

TRANSFORM YOUR BATHROOM INTO AN ECO-FRIENDLY HAVEN: FIVE EASY TIPS TO GO GREEN AND SAVE GREEN

After a long, hot summer, many homeowners are looking to revitalize their homes' interiors in preparation for cooler weather and more time spent indoors. An ideal space to refresh is the bath. By simply cleaning and updating key elements, the bath can be transformed into a relaxing retreat that saves the homeowner energy, water and money. Saving water in the bath can also have a big impact on utility bills since the bathroom is one of the biggest water wasters in the home, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Below are a few tips to help you go green and make your bathroom an eco-friendly, tranquil haven.

1. Save in Style

As the main water wasters in the home, toilets account for nearly 30 percent of indoor water consumption according to the EPA. However, water wasting can turn into water and monetary savings by replacing older, ineffective toilets with new high-efficiency toilets. Also, adding an eco-friendly toilet can help to update the style of the bath by providing a more contemporary feel to the room. To achieve the ultimate savings, install Niagara Conservation's stylish ultra-high-efficiency Stealth toilet, which achieves a powerful, quiet flush using only 0.8 gallons of water. Niagara's Stealth saves up to 18,000 gallons of water and up to \$120 per year on water usage.

2. So Fresh, So Green

Spending an hour or two on a deep clean of the bath can make the space feel fresh and new. Before rolling up the sleeves and diving in, consider using eco-friendly cleaning products. Many cleaning supplies contain chemicals that can damage the environment and leave behind a toxic residue. Green cleaning supplies, or homemade recipes such as lemon juice and baking soda, can achieve the same deep clean you desire, without leaving a harsh residue or odor behind.

3. Shower Yourself in Savings

Taking a long, hot shower can be an ideal way to relax, but the increased water and utility bills that result may create an unneeded stress. By replacing an existing showerhead with a powerful low-flow model, a homeowner can enjoy their shower while saving water and money. For example, Niagara Conservation's Sava Showerhead provides a spa-feel with its 39 spray jets while saving up to 8,213 gallons of water per year and up to \$173 off utility bills.

4. Shop and Swap with Green Accessories

To completely change the look and feel of the bath, try incorporating new accessories like updated towels and rugs, as well as a fresh shower curtain. Choosing chic, green alternatives can be simple yet effective. Ensure the new towels, rugs and linens are made from natural fibers like organic cotton and bamboo and avoid shower curtains made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic, which can release toxic gases and odors in your home.

5. Lighten Up

Lighting can change the mood of the bathroom and it can also help to ensure you have a good start and end to your day. Be sure to install ample lighting in key areas such as the shower and the primary mirror. Try using compact fluorescent bulbs as they offer good color rendering for the skin and are up to 10 times more efficient than regular incandescent bulbs.