



# Spring Home & Garden Guide

## Top tips to make a home green

A well-planned, high performance home costs less to operate -- and as importantly, high performance is the promise of premium resale value.

Sustainable components include energy-efficient heating, lighting, cooling and water systems, as well as the reduction of natural resources like wood. Clip this checklist as a preliminary guide for both you and your builder:

**Location:** Build for lifestyle convenience where you can walk, cycle, or take public transit.

**Position:** Consider north-south positioning to maxi-

mize use of the sun's energy and heat.

**Generate:** Install solar panels and generator to offset public energy supply. Add a solar water heater.

**Walls:** Build with concrete. An award-winning wall system, advanced by Nudura, builds with pre-assembled forms, each one stacked, reinforced, and then filled with concrete. Once locked together (like Lego) the system creates a solid, monolithic concrete wall. This method (www.nudura.com) has shown to deliver energy savings of up to 70 percent and delivers a building envelope up

to three times more sound resistant, four times more fire resistant, and nine times stronger.

**Materials:** Premium green choices should include low- and zero-VOC (volatile organic compound) paints and sealants, plus high-performance windows, roofing and flooring.

**Landscaping:** Design your gardens for low use of water and pesticides. Plan with drought-resistant native plants, perennial groundcovers, plus flowers and shady canopy trees. (MS)

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