

jute



Your house is no ordinary place. It's a space for your family and your furniture, your occupation and your favorite odds and ends. We believe a home should reflect who you are, what you like, and how you want to live. If living a greener lifestyle is a priority to you and your family, Jute offers the following tips.

The below is based on the fundamentals of the Green Point Rating: conserve natural resources, reduce energy consumption, improve indoor air quality and make communities more livable.

BREATHE FREE. Select products with the lowest VOC rating. Favorites of ours are Natura by Benjamin Moore and Mythic for paints. For floor stains, try Minwax low VOC or Bona's line of green products. If you are embarking on a construction project, opt for formaldehyde free insulation for your home and formaldehyde free cabinetry for your kitchen. All will result in cleaner air with minimal off gassing, leaving you with one less thing to worry about!

WALK ON IT. Sourcing new flooring? Opt for products using recycled or renewable materials. Cork and bamboo are industry staples. If you find hardwood irresistible, try reclaimed timber flooring or engineered hardwood. Engineered hardwood uses a fraction of the wood while still giving you the hardwood floors you love. Select unfinished wood and have the stain of your choice applied. It will add that custom touch to your space while eliminating that pre-fab finish.

LIGHT ME UP. Lighting is at the top of our list when designing a new space. Great lighting is key to setting the tone. Choose low energy fluorescent, halogen, and LED bulbs rather than traditional incandescent bulbs. All are available at your local hardware store. This is one of the quickest and easiest ways to conserve energy.

SHINING STAR. If you are in the market for new appliances, energy star appliances both reduce energy consumption as well as water use. Start with the biggest culprits first and invest in a tankless water heater or steam washer. LG makes a great steam washer. Next, move on to kitchen appliances and low flow toilets. If conserving energy is high on your green list, invest in solar panels. You will make the money back over time, while lessening your carbon footprint.

SLEEP ON IT. We all went out and bought organic crib mattresses, but what about the rest of the beds in the house? We spend 1/3 of our life in bed so it makes sense to go green here. Several companies make green mattresses. Try Savvy Rest, Royal Pedic or Gotcha Covered. When dressing the bed, choose natural fibers like linen and cotton. Matteo's linens are a favorite of ours. For organic, try the Hotel Collection or Coyuchi.

DECORATE WISELY. Re-purpose furniture whenever possible. Either within your own home, or source antique and vintage finds. Select rugs made from renewable, natural fiber rugs like jute, sisal and wool. Upholster pieces in textiles using hemp, linen or cotton. Favorite textile lines of ours are Santa Barbara based Raoul Textiles and Rubie Green in NYC. Select new furniture that uses FSC-certified wood and low VOC sealants. Lee Industries is a leader in this area.

SHOP LOCAL. Sausalito based Heath Ceramics has expanded it's line to include offerings with recycled content. Black's Farmwood in San Rafael is a great source for reclaimed timber flooring and siding. Rough Linen in Mill Valley is offering a new line of beautiful soft furnishings for the home.