING SUPPLIES

Opt out of using cleaning supplies with harsh chemicals. These are not only bad for the environment, but can be harmful to you and your home.

- Baking soda is a natural abrasive/scouring product. It can also act as a deodorizer and cleanser.
- Vinegar - apple cider vinegar being best - is one of the most used natural cleaning agents. Add lemon oil or juice for a fresh, clean scent.
- Use olive oil as a furniture polish, and hydrogen peroxide to remove set in stains.



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Living Green POWER DOWN

Even when electronics are off, you may be using energy you are not expecting.

- Plug all of your electronics into powers strips. When not in use, turn off these strips to reduce unneeded energy consumption.
- Use sleep mode when stepping away from your computer. And always power down if not in use for an extended period.
- Unplug appliances that are not used on a regular basis.

At Coldwell Banker <DBA>
we believe in reducing our carbon footprint
to better our community
and the world around us.

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