# HOMEWISE

Real Estate Tips and Advice

# Eco-Friendly Home Upgrades

# Boost Your Home's Value With Green Improvements That Can Pay Off

pgrading your home with eco-friendly features can attract environmentally conscious buyers and increase your property's value. Here's how to make sustainable improvements that pay off when it's time to sell.

#### **ENERGY-EFFICIENT WINDOWS**

Replacing old windows with energy-efficient ones can reduce energy costs and improve your home's comfort.

Look for windows with low-E glass, double or triple panes, and insulating frames.

These features not only lower utility bills but also add value by enhancing your home's energy performance, which is a key selling point.

### **SOLAR PANELS**

Solar panels are one of the most impactful green upgrades. They reduce reliance on grid electricity and can significantly lower energy bills.

While the initial investment is substantial, many buyers are willing to pay a premium for homes with solar power. Plus, there are various incentives and rebates available that can offset the cost.

#### **SMART THERMOSTATS**

Installing a smart thermostat is a simple yet effective upgrade. These devices learn your schedule and adjust the temperature to save energy while maintaining comfort. They can be



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controlled remotely via smartphones, which appeals to tech-savvy buyers looking for convenience and efficiency.

#### **WATER-SAVING FIXTURES**

Upgrading to water-saving fixtures like low-flow toilets, faucets and showerheads can decrease water consump-

tion and lower utility bills. These fixtures are inexpensive and easy to install, making them a quick win for boosting your home's green appeal.

### **INSULATION AND SEALING**

Proper insulation and sealing of your home can prevent energy loss, keeping your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Focus on areas like the attic, walls and floors.

Sealing gaps around doors and windows with weatherstripping and caulk can also improve your home's energy efficiency.

### **ECO-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING**

Sustainable landscaping can enhance your home's curb appeal and environmental impact. Use native plants that require less water and maintenance.

Consider installing a rainwater harvesting system to irrigate your garden.

Composting organic waste to enrich your soil is another green practice that can attract eco-conscious buyers.

# ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

Replacing old appliances with Energy Star-rated ones can lower energy consumption and utility bills.

Modern appliances use less water and electricity while providing superior performance. Energy-efficient refrigerators, dishwashers and washing machines are attractive features for potential buyers.

By implementing these eco-friendly upgrades, you can enhance your home's appeal to buyers while contributing to a more sustainable future.

Investing in green features not only benefits the environment but also potentially increases your property's market value, ensuring a profitable sale.

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# **REAL ESTATE 101**



# **Energy Audits: A Wise Investment**

Conducting an energy audit can reveal where your home is losing energy and suggest improvements. This assessment, often conducted by a professional, can identify issues like poor insulation, inefficient heating and cooling systems, and air leaks. Addressing these problems can make your home more energy-efficient and attractive to buyers.

Low-E Glass: Low-emissivity (Low-E) glass is designed to minimize the amount of infrared and ultraviolet light that comes through your windows without compromising the amount of visible light. This type of glass helps keep your home's temperature stable, reducing energy costs.

# AD SPACE