

# Indianapolis

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## Green From the Ground Up

where to find The building blocks of a low-impact home.

*By Meghan McCormick*

With energy costs on the rise and landfills growing taller every day, there has never been a better time to incorporate eco-friendly elements into your home. Opting for low-impact materials is part of the equation for creating an eco-friendly home. (Just as vital: focusing on the systems, design, and operation of the structure, says Micah Hill, a National Association of Home Builders certified green professional with Indy's Re-Development Group).

Whether updating an existing house or starting from scratch, today's marketplace offers an abundance of supplies for building or remodeling green. Ask your contractor about these readily available options (some of which are made in Indiana!).

### Flooring

Look for options that come from renewable resources. Green Way Supply ([www.greenwaysupply.net](http://www.greenwaysupply.net)) carries an array of cork flooring from Portugal and Marmoleum ([www.themarmoleumstore.com](http://www.themarmoleumstore.com)) linoleum flooring (made with natural linseed oil, which acts as a bacteria repellent). Bamboo is also a great sustain-able option, but choose brands that use proper farming practices. Harvesting too early, says Green Way Supply co-owner Randy Gray, can result in flooring that is too soft—and easily damaged by high-heeled shoes. Teragren ([www.teragren.com](http://www.teragren.com)) and Eco Timber ([www.ecotimber.com](http://www.ecotimber.com)) are two brands that wait considerably longer (about six to seven years total) before harvesting.

When buying wood flooring, go with companies that adhere to strict sustainability standards. Several big-box home-improvement stores carry Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified lumber ([www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)), widely considered the hallmark of eco-friendly forestry practices. Or, for an alternative to hard-surface floors, try recycled fiber carpeting by Patcraft ([www.thenewpatcraftdesignweave.com](http://www.thenewpatcraftdesignweave.com)).