



GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH

May 2017

GREEN IDEAS FOR THE OFFICE

The typical office provides lots of opportunities for going green! Here are a few ideas:

- Place a recycling center in a prominent location in your office.
- Encourage staff to use mugs, glasses, dishes and cutlery rather than disposables.
- Make sure your office has at least one large plant in it. They're not only green and pretty but great for recycling the air.
- Use green cleaning products that are not damaging the environment.
- Print one copy of memos and other inter-office documents and circulate them rather than printing off a separate copy for everyone.
- Use whiteboards or projectors to display meeting agendas rather than printing.

For more office tips: <https://www.thebalance.com/going-green-ideas-for-the-office-2948097>

This monthly tip was brought to you by IEI's Green Initiatives Committee. For more info: http://www.ieigroup.com/IEI_GreenBusinessCommitmentChecklist_Gold.pdf



About IEI Group / IEI Architects

IEI provides architecture, design, project management and sustainability services. We are located in Philadelphia and offer a full range of professional design services. For more information, call us at 215.413.3700 or visit our website at www.ieigroup.com



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CLEAN YOUR BATHROOM WITHOUT TOXIC CHEMICALS

No doubt your first priority when cleaning the bathroom is eliminating germs and soap scum, but it's important to steer clear of harsh chemicals that can linger in the air and water, and irritate your skin, lungs and mucous membranes. Just like in the kitchen, most popular disinfecting household cleansers are chock full of harmful chemicals. The EPA classifies 275 of the antibacterial agents commonly used in cleaners as pesticides, some of which have been linked to serious health problems. In the bathroom, we're constantly coming in contact with all kinds of surfaces, so these toxins can easily get on your skin, and with the next flush of the toilet, the chemicals will flow into the wastewater system, where they can seep into the ground.

Full tips: <http://inhabitat.com/how-to-green-clean-your-bathroom-without-toxic-chemicals/>

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SPRING CLEANING: CRUSH CLUTTER

Nothing creates a feeling of claustrophobia faster than too much stuff. Before you can clean anything, you have to get rid of some those unused items causing clutter. Consider donating it via peer-to-peer sharing sites like yerdle and Swap It Shop. Too many clothes? Check out SwapStyle. Kids stuff? Swap.com. Books and movies? Try Title Trader or SwapTrees.

For website links and more spring cleaning tips, visit:

<http://inhabitat.com/spring-cleaning-6-green-tips-to-organize-and-simplify-your-home/>

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SOLAR SHINGLES VS. SOLAR PANELS

Built to resemble traditional roof tiles, solar roof tiles – or solar shingles – are thin, photovoltaic (PV) sheets that can replace or lay on top of existing shingles. Just like solar panels, solar roof shingles capture energy from sunlight and can be installed in any climate or environment, helping you save money on your energy bills. A solar shingle system can offer a sleek, less-bulky appearance as well as easier installation than solar panels.

If you're considering installing solar shingles on your home, learn more about the features, advantages/disadvantages, and available brands today:

<http://www.sustainablecitiescollective.com/brookenally/1298678/guide-solar-roof-tiles-next-big-thing>

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January 2017

ARE PLASTIC BAGS RECYCLABLE?

Plastic bags can be recycled, however, that doesn't mean they can be placed in your curbside recycling bin. Plastic bags require a specialized collection and processing system separate from other recyclable materials. Most grocers and large retailers such as Target and Walmart accept plastic bags for recycling, or you can look up local recycling options nearest you.

Philadelphia has made strides in curbside recycling in recent years; a record of 127,700 tons of recyclable materials were collected citywide in 2014. Sometimes unaccepted items like plastic bags and Styrofoam still end up in recycling bins, which can damage recycling machinery and slow down the process. Learn the ins and outs of what you CAN recycle and what to keep OUT of the bin:

<http://www.philadelphiastreet.com/recycling/>

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