



COLUMBIA CABINETS



## 20 EASY STEPS TO GREEN KITCHEN DESIGN

ADOPT EVEN A FEW AND YOU CAN BEGIN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



### BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

*The best place to start is with an environmentally friendly room...*

1. Insulate walls to prevent heat loss.
2. Use mold resistant drywall as the wallboard.
3. Paint or paper the walls using a low or no VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) paint or wallpaper.
4. Let the sun shine in...allow as much natural light as possible.

### FLOORING

*Begin at the bottom and build up...*

5. Chose between recycled, natural and/or sustainable products.
6. Consider linoleum, which is made of natural products, is very durable and creates a fun vintage feel in the kitchen.
7. Other options to consider are cork, eucalyptus, bamboo or reclaimed wood floors.

### CABINETS

*A subject close to Columbia Cabinets' heart!*

8. Use all wood construction as thermo foil and laminate can trap chemicals that can off-gas and pollute the air in your home
9. Be sure cabinets are made with low or no VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds).
10. Consider using a company like WoodMode that traps any gases created in the manufacturing process and eliminates them, rather than emitting them directly into the atmosphere.

## COUNTERTOPS

*Durable and beautiful options that are also green!*

11. Select quartz (man-made granite) products like Cambria, Caesarstone, Zodiaq and Silestone that are 93% quartz (the hardest mineral in granite) and 7% silicon filler. They replicate the look of granite but are made with low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds), have little off-gassing, have little or no radon emissions and, best yet, are practically maintenance free.
12. Other alternatives to consider are concrete, lyptus, bamboo wood and reclaimed wood.
13. Use low or no VOC glues and caulks for attaching the counters to the cabinets and creating seams.

## APPLIANCES

*Arguably the most important aspect of green kitchen design as appliances make up one of the largest energy drains in a home.*

14. Select only products with an Energy Star Rating. This should not be difficult as many new appliances now qualify, so few compromises need be made on performance, style or price.
15. Reduce water consumption...choose dishwashers that use less water in the cleaning cycles and faucets with aerators.
16. Purchase an exhaust fan to take all kitchen fumes and odors out of the home.

## LIGHTING

*Think carefully to avoid a big potential energy drain!*

17. Use a minimum of recessed lighting.
18. Find fixtures that accept fluorescent bulbs. Fluorescent lighting generally uses the least amount of energy and today's technology has created better lighting and little of the annoying "hum" of fluorescent bulbs of the past.
19. Avoid halogen.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

*Plan a recycling center in the kitchen and see how easy and manageable the task becomes!*

20. Be sure to allocate space in the layout for either a two or more bin pull-out waste base cabinet or small tubs for easy sorting in a large base cabinet on a roll-out tray.

LET COLUMBIA CABINETS MAKE A DIFFERENCE,  
A GREEN DIFFERENCE, IN YOUR HOME.  
PLEASE VISIT OUR SHOWROOM OR CALL US TODAY!