

Green and Healthy Salons: Start here!

Would you like to: Lower your electricity and water bills? Attract more customers? Show your employees that you care about their wellbeing?

Businesses that are “green” take steps to protect the environment. In doing so, green businesses use resources more efficiently, are more competitive, and are seen as leaders in the community. While this doesn’t happen overnight, here are some easy first steps you can take:

Protect the health of workers and consumers by choosing safer

chemicals when possible. Avoid products that contain toluene, formaldehyde, dibutyl phthalate, and acetone.

Resources: Check with your beauty supply store for safer products.

Save energy by upgrading your lighting. Buy T-8 lamps with electronic

ballasts. You’ll save up to 40% more energy and save on electricity bills. Recycle old lamps and ballasts.

Resources: Check with your electric utility company for rebates (PG&E 1-800-468-4743; Southern California Edison 1-800-736-4777). You can buy T-8 lamps and often recycle old ones at hardware stores.

Reduce waste by buying recycled-content paper bags. When

customers buy salon products, provide bags made of recycled paper instead of plastic bags.

Resources: Ask your beauty supply store for recycled-content paper bags.

Save water by installing a low-flow aerator in your faucet. This device

attaches to your faucet and reduces water flow to 1 to 1.5 gallons per minute. You should see a lower water bill.

Resources: Purchase an aerator at your local hardware store for about \$5. Or, check with your water utility for free aerators (Los Angeles Department of Water & Power 1-800-544-4498; EBMUD 1-866-403-2683).

Save water when you flush your toilet. Install toilets that use 1.6 gallons of

water per flush or less. For old toilets, fill a half-gallon jug (like a milk jug) with sand or gravel. Place the jug in the toilet tank (not the toilet bowl). You will save half a gallon of water with each flush and save on your water bill too. You can also buy a special toilet tank bag and fill it with water.

Resources: For detailed instructions and photos, go to <http://www.wikihow.com/Convert-Any-Toilet-to-a-Low-Flush-Toilet>. Some utilities provide rebates and free toilet tank bags (EBMUD 1-866-403-2683).

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