



**MAKE
YOUR
OWN
GREEN
IMPACT**
Home Tips

At Tridel, we know that every decision we make today will have a great impact for generations to come. Our Built Green Built for Life[®] program was founded on one simple truth: it was the right thing to do.

To become a leader in green and sustainable development was not a task to be accomplished overnight but rather, a long-term objective that would provide a new benchmark for our continued growth and achievement. We understood that better-run buildings are more efficient, have positive environmental impact, and produce savings for our homeowners.

Influenced by our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandate, we design our communities and create homes that are healthy for people and our environment - with green features that can save time, money, energy and our planet.

And while we promise to continue to build green, environmentally responsible homes and communities, we have provided some tips on how you can start making small changes at home that can have a big impact.

Start making your own green impact today. Together, we can do our part to influence those around us to safeguard a healthy planet for our future.

Learn more about our CSR impact by exploring [Tridel.com/CSR](https://www.tridel.com/CSR)

With these tips, Tridel is trying to encourage you to make your own green impact, so that together, we can all make an impact on our planet and people. Although we have made these recommendations, ultimately all decision making is your own personal responsibility and privilege.

Tridel, Built for Life[®] and Tridel, Built Green Built for Life[®] are registered trademarks of Tridel Corporation E. & O.E. 2020

**BUILT GREEN
BUILT FOR LIFE.**[®]



TIPS FOR GREEN LIVING AT HOME

KITCHEN

- Make sure your **refrigerator is not set colder than necessary**. Refrigerators account for up to 15% of your home's energy bill
- **Use water carefully**. If you hand wash your dishes use a basin of water rather than under a running faucet
- Store foods in **reusable containers** rather than plastic wraps and foils
- Use **phosphate-free** laundry and dish soaps
- Don't dispose of **hazardous substances** down your drain or in your trash (paint, bleach, paint thinner, furniture polish, gasoline, etc.)
- Run your **dishwasher during off-peak hours** (after 9 pm or before 7 am on weekdays or anytime on weekends)
- Put a **lid on your pot** while cooking or boiling water
- Thaw frozen foods ahead of time, instead of using the microwave or running hot water. **Thawing food can reduce recommended cooking time by 30%**
- Keep a container of **drinking water in your refrigerator** instead of running the tap unnecessarily
- **Try not to overload or wash half loads** of dishes in your dishwasher
- Use **shorter cycles** when you have easy to clean dishes
- Do not use the **"rinse hold" function** for a few soiled dishes as it wastes 12-28 litres of hot water each time you use it
- Check the **seals on your oven and refrigerator** periodically
- Do not obstruct any **vents inside the refrigerator** compartments
- Let hot **leftovers cool down** before putting them in the refrigerator
- **Do not overload** your refrigerator and freezer
- **Do not preheat** your oven for longer than necessary, no longer than ten minutes is recommended
- Choose the **burner size** that matches your pot
- Use **glass or ceramic baking dishes** in the oven. You can lower baking temperature by 25 degrees Celsius as these materials retain heat better than others
- **Keep your oven door closed**. Every time you open the oven door during cooking, the temperature drops 5 to 10 degrees Celsius

LAUNDRY

- Wash **full loads** rather than partial
- Use **cold water** in the washer unless it's really necessary to use warm or hot. Up to 90% of the energy used for washing clothes goes to heating water
- Do **laundry during off-peak hours** (after 9 pm or before 7 am on weekdays or anytime on weekends)
- Get an **indoor clothesline** and dry delicate laundry naturally
- **Clean the lint filter** of the dryer after every use. A clogged lint filter increases drying time
- **Dry towels and heavier cottons in a separate load** from lighter items
- **Use the cool down cycle** to allow the clothes to finish drying with the heat that is left in the dryer

WASHROOMS

- **Turn off the faucet** while you brush your teeth. If you just wet and rinse your brush instead of letting the water run, you save 41 litres of water
- When shaving, **filling the basin** instead of letting the water run saves 63 litres of water
- Make a habit of turning on **the cold water tap** rather than the hot
- Make sure water **faucets don't drip**. A dripping tap can waste 23 litres of water a day
- **Check your toilets** for leaks. A leaking toilet can waste over 31,500 litres of water every month!
- **Shorten showers** in order to reduce hot water use
- Take **showers instead of baths**. A bath uses more water than a shower
- Do not use toilets for **disposing of trash or waste paper**

Important Tip: Light pollution can impact local migrating birds & wildlife. By ensuring that task lighting is directed away from windows and by using window coverings you can help reduce the number of birds that collide with glass in urban settings and reduce your impact on the surrounding environment.



TIPS FOR GREEN CLEANING AT HOME

There may be no need to alter your current cleaning or living routine to adopt a green cleaning program in your new home. All you need is a desire to live healthier and a willingness to try something new. First thing? Many household products are hazardous materials. At any given time, there may be thousands of chemicals off gassing in your home, effecting your indoor air quality and ultimately, you. Think of paints and paint thinners, oven and drain cleaners, mothballs, floor and furniture polish, rug and upholstery cleaners, and pesticides. They may be harmful. Clever marketing would have us believe

that we need a specific cleaner for every single item in our homes. Not only is this not true, following this advice can inadvertently lead to a toxic stew. The fumes from bleaches and ammonias can mix together and accidentally create a poisonous gas while we clean our houses. But there are organic alternatives to most of these workaday toxic household products. These natural and eco-friendly alternatives are readily available and ensure your home is a healthy and safe environment.

VINEGAR naturally cleans like an all-purpose cleanser. Mix a solution of 1-part water to 1-part vinegar in a spray bottle. It's also an excellent deodorizer and disinfectant. It's safe to use on most surfaces and has the added bonus of being incredibly cheap and don't worry, the smell disappears when it dries. Here are some uses for vinegar in the rooms of your house.

1. **Bathroom** - Clean bathtub, toilet, sink, and countertops. Use pure vinegar in the toilet bowl to get rid of rings. Vinegar is great on mirrors and doesn't leave a residue. Mop the floor in a vinegar & water solution. The substance will also eat away the soap scum and hard water stains on your fixtures and tile.

2. **Kitchen** - Clean the stovetop, appliances, countertops, and floor. It's an excellent degreaser that works safely on most surfaces.
3. **Laundry Room** - Use vinegar as a natural fabric softener. This can be especially helpful for families who have sensitive skin. Add ½ cup of vinegar to the rinse cycle in place of store bought fabric softener. Vinegar has the added benefit of breaking down laundry detergent more effectively.

NOTE: Always make sure your solution is properly diluted. Always test your solution first on an inconspicuous area. Never use vinegar on marble surfaces.

LEMON JUICE is another natural substance that can be used to clean your home. It dissolves soap scum and hard water deposits. It cleans and brings a shine to brass and copper. Here are a few lemon tips:

1. Mix lemon juice with vinegar and/or baking soda to make cleaning pastes. One way is to halve a lemon then sprinkle baking soda on exposed lemon flesh. Scrub dishes,

surfaces and stains directly with your frothy lemon.

2. Mix 1 cup olive oil with ½ cup lemon juice and you have a furniture polish for your hardwood furniture.
3. Boil a bowl of water with a couple lemon slices inside the microwave first and then let the lemon water sit for about five minutes. The steam will loosen dried food and neutralize any smells.

BAKING SODA scrubs surfaces the same way as commercial abrasive cleansers. It's also

an excellent deodorizer. Place a box anywhere you need to absorb odours, especially in the refrigerator and freezer.

OTHER GREEN ALTERNATIVES

INSTEAD OF:

ammonia-based cleaners

silver cleaner

toilet cleaner

disinfectants

drain cleaners

rug/upholstery cleaner

mothballs

oil-based paints

furniture stripper

House plant insecticide

USE:

baking soda & water

boiling water, baking soda, salt,
and a piece of aluminum

baking soda and a toilet brush

1/2 cup borax in 1 gallon of water

1/2 cup baking soda and
1/4 cup of vinegar in boiling water

dry cornstarch

cedar chips, lavender flowers

latex or water-based paints

Sandpaper

dishwater or bar soap & water

NOTE: We're not suggesting you should throw away all the cleaning products in your home today. Rather, replace your current supplies with healthier alternatives as the need arises so you won't have to worry about waste. If you do have excess, please remember to dispose of them properly.