



NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2012

## How you can be More Sustainable in Your Home . . . . .

Do you want to help look after the environment and save money too? Well you can do both simply by adopting sustainable lifestyle habits.

We can all make a few simple changes in our life that may seem small, but all help to make a big difference in the long run.

- **Repair, re-use and recycle** - one way to be more sustainable is to cut down on the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. We can all help reduce waste by recycling more, repairing and re-using items and by thinking about whether or not we really need to buy the things that we do.

- **Choosing natural cleaning products** - if you use commercial cleaners in your home then it might be time to switch them for a natural alternative that will be healthier for you and your family and for our waterways too! Simple ingredients such as baking soda, lemon and vinegar can all help

make for great household cleaners- especially for bathroom and kitchen drains.

- **Choose renewable energy** - Renewable energy sources can help reduce the planet's reliance on coal. Solar panels are becoming increasingly popular, but it is worth checking out [www.greenpower.gov.au](http://www.greenpower.gov.au) to find out more about choosing renewable energy sources.

The above are just a few things you can do at home right now to help the environment and your wallet. A few more things you could consider include grey water recycling for your yard, a water tank, extra insulation, energy efficient products, walking more, cycling, carpooling or using public transport where possible... the list goes on.

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# Is it Time for a Pre-sale Spring Clean?

Before selling your home it's important to give it a thorough spring clean - you don't have to totally overhaul your property, but cleaning and de-cluttering it can make all the difference to how it appears to buyers.

Go through each room of your home and throw away any junk, or at least find a temporary home for objects that may detract from your home's appearance (for example old torn-up sofas or mattresses).

A lot of people hold on to unneeded items in their homes, so as a general rule of thumb when cleaning out your house - if you don't need it, use it or love it, throw it out!

It helps to invite a friend over with an unbiased opinion of your home as they will have a better eye to spot out the items in your house that could turn-off potential buyers.

Remember, first impressions count when selling a home and you want to make sure your home gives the right impression.

So if you're thinking about selling your home, go through and give it a spring clean out - not only will you feel better, but potential buyers will appreciate it too. Plus once your home is sold you won't have to pack and move as many items...



## A Few House Hunting Tips.

There are a number of ways to search for a new home, but if you follow these tried and tested methods then you will have the keys to your new home in no time:

- **Search online** - online property search tools provide a fast and convenient way to search for properties and you can even sign up to buyer alerts that help notify you as soon as new properties come onto the market.
- **Talk to your local agent** - let your local Professionals real estate agent know that you're in the market for a property and they will be able to inform you of properties that meet your criteria as soon as they come onto the market.
- **Plan your weekends** - if you're going to head to open homes and auctions then it pays to keep an organised schedule and make the time to view the properties you're interested in.
- **Stay organised** - after viewing a number of properties it can be hard to keep track of the pros and cons of each of them. It helps to keep a list of the properties you've seen and their features, and if possible take photos too.

Want any more tips to help you find your dream home? Talk to your local Professionals Real Estate agent or visit [www.professionals.com.au](http://www.professionals.com.au) to find a property for sale near you.



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