

 **greenchoice** tips

- 1 Upgrade your fridge – units that are more than ten years old are likely to be 300% less efficient than a modern fridge.
- 2 Turn-off appliances at the powerpoint when you have finished with them (i.e. televisions, computers, kettles, toasters, microwaves,).
- 3 When washing clothes, use cold water wherever possible. The average household spends 25% of their total energy bill on heating water.
- 4 Dry clothes on the washing line or a rack outside, rather than in the clothes dryer. Not only is this cheaper, it's healthier, as sunlight assists in the control of house mites and pathogens.
- 5 Shop around for a power supplier that sources energy from natural sources. The average household's energy use generates around eight tones of carbon dioxide (the main greenhouse gas) each year. For details on companies selling 'Green Power' visit [www.greenpower.gov.au](http://www.greenpower.gov.au).
- 6 In the garden, select plants that require little water, such as Australian natives. Visit [www.waterproofingadelaide.sa.gov.au](http://www.waterproofingadelaide.sa.gov.au) for details on suitable plants for the type of garden you want to achieve, or talk to your local nursery.
- 7 Lawns use up to 90% of the water in most Aussie gardens, so keep them to a minimum. Alternatives include porous paving, pebbles, drought-tolerant groundcover plants or synthetic turf.



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 **greenchoice**  
 eco-friendly living

**Sources**  
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A green home sounds great but how can I make it work?

Building a new home means you can have everything just how you want it. It's also a great opportunity to do something positive for the environment and future generations. At Statesman Homes, we are committed to building quality homes that are kind to the planet and we offer a range of optional extras that can make your home even more eco-friendly.

But what does building a 'green' home really mean? And how will it affect the bottom-line? This simple checklist helps answer these questions.

## home orientation

How your house is positioned on your block is the single most important decision you can make to create an energy efficient living environment. North orientation to living areas is generally regarded as best, as it enables you to maximise the low winter sun for natural heating, whilst also allowing appropriate eaves to help shade your home from the hot summer sun. Natural heating and cooling is being kind to the environment as well as saving you money on energy costs.

- Yes, I would like to consider my home's orientation.

## water conservation

The average South Australian home uses 600 litres of water per day. By incorporating water-saving devices into your home you can slash this figure substantially. A Smartflush toilet alone can save up to 35,000 litres of water per year, and low-flow tap aerators can reduce water usage by up to 40%. A water-efficient showerhead can save 17,885 litres of water per year and 437kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The Water Efficiency Labelling Standards Scheme (WELS) provides a zero to six-star rating for toilets, tapware and showerheads. The more stars, the more water efficient the equipment. By 2021, the scheme aims to reduce the country's domestic water use by 5% and save 610,000 megalitres – more water than is in Sydney Harbour.

All Statesman Homes designs include water efficient shower heads and WELS-rated tapware as standard features. Four-star dual-flush toilet systems are also offered. All Statesman homes come with a provision for a rainwater tank to be plumbed into the laundry and toilet. We can also install a system that enables all taps to run on rainwater or be switched to mains.

- Yes, I would like more information on water conservation features.
- Yes, I would like more information on plumbing my rainwater tank.

## ventilation

Make the most of natural ventilation by aligning windows and doors to encourage cross-flow breezes in summer. Roof ventilation is another option – removing hot air from your roof during the hot months and retaining warm air during the winter. Once installed, roof ventilators cost nothing to operate and require no power, relying on solar energy.

- Yes, I would like to consider installing roof ventilators.

## solar pv cells

Solar panels can halve the energy consumption of an average family home and reduce energy bills considerably. Experts also suggest that a solar energy system will pay for itself in approximately ten years.

Solar panels can be installed on the roof or as a free-standing unit. An inverter, usually located near the electrical switchboard, converts the DC electricity from the panels into 240V AC electricity. Home buyers can choose different size systems – for example, a 450-watt system will power your lights, TV, video, microwave and toaster, while a 3000-watt system will power an average-size home. The Federal Government is also offering substantial rebates on photovoltaic systems.

- Yes, I would like more information on solar photovoltaic systems.

## solar hot water

Installing a solar hot water system is one of the easiest and most cost effective ways to make your home more environmentally friendly and to reduce power bills. It's also extremely simple – solar collectors on the roof of your home heat the water, which is then stored in a tank. Households who switch to solar hot water can save up to 80% on hot water energy costs. A gas-boosted solar hot water system is the most user-friendly option, as it enables up to 90% of hot water to be sourced emission-free, with the remainder powered by gas.

The South Australian Government provides a substantial rebate for the installation of a solar hot water system.

- Yes, I would like to consider installing a solar hot water system.

## insulation

Good quality insulation is vital in creating an environmentally friendly home. Not only does it encourage passive heating and cooling, it also reduces noise. According to the Australian Greenhouse Office, a well insulated and well designed home cuts heating and cooling bills by up to 50%, which has big savings in greenhouse gas emissions. Hickinbotham offers Rockwool insulation, which provides high levels of performance in a thinner form than conventional insulation.

- Yes, I would like more information on Rockwool insulation.

## lighting

Lighting represents around 12% of domestic greenhouse gas emissions, and most homes could reduce the amount of energy they use for lighting by 50%.

The easiest way to reduce the environmental impact of lighting your home is to switch to compact fluorescent lamps or downlights, which use 20-30% less electricity than traditional incandescent bulbs and are four times more efficient than halogen. The Federal Government is gradually phasing out these inefficient incandescent lights, with the aim of reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by four million tonnes by 2015. This simple initiative will have the same impact as taking one million cars off the roads.

When building, it's important to consider the quantity and type of lighting you install. New home buyers can also consider installing a Clipsal C-Bus automation system. Using cutting-edge technologies like occupancy detectors, ambient light sensors, temperature control and variable lighting levels, this innovative system ensures all lights and appliances are turned off at the end of the day or when no-one is home – reducing greenhouse gas emissions and slashing energy bills.

- Yes, I would like to consider installing a Clipsal C-Bus automation system.

## double glazing

Energy efficient windows will make your home more comfortable and dramatically reduce your energy costs. The Window Energy Rating Scheme (WERS) rates windows according to their annual energy impact on a house. Rated windows carry a label, with cooling and heating performance rated on a scale of 0 to 5 stars – the more stars, the better.

Double glazed windows can reduce heating and cooling energy bills by 25 – 60%, as they reduce heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer. Another option to consider is window tinting – this can reduce heat transference by 70%, UV by 100% and glare by 88%.

- Double-glazing.
- Window tinting.

## energy efficient appliances

Ovens, hotplates and dishwashers are just some of the appliances that you can install in your new home. It makes sense to choose appliances that have a high energy rating (the more stars, the better). Not only will this help the environment, it will also save you money.

- Yes, I would like information on energy-efficient appliances.

## cooling/heating

Heating and cooling account for 39% of an average house's energy demands. Building a new home presents a great opportunity to address your heating and cooling needs in a cost-effective way. Some of the options include:

Climate controlled Inverter systems - approved by the new Government Energy Efficiency Regulations, uses the latest technology. It can reduce your power consumption by up to 40% compared to a less efficient system.

- Ducted reverse cycle – featuring a high efficiency MEPS approved Daikin unit combined with 75mm Gold Ducting, to achieve maximum efficiency from your system. Included are state-of-the-art motorised dampers to allow individual zoning to various rooms.
- Mitsubishi Electric Power Multi-Reverse Cycle - power multi-adopt Inverter control technology that creates a supremely comfortable environment to prevent over-cooling or over-heating while providing energy savings. The unit is capable of running only one room or the whole home, reducing power consumption by up to 40% compared to a less efficient system and helping to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Ceiling fans – placed in your most frequently used rooms, ceiling fans can improve the efficiency of your heating and cooling system. They only use as much power as a 100 watt light bulb, and, in summer, a ceiling fan can reduce air conditioning bills by up to 40%. In winter, run in a clockwise direction to recirculate warm air. For maximum energy saving benefits, consider an Energy Star ceiling fan, which circulates an average of 15% more air than other fans.

Yes, I would like information on:

- A Daikin ducted system designed for me.
- A new Mitsubishi Electric Power Multi system designed for me.
- Ceiling fans.

## shading

Up to 40% of a home's energy for cooling and heating is lost or gained through windows, therefore improving their thermal performance reduces energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

East/west walls and windows are the most important to shade, as solar heating is the most intense on these sides. Wide eaves and verandahs are some of the techniques used by Statesman Homes to provide shade, however we also recommend clients consider installing awnings, roller shutters and/or pergolas to block out summer sun and retain warmth in winter.

Yes, I would like to consider:

- Awnings.
- Roller shutters.
- Pergolas.