

YOUR GUIDE TO HOME AND LIFE IMPROVEMENT

HOME *digest*

GOING
green

WITHOUT
SACRIFICING
STYLE

ORGANIZE!

Tackle those unfinished projects

PEN POINT!

Why it can be good to forget the past

INVEST!

Create your own successful portfolio

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It's getting easier to be
'green'



Going green is going strong.
Here's how you can participate.

When *Vanity Fair* devotes an annual cover to the topic of being 'green' and environmental supporter Al Gore enjoys A-list celebrity status, we know that going green is going strong. The reality is our decorating choices – big and small – have an impact on the environment.

Whether you're covering a window, changing a wall colour, replacing a beaten-up kitchen floor, or getting rid of tired furniture, some choices are more environmentally friendly than others. It's time for all of us to consider our green options.

Here are some of the choices you can make to preserve the environment.

Flooring

Opt for linoleum over vinyl when choosing continuous flooring. Vinyl is made of synthetic chemicals, while linoleum is made of up to 80% renewable, natural substances such as linseed oil, flax and pine resin.

Designers welcome linoleum's wide selection of colours, while allergy sufferers enjoy the fact that it's hypoallergenic. Everyone appreciates the price point; starting at only a few dollars per square foot, linoleum is relatively affordable.

Wood flooring is still a viable option, provided the wood is sourced from

sustainable resources. Its durability provides long-lasting value.

Kimberley's pick: For beauty and eco-friendly aspects, reclaimed wood flooring is a hands-down favourite in this category. There's a stunning variety of choice – herringbone, Versailles, parquet, inlay and rustic barn board.

Window coverings

For simple window coverings, bamboo blinds are a winning combination of good looks and eco-friendliness.

Bamboo is actually a grass, one of the fastest growing plants on earth. It's easy to cultivate and its wood tones infuse interiors with natural warmth.

As bamboo blinds shade rooms from strong sunlight, they also lessen the need for air-conditioning during the season's warmest days.

Bamboo blinds paired with drapery panels are ideally suited to traditional interiors. For contemporary interiors, enjoy them on their own.

Kimberley's pick: Fabric blinds made from 100% bamboo or linen. The wrinkling only adds to the charm.

Paint

Conventional paints often release volatile organic compounds (VOCs),

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