

# Top Tips for Investing in Your Home--*Despite the Recession*

## The Sunny Side:

### Smart Home Investments

- **Room with a View:** Replacing your old, drafty windows saves you money on energy. If the job is done properly, [new windows](#) can last for decades without servicing.
  - ◇ **Energy Star:** The Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency teamed up to come up with this rating system. Look for their logo on windows.
  - ◇ **Cost/Benefit:** New windows can be pricey, but upon resale, homeowners see an average of 80 percent return for this investment. They save money on heating and cooling in the meantime, too. There's even a ten-percent (up to \$200) tax break available from the government.
- **On Your Siding:** Another energy efficient project that can save you money, new siding, adds a new look and a protective shell to your home. With many siding options you never need to repaint, and lifetime warranties abound.
  - ◇ **R-Value:** This handy little number tells you how thermally efficient your new siding is. Typically ranging from one to three, R-values can go all the way up to 4.8 for siding.
  - ◇ **Cost/Benefit:** With an average 83 percent return, [adding new](#)



[siding is a smart investment](#). Energy efficiency isn't cheap, though. New siding typically costs homeowners around \$10K.

- **Insulate Yourself:** This project may not come with the flair of new windows or siding, but it does save money and energy. It's inexpensive, to boot.
  - ◇ **R-Value:** Compared to new siding, new insulation has amazingly high R-value (up to R60).

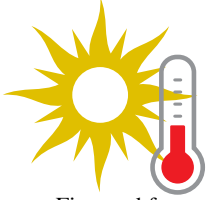
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*We look forward to working with you on any future remodeling or repair project you are considering. Call our office today to schedule a **FREE** in-home consultation! (408) 356-1853*

*We Design & Build*

## Smart Home Investments (continued)

- ◇ **Cost/Benefit:** Price varies considerably (from laughably inexpensive to should've-saved-up) depending on how much you need and what R-value you choose. There are tax breaks available to the tune of ten percent, up to \$500. Save money on heating and cooling inexpensively with this project.



### ~ Summer Tips to Keep Your Home COOL ~

- First and foremost, adjust your temperature requirements. You'll save tremendous money in cooling bills by wearing light and comfortable clothing around the house. Keep your thermostat set as high as possible for your comfort.
- Use ceiling fans. Despite common belief, these actually don't do much in reducing the actual temperature in your home. But they do circulate the air and make the rooms they're in seem much cooler. Ceiling fans are often fairly inexpensive and easy to install and are well worth it in the summer heat.
- Shade, Shade, Shade. Sunlight is the enemy to a cool not, traditional incandescent counterparts.
- Avoid heating appliances. If you don't have to use the oven, stove, dishwasher or clothes drier during the heat of the day, don't. These can often dramatically increase the temperature in an area of your house.
- Check all window and door seals. If your house has older windows, consider replacing them if you can afford the cost. If not, make sure they are all well-sealed.
- Use florescent light bulbs. Florescents typically last longer, use less energy and are often cooler than their traditional incandescent counterparts.



In this time of lower water supplies, conserving water makes a lot of sense. Whether your motivation is environmental responsibility, saving money, or both.

There are many effective and easy ways to increase the water efficiency of your home.

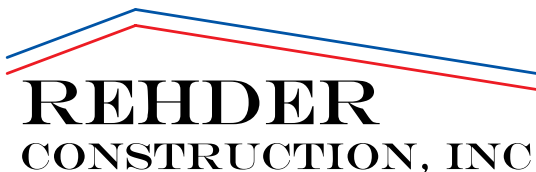
1. **FIX LEAKY TOILETS, FAUCETS, OR HOSE LEAKS.**
2. **INSTALL WATER SAVING SHOWERHEADS, FAUCETS, AND TOILETS.**
3. **INSULATE YOUR HOT WATER PIPES TO GET HOT WATER QUICKER.**
4. **KEEP YOUR GARDEN AND LAWN WATER SYSTEM IN GOOD WORKING ORDER- NO LEAKING VALVES OR HEADS.**
5. **AVOID WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY- ALLOWING FOR PRECIOUS WATER TO RUN DOWN THE STREET.**

*Over 29 Years of Professional Service in the South Bay!*

**Contact Rehder Construction for a FREE in-home consultation today!**

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