



# 10 Green Building Myths

*Building  
sustainable  
quality of  
life...*

**Myth 1—Green is prohibitively expensive**

In the long run, green building is more affordable and more sustainable than conventional building. Green usually incurs larger up front costs, depending on how aggressive you build, but makes up for that in lower energy costs and longer life-span of the building. As time goes by, green technologies are coming down in cost.

**Myth 2—Green is only for hippies or Californians...its just a passing fad**

Not even close! Green can be for anyone and will affect everyone. Given the current trends in environmentalism and sustainability, green building is more important than ever.

**Myth 3—Green buildings look strange**

Green buildings can look as normal or eccentric as you like. If you want a geodesic dome or a hillside home, that's great, but green can just as easily be a ranch or country farm house too.

**Myth 4—Green building is up to the builder**

Not really. While some builders will always build green out of principle, most build exactly what the customer requests.

**Myth 5—To be green you have to avoid wood**

Quite to the contrary, wood is one of the most renewable and cleanest building materials there is. However, you must be careful to build with common, sustainable types of wood.

**Myth 6—Green is overly technical**

Green building, in general, is very fundamental. The biggest key is the integrity of the building envelope.

**Myth 7—To be green your house has to be certified**

While it can help the resale value of your house to be certified, it does not have to be certified to be green. Many green programs, such as Green Built Home™, are used to advance green practices and provide templates for builders to use.

**Myth 8—LEED is the only green program out there.**

There are almost 100 green programs across the nation. Many smaller programs, such as Green Built Home, are state or region specific. These programs are often more applicable and more cost-effective than LEED or other national programs.

**Myth 9—It's all or nothing**

Green building can be as expansive or as limited as you like. Many homeowners don't want to go all out with solar panels or grass on their roof. Something as simple as replacing light bulbs can be the easiest way to go green. Check out VHBA's guide to "10 Green Projects for Under \$100" for some inexpensive and easy ideas.

**Myth 10—Only new homes can be truly green**

Any home, new or old...condo or apartment, can be green. Many of the best green projects are inexpensive and easily retrofitted. Adding green to a remodeling project or maintenance efforts are great ways to enhance your home for today and for years to come.

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