

# Your Home

Information Provided by Your Local Independent Contractor and Lowe's

## Plants Are Natural Noise Buffers

Not only will your landscape design make your home more energy efficient, but it will also provide the additional benefit of noise reduction. Plants naturally absorb noise and will perform optimally if you follow these guidelines:

1. Station the plant close to the noise source.
2. Plant the vegetation close together.
3. Use plants with dense foliage.
4. Start from the ground up by using a combination of shrubs and trees.
5. Use taller plants whenever possible.

## Reduce Your Use with Landscaping

**Landscaping can bring additional value to a home, but many homeowners are discovering that proper design can make their home more energy efficient as well. Here are tips to get you on your way to saving both energy and money:**

Your home's landscape design can create a cost-effective yard that could save your household one-third of your usual costs on heating and cooling.

**Block the Sun** To keep your home cool in the summer, plant full, deciduous trees at the southern or western sides of your house. The leaves provide shade and lower inside temperatures by nearly 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Try to keep your cooling unit in the shade as well; this will maximize its efficiency by 10 percent. Keep pathways and driveways shaded to prevent heat reflection.

**Break the Wind** Cold breezes are typically the cause for your home's draft. To keep the chill at bay, set up a windbreak with a strategically placed fence or evergreens. Try to plant the trees upward from the dominant wind direction for your area (most likely the northern or western side of your home).

**Barricade the Hot/Cold Temperatures** Much effort is spent maintaining a constant temperature in your home during the severity of the changing seasons. To achieve this balance more efficiently, plant shrubs around the perimeter of your property's foundation. This barrier will provide added insulation to your home.

Take time to consult a landscape architect to determine on which side of your home you should be planting, which plants work best for your climate and how to maintain your new energy efficient yard.

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### Saving Green with Green

# 25%

The potential household heating and energy savings from strategically planting trees in your yard

Source: U.S. Department of Energy