
What is Green building?

In a nutshell, green building means taking steps to create wonderful homes that are safe for our families and communities and that protect our environment. Whether you are redecorating, remodeling or planning to build a new home, keep in mind these three fundamental green building goals:

- **Be mindful about using limited resources** such as wood and water so that you limit waste, pollution and environmental damage.
- **Build and remodel with energy efficiency in mind** to save money, create a more comfortable home, and reduce air pollution and global warming.
- **Choose healthy materials and construction methods** to prevent indoor pollution from formaldehyde, mold and other contaminants.

How do I get started?

To simplify your efforts to create a healthier, more environmentally friendly home, The City of Pleasanton has a wealth of resources, including design and construction guidelines as well as directories of green building products and services. You are also invited to take advantage of the free publications and tools available on the www.builditgreen.org and www.StopWaste.Org websites.

Still have Questions?



The City of Pleasanton is committed to helping you build Green. If you have any questions about the information in this brochure or where you can obtain other Green handouts and information, use any of the following agencies.

City of Pleasanton,

Rosalind Rondash

(925) 931-5607

StopWaste.org

www.StopWaste.org

Build It Green

www.builditgreen.org

The Green Resource Center

1-888-40-GREEN (7336)

Brochure prepared by the Planning Division

This brochure is, in part, a product of information provided by the mentioned agencies.

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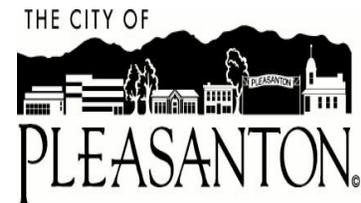


Do you have questions about:

- What **Green** building is,
- How can you be **Green**,
- Where can you buy **Green** products, or
- How to get more **Green** information.

Being Green is Important

We only have one earth. If we don't start making changes to the current building practices, our quality of life will be compromised and our resources will be depleted. Change takes time and that is why it is important to start incorporating Green building practices into each project.





How do you benefit from being Green?

By building smart and healthy you are investing in your future. Green building has many benefits to yourself, your community, and your planet. As a bonus, building green could save you money and make your building/home more marketable.



Save Money

Green building products and construction practices can lower water and energy bills, reduce maintenance costs, and require less frequent replacement. Some rebates are offered by the electricity company for purchasing Energy-Star appliances.

Making Money

Having a green building gives you a marketing niche. There are buyers that want green. If you have it, they will buy it.

Live More Comfortably

With good energy design, proper installation, and efficient heating and cooling systems, Green Building helps to ensure that your building/home is more comfortable.

Healthier Indoor Environment

Green Building encourages the use of materials, paints, and finishes that eliminate many sources of indoor air pollution, such as off-gassing of toxic fumes and materials that contain formaldehyde.

Good for the Environment

Conventional building construction and operation needlessly consume large quantities of wood, water fuel, and other materials. A green built building/home conserves these natural resources. This means less landfills, more trees stay in the forests, and less pollution is created.

How can you be Green?

Whether you are a builder, owner, or a buyer, you can be GREEN. As a builder, you will need to make yourself familiar with the green products that are available to design your project with (Large commercial structures and single family homes, alike). If you are an owner, then you will want to look at your house/building and any improvements (remodeling or new construction) that would allow you to upgrade to a Green building/home. If you are a buyer, you should contact a real-estate agent that is knowledgeable with the practice of green building and can help you find a Green home or Commercial building that has incorporated the Green



How do you find Green products?



A Materials Database is currently being hosted by Bay Area Build It Green, a non-profit organization whose mission is to transform the housing market by serving as a trusted resource on green building information for Bay Area consumers and residential building industry professionals.

The database is regularly updated to reflect the local availability of materials, development of new materials, and other newly available information.

www.builditgreen.org

The database is searchable in three ways:

- Product Category
- Green Building Guidelines Reference
- Keyword

How Green is GREEN?

The City of Pleasanton requires a certain level of Green for specific projects, such as all City constructed projects, Commercial projects over 20,000 square feet in size, all civic projects, and new homes over 2,000 square feet, and for some special residential projects (additions to new homes, multifamily projects, production homes, and PUD developments).

All other projects are encouraged to build as Green as possible. The Planning staff will offer help to anyone trying to incorporate green practices.

There are different shades of green. Some budgets only allow the developer to use green finishings, such as recycled content carpet, low VOC paint, and/or to install PV systems (solar power). While some projects are able to gain the greatest benefit by the whole green design approach. The site, time, and/or budget constraints will determine how green your project will be.

Who else is out there to help you

Just ask an expert! The Green Resource Center has set up a toll free line just to help you be Green.

1-888-40-GREEN (7336)

www.GreenResourceCenter.org

Who says it isn't easy being Green?



The City of Pleasanton has a Green building handout for Commercial construction called LEED in Pleasanton.

There are several agencies that are dedicated to the advancement and progression of building green at every level.

The tools and help are available and the City of Pleasanton would like to help everyone to be as GREEN as they can be.