

Eco Friendly Interiors

May 2021 Edition

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The
Edit
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Sustainability

One of the hottest themes in homewares and interior design right now is sustainability.

You'll see rattan, raw wood furniture, natural fibres and accessories, jute rugs and other natural materials all over Instagram.

This is not so much a trend as social lifestyle adjustment, which reflects our increasing awareness of the influence of throw-away fashion on people, animals and the environment.

But it's not just the aesthetics of natural fibres and finishes.

How can we create a genuinely more eco-friendly home?

Here are our top 7 ways to make a difference:

1. Longevity

Think of product lifespan when you make a purchase - how long is this item likely to be loved and useful in your home? Buying investment pieces means considering the quality and durability of a piece of furniture, for example a bed, sofa or dining table. Remember your parents telling you 'You buy cheap, you buy twice'? They were right! Instead choose well made, timeless items which will likely last for decades rather than a few years.

ERCOL MARINELLO



Alternatively what can you give new life to? - source furniture and accessories which are pre-loved. Whether that be design classics, family heirlooms or small items you find useful or beautiful in their own right. Your home will have a more interesting look and feel if there is a blend of old and new. Incorporating vintage or antique furniture, or decorative accessories into your home is key to a sophisticated interior, and if it's something handed down through your own family, so much the better..





Choose well.
Buy once

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2. Beware of being too trendy

We really don't want interiors to go the way of fashion and run along such short trend cycles that we end up with a mindset of 'throwaway fashion'. Instead consider large purchases such as sofas, dining tables, beds to be an investment, which if looked after well can last for decades, not just a few years. That may mean opting for a less trendy piece in the hottest colour right now, or considering that a sofa could be recovered in 10 years, while the frame and filling is still great quality.

3. Avoid VOCs'

Volatile Organic Compounds are highly toxic chemicals found in paint, furniture, fillings and fabrics. Although paints and varnishes are less toxic than they were 30 years ago, VOCs are toxic to the environment during production and disposal and are really not great for our health. The easiest way to avoid them is to choose low VOC paints. Some paint brands are so high tech they actually absorb toxins from your home for years after they are applied..

4. Bedding and Bedlinen

Think about the chemicals often present in cotton, that are then coming into contact with your skin for hours at night. When you're next looking to replace your bedlinen, have a look at more sustainable fabrics such as Tencel, bamboo, which can be produced with minimal pesticide use. Organic cotton is an alternative and much gentler on our skin.



5. Be selective with animal products

leather, down, wool and silk are sadly not 'by-products' of the meat industry. Animals are often bred purely for their skin, coat or feathers and it's hard to trace the provenance of these products and whether the birds were live-plucked, for example. Plant-based leathers are already being used by fashion designers like Stella McCartney and Hugo Boss, and have a far lower impact on the environment than animal leather or petroleum-based synthetic leathers.

Cactus, pineapple and mushroom leathers are coming to a living room

6. Insulate and update to low energy products

We're a lot more aware of the energy efficiency of homes these days. That A-F scale is as familiar now as the one on the back of our appliances.

By adding or updating your loft or cavity wall insulation, not only will you save money on your heating and electricity bills, but this will boost your home's EPC rating. Useful to know if you plan on selling or renting out a property.

near you in a few years! You heard it here, first!

Did you know the UK recently tipped over to 80% of our energy coming from lowcarbon sources (Easter weekend 2021).

Are you signed up to an ecoenergy supplier? Shop around as you would any other supplier, they can be surprisingly affordable. Are your light bulbs LEDs?

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