

Green Up YOUR HOUSE

Transform your living space with eco-friendly home decor products and furnishings.

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Upholstered chair made with natural wool fabric, natural latex rubber and organic cotton gets a green stamp of approval; Pure by Ami McKay Design.

HOW TO buy green

- ▶ Buy local. This means as little nonrenewable fuel as possible was used to get the item to market.
- ▶ Purchase paints, stains and wallpapers with low volatile organic compound (VOC) ratings. Use linseed oil as a finish on wood floors, furniture and cabinets instead of polyurethane or other plastic coatings.
- ▶ Ask the retailer if the product was made with sustainable manufacturing practices that conserve energy and water.
- ▶ Purchase organic and pesticide-free fabrics, such as cotton and wool.
- ▶ Look for mattresses, sofas and chairs made with natural latex, organic silk, cotton or wool.

It's not easy being green – especially when you fall in love with a new sofa and decide that your living room just has to have it. We all think about size, price, colour and style when we shop, but we don't always think about the impact on the environment. In fact, where on earth do you even find eco-friendly furnishings?

At the forefront of a growing movement to create home interiors with the environment in mind is interior designer Andrea Kantelberg, owner of Kantelberg Design, based in Toronto. "Knowing what and where to buy is the biggest challenge facing eco-consumers," says Kantelberg, who has recently brought her own eco-products to market. So we went shopping for decorating and furnishing options. Here's what we found for today's stylish *and* sustainable home.