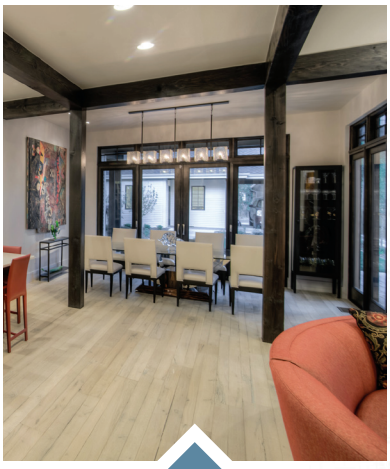
HIGHCRAFT BUILDERS

DESIGN.
BUILD.
REMODEL.



GOING GREEN

Remodeling an existing home is almost always more environmentally friendly than new construction because you are upgrading rather than replacing, repurposing rather than building new.

Sustainable remodeling goes a step further by prioritizing home improvement choices that enhance energy efficiency, resource conservation and a healthy indoor environment.

To be more sustainable, here are **four eco-friendly tips** to help you go green during your remodel:

1. ENHANCE YOUR HOME'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Begin with a home energy audit to find leaks. Remodeling is a great time to add insulation, seal drafts, install new windows and replace old appliances and HVAC units with energy-efficient options. The reduced energy consumption is great for the planet, and it means lower utility bills every month for you.

2. IMPROVE INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Poor indoor air quality is linked to chronic respiratory problems. Some of the most common air pollutants in our homes are asbestos, chemicals, combustion, formaldehyde, lead, ozone, particulates, pesticides, radon and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). According to Realtor.com, wall-to-wall synthetic carpeting can contain up to 120 toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, which have been linked to a number of flu-like symptoms. Healthier flooring options include natural-fiber carpets, hardwoods, natural linoleum, ceramic tile, marble and stone. Choose paint, sealer, stain, caulk, grout, adhesive and paint thinners with zero VOCs to minimize unhealthy off-gassing.

3. CONSERVE WATER USE

Save water by installing low-flow plumbing fixtures, high efficiency or tankless water heaters, and high efficiency toilets and dishwashers. In Colorado's semi-arid climate, it's water wise to install drought-tolerant landscaping with a drip irrigation system. And the use of a simple automatic rain sensor will stop sprinklers from watering when it isn't needed.

4. SELECT THE RIGHT MATERIALS

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) suggests that sustainably minded materials are natural and nontoxic, locally made or sustainably harvested, recycled and recyclable, energy-efficient to produce and durable. For example, using reclaimed or local beetle kill lumber is a great option. If planning an addition, staying within the existing footprint of your home will reduce the heavy equipment and quantity of building materials needed for the job, too.

For more ideas about sustainable remodeling, check out the USGBC's Green Home Guide (http://greenhomeguide.com). Even if you incorporate just a few sustainable strategies during a remodel, you will contribute to a healthier living space, a happier planet and maybe some more green in your wallet.

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