

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

How to make your condo more sustainable.

Choosing to live a greener lifestyle is a noble endeavour – after all, protecting the environment should start at home. It's also a smart way to conserve energy and save yourself money. Here are some smart ways to live more sustainably, and eco-consciously in your condo.

Install LED Lightbulbs

One of the most energy-efficient things you can do in your suite is to switch to LED lightbulbs. Unlike incandescent, halogen, or fluorescent bulbs, LEDs have a better light-to-heat ratio, meaning you'll require a much lower wattage to provide the same amount of light with less power consumption and heat build-up. LEDs also have tens of thousands of hours of life, meaning you won't have to replace them as frequently.

Avoid "Vampire" Power

We're all guilty of it. Microwave ovens, televisions, computers, cell phone chargers – just because we aren't using them doesn't mean they're not drawing power. By keeping things plugged into our outlets, or even setting them on stand-by mode, we're damaging the environment – and our bank balances – with unnecessary "vampire" power (or phantom load). Unplug unnecessary appliances whenever possible.

Window Treatments

If you live in a building with extensive windows, drapery, shades, and tinting or coating can block UV rays and increase privacy while reducing the internal temperature of your suite. This means you won't have to cool your home as aggressively with an expensive (and not exactly eco-friendly) air conditioner. Before proceeding with any window treatment solutions be sure to check your building's by-laws to ensure that what you're proposing is permitted.

Invest in Greener Air

Even if you were unable to select energy-efficient appliances before you moved in, you can still make a difference with a few smart choices. Air conditioning units are toxic for the planet, so if you're keen to go green, consider conservation with an energy-saving product. You could also install ceiling fans and dehumidifiers to reduce AC use. Other eco-conscious lifestyle choices include reducing dishwasher and washer/dryer use, turning out the lights when you leave a room, and insulating around windows and exterior doors.

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