

WINDOWS

Selecting the right window can have a dramatic effect on your home's look, feel and even the utility bill.



For marine climate zones, the DOE recommends a U-Factor of .35 or less and a Solar Heat Gain Coefficient of .51 or more. Look for an NFRC rating like this:



FAUCETS

The kitchen faucet is one of the most used items in the house. Look for a faucet that is durable and easy to use.



Faucet controls and operating mechanisms shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist.

LIGHTING

Consider using a High Efficacy Light fixture to save energy.



The California Energy Code [Title 24] classifies a High Efficacy Light Fixture as not having a medium based socket and have a light out put of:

power (watts)	light output
0 - 5 w	30 lumen/w
5 - 15 w	40 lumen/w
15 - 30 w	50 lumen/w
over 30 w	60 lumen/w

ENERGY STAR

Energy Star rated appliances can use 20-30% less energy.



Be sure to size your appliances appropriately. An Energy Star rated refrigerator that is too large for your needs can waste as much energy as a smaller, inefficient model.

NATURAL LINOLEUM

Natural linoleum is a durable and resilient flooring material made from renewable resources.



Natural Linoleum

Made of Natural Ingredients
Offgassing From Natural Oils
Biodegradable
Durable and Self-Healing
30-40 Year Lifespan

Vinyl Flooring

Made of Synthetic Ingredients
Offgassing From Petroleum
Incineration Creates Dioxin
Lower Durability
10-20 Year Lifespan

FSC WOOD

Look for Forest Stewardship Council certified wood and wood products when selecting building materials.



Recent studies by the Rainforest Alliance and World Wildlife Fund affirm that the application of FSC standards on working forests serves to protect biological diversity values, improve worker safety and community well-being, and ensure long-term productivity of forested ecosystems.

PAINT

Traditional household paints generally contain many VOCs, including benzene, formaldehyde, and toluene. Fortunately there are many alternatives.



Low-VOC, No-VOC and "Natural" paints are becoming widely available. As with all paint, some products will work better than others. Find out what your local paint retailer recommends or ask for a sample to make sure you are satisfied.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM

a redwood coast energy authority program offering sustainable building information and resources to area residents and businesses

it is an approach to home improvement with the goal of not only making your home look better, but making it work better for both you and the environment. with careful planning you can:

energy and water wise designs and products reduce monthly bills. Efficient, durable, and enduring home elements can last longer and cost less to maintain in the long run.

by making spaces welcoming to various ages and abilities, your home will be marketable to a larger population

a green remodel can be good for you, physically and emotionally. health focused designs maximize fresh air and natural light, while reducing the risk of injury.

remodeling is an opportunity to create a home that enhances the environment.

THE BASICS GREEN KITCHENS

this guide discusses considerations involved in a sustainable kitchen remodel

The **Humboldt County Green Building** program also has **GREEN guides** and information on:

- Bathroom Remodeling
- Additions
- Going Solar
- Green Products
- Weekend Green Home Projects
- More!

HUMBOLDT GREEN homes provides information and cost saving tips for new home construction and remodeling.

more information on this and other **GREEN BUILDING** topics is available at:

www.redwoodenergy.org



increase resale value

taking the long view

A low purchase price may mean a good deal, or it may signify a lack of quality or durability. Energy Efficient and durable products are more desirable to home owners as well as buyers.

universal design

design for all ages and abilities

Universal Design reexamines the basic assumptions we have made in designing high function areas like kitchens and bathrooms. The result is a more flexible, adaptable design useful to a wide range of ages, sizes or physical abilities. These principles can help homeowners age in place and reduce the need for costly and wasteful tear-out and remodeling.

remodeling safety

lead

old paints contain lead, and disturbing these surfaces can increase the risk of lead poisoning. Certain plumbing types can also contain lead, and leach into drinking water.

asbestos

Asbestos is another potential hazard when remodeling an older home. Discuss with your contractor whether your home should be tested as well as how dust, fumes and containments will be contained and removed.

faucets

consider installing an aerator on existing fixtures to reduce water consumption. new faucets should use no more than 2.2 gallons per minute.

lighting

locate energy efficient lighting fixtures close to work surfaces to save on electricity.

appliances

Dishwashers and refrigerators operate most efficiently when they're full. If your old fridge or dishwasher is consistently only half full, consider smaller models.

counter tops

first consider re-finishing, re-grouting or re-laminating existing counter tops. if this is not an option, look for a durable and rapidly renewable material

flooring

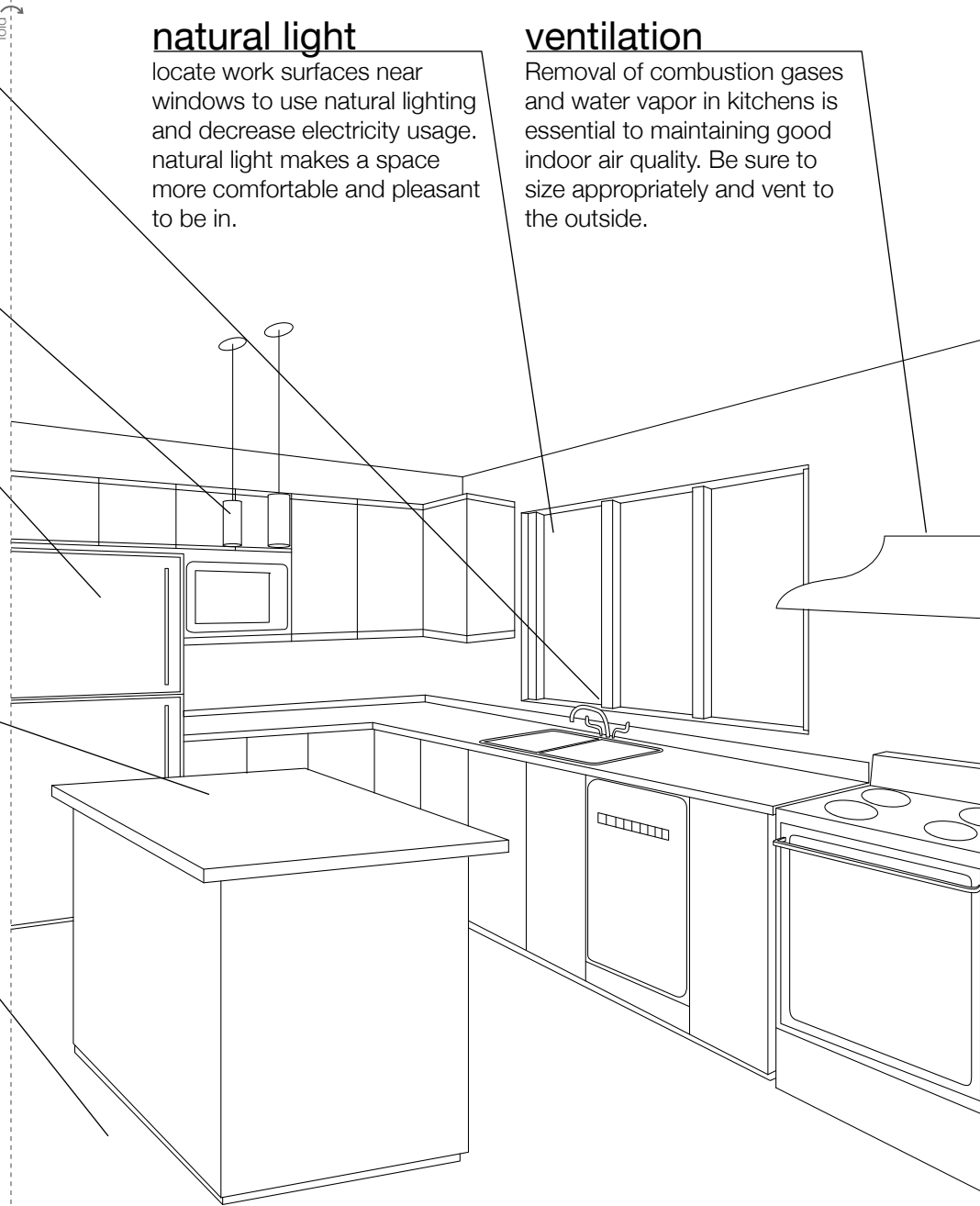
Reclaimed or Certified Sustainable Wood, Recycled content Tiles, Salvaged Stone and Laminates are all great choices. look for locally sourced material to reduce the environmental impact even more

natural light

locate work surfaces near windows to use natural lighting and decrease electricity usage. natural light makes a space more comfortable and pleasant to be in.

ventilation

Removal of combustion gases and water vapor in kitchens is essential to maintaining good indoor air quality. Be sure to size appropriately and vent to the outside.



'THE GREENEST BUILDING IS THE ONE ALREADY BUILT'



it takes lots of energy to make and ship building materials. understanding the potential of what is already in your kitchen will save you money and the environment.

consider

- existing sinks, cabinets, flooring, wainscoting, lighting and plumbing fixtures, hooks, shelves, and towel bars can all be salvaged for reuse or resold.
- painting, restaining or resurfacing existing cabinets and hardware can have the same dramatic effect as new cabinets at a fraction of the cost.