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[going green]

WRITTEN BY KARLA KRENGEL

let it pour

Giving up that long, hot shower in the morning isn't easy, even if you know it's the right thing to do. Watermark to the rescue! Their water-saving adapter aerates the water coming out of any manufacturer's showerhead, so you can save about a gallon a minute without missing a single drop, or replacing your showerhead. About \$80, depending on finish. watermark-designs.com.



Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours.

(Ecocycle.org)

Dollar Wise

Most people think using green building materials adds considerably to construction costs. Not so, according to the US Green Building Council. Based on numerous studies, they determined that additional costs run from practically nothing to 10 percent. The percentage depends on just how green you go. No matter what the extra costs, it's key to consider the return on investment: Money spent on green building products is often recouped in energy and water savings down the line.



Ground Control

Typically, at least half of a home's water consumption goes to lawn care. Ojai, California-based landscape designer Paul Hendershot says you can reduce water use by replacing some of the lawn with a patio and cutting down on the number of annuals you plant. "Annuals, such as petunias and marigolds, use more water than perennials," he says. He also suggests organic fertilizer. Inorganic fertilizer "acts like speed," so you need more water to keep up with growth. ■



PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY PAUL HENDERSHOT.COM