

Green Garden Checklist

By Jake R Brady

- Materials
 - If choosing stone, make sure stone is sourced from quarries that have been inspected and approved.
 - Look to see whether existing materials can be re-used.
 - If you don't want to use old material, ask around if there is anyone who would like to get some.
 - Make sure all timber come with a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate.
 - Try to buy charcoal for barbecues from a sustainable source that help restore woodland.
 - Instead of concrete blocks, use earth-rammed walls where excavations of sub-soil can be used to build free-standing or covered structures.
- Water
 - Instal an irrigation system.
 - Collect rainwater.
 - Use plants that have a measure of drought tolerance such as herbs or prairie.
 - Bare soil mulched with well-rotted compost or wood chippings will prevent water loss.
 - Water in the cool of the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation losses.
 - Introduce decking, gravel, paving and cobbles features as an alternative to water guzzling lawns.
 - Use mulches such as wood chips, bark and gravel to help prevent water evaporation.
- Recycle
 - Have a compost heap at home or make sure your waste is recycled by either the council or a friend.
 - Use green manures to feed the soil.
 - Earth which has been dug out can be recycled to form an 'eco mound' to house a garden building.