

**YOUR
8-MINUTE
GUIDE
TO GOING
GREEN**

*Condo
Living*



GREEN impressions

Issue one May 2011

Designed and Published by



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GETTING STARTED

How do you begin living a green condo lifestyle? The first step is simple, but not easy: reduce your power consumption. We know it's tough, but the truth is high electricity bills aren't good for your wallet, and are equally bad for our environment, too. The more we use, the more carbon dioxide is released into our atmosphere, unfortunately by thermal powerplants that supply us our electricity. Not great considering CO₂ is the main culprit behind global warming and climate change! Now that you know, make the change to reduce power consumption in your home. Remember: less power = more savings = better environment!



AIR CONDITIONERS

Where would Malaysians be without our air-conditioners? We love being cool, but these things do consume plenty of electricity when left on for long periods. If you're in the market for a new unit, look for ones with inverter technology which use less power and automatically cools spaces depending on the number of people inside. Now that's intelligent!



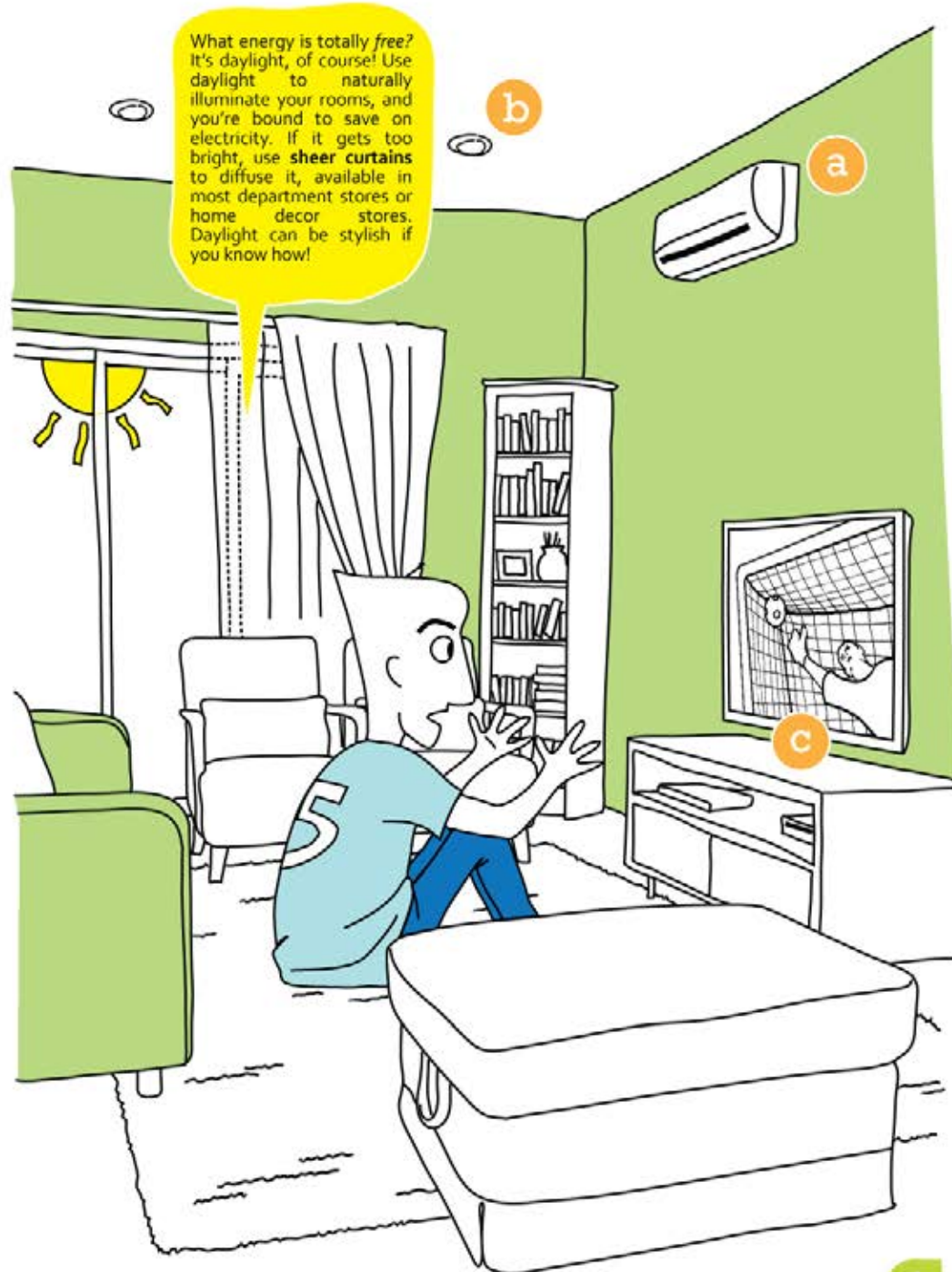
LIGHT BULBS

Why use ordinary incandescent light bulbs when you can use compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) or even LED lamps which are just as bright, consume less electricity, and last several times longer? Many leading manufacturers provide a wide range of quality bulbs to light a variety of rooms and spaces both at home and in the office. Choose between warm or cool tones, screw them into place and enjoy your 'green' light!



TURN OFF THAT SWITCH!

Leaving your TV, DVD player, satellite TV decoder, and home theatre system on standby is an everyday affair, but it doesn't mean they're not consuming power. All those glowing red lights in your extension cord? Wasted electricity. So give our environment a break. When not in use, power down! You can also try getting your hands on an energy-saving extension socket that can power itself off.



What energy is totally free? It's daylight, of course! Use daylight to naturally illuminate your rooms, and you're bound to save on electricity. If it gets too bright, use sheer curtains to diffuse it, available in most department stores or home decor stores. Daylight can be stylish if you know how!

THE GREEN KITCHEN

Did you know kitchens use a lot of power? It's no surprise considering our refrigerators run 24-hours a day. But without them, how do we keep our food fresh and our root beer cold? Luckily, energy efficient fridges are readily available to help us save electricity. We can also pick up in the kitchen the green habit of managing our waste, which accounts for most of the rubbish our condos produce. Imagine your one rubbish bag and multiply that by the number of units in your block. That's a lot of bags, isn't it? And that's just *one day!* Do we really want to enlarge our landfills and pollute our environment? Separate before you throw. That's what green living's all about!



REFRIGERATORS

When buying a new refrigerator, look for energy efficient models that fit your green condo lifestyle. It's not that difficult, thanks to the 5-Star energy label scheme which certifies a fridge as energy efficient.

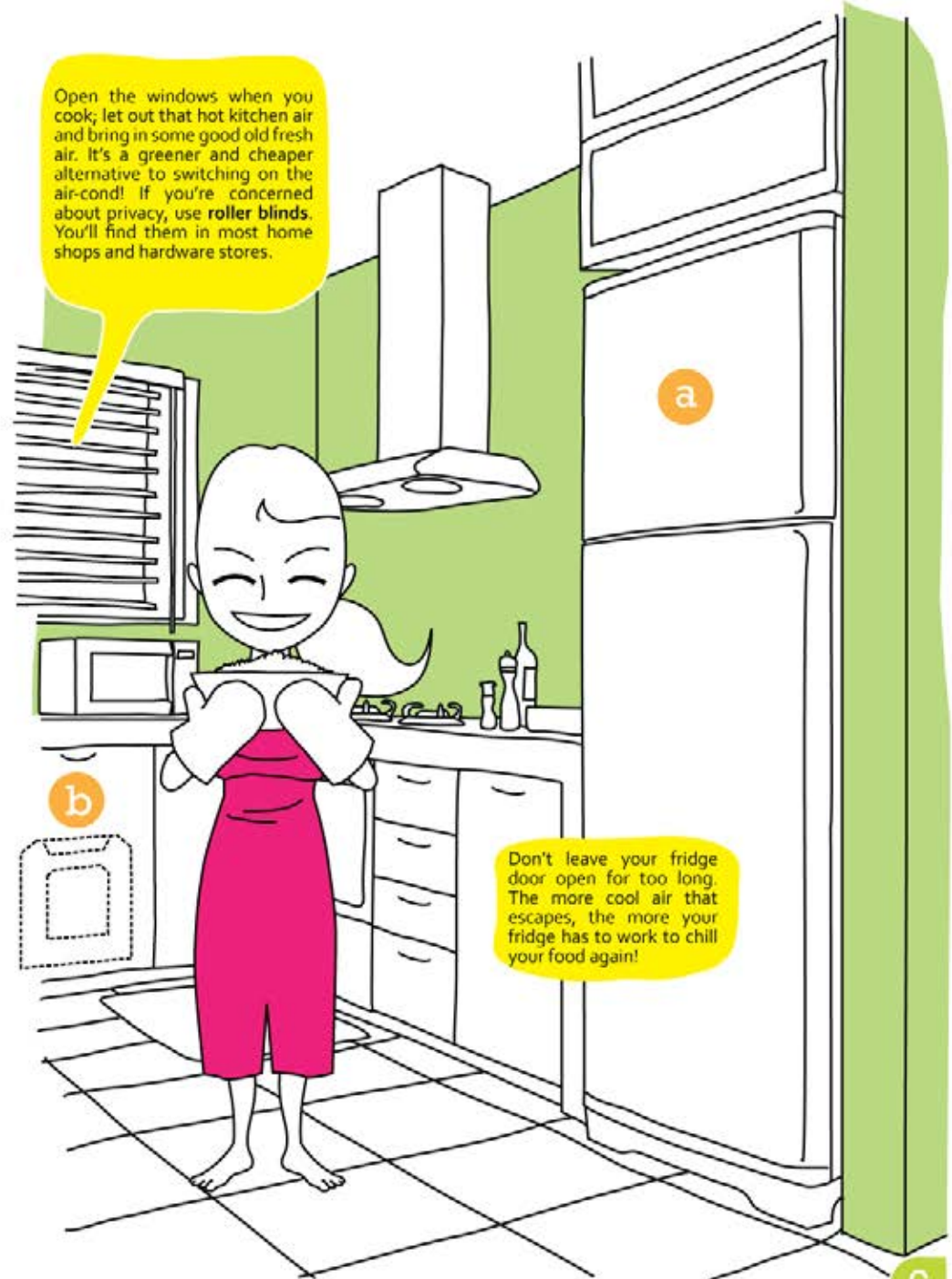
Choose a fridge you can easily stock and that meets your household's level of food consumption. An empty fridge wastes more power than a filled one, as its cooling program starts more frequently.



WASTE SEPARATION

In order to manage our kitchen waste, we have to separate them for recycling. You can do this by not mixing your organic waste (like chicken skin, vegetables off-cuts, banana peels, etc) with other dry items such as paper packaging or plastic wraps. You can use different bins to do the job, or use built-in waste separators made by specialists which can be fitted under your kitchen counter. Once you're done separating, recycling your waste is a piece of cake!

See *Recycle What?* on page 8 for more info on recycling in your condo!



OUR PRECIOUS WATER

What would we do without water? With more than 55% of our bodies made up of the stuff, it's obvious we can't live without it. We use it practically for everything, yet an endless supply we certainly don't possess. At times, we are guilty for taking for granted this precious commodity. How many times have you left the tap running, or postponed fixing the leaks around your condo unit? To live green, we have to be efficient with how we use water and reduce its wastage. Some of your habits may have to change, but look on the positive side. You're getting a lower water bill every month!



BASIN TAPS

Getting your first water efficient basin tap is easy. Just look for taps with a consumption of between 4 to 6 litres per minute. As a guide, that's generally a good minimum rate. 2 to 4 is of course better, and if you really want to be super efficient (and super green) go for anything under 2. Several brands produce these so finding something that suits you isn't going to be a problem. You'll be spoiled for choice!



SHOWER TAPS & MIXERS

Who says you can't have a nice hot shower and be water efficient at the same time? Shower taps and mixers are rated just like basin taps though on a different level on consumption. 7 to 9 litres per minute is good, while fittings dispensing under 5 litres is irrefutably excellent.

BAFFLED BY NUMBERS? HERE'S A SUMMARY

| Item | Rating | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| | Good | Great | Excellent |
| Basin tap | 4-6 L/m* | 2-4 L/m | ≤2 L/m |
| Shower tap & mixer | 7-9 L/m | 5-7 L/m | ≤5 L/m |
| Dual flush cistern | 4-4.5 L/f** | 3.5-4.5 L/f | ≤3.5 L/f |

* Litres per minute ** Litres per flush
Adapted from Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme, PUB, Singapore



LOW CAPACITY DUAL FLUSHING CISTERNS

Water efficiency of cisterns can be graded, too, with the best flush rate being under 3 litres per flush. Be sure to get a dual flush cistern which comes with two buttons (see picture below) which is available from suppliers. Teach your kids to press the small button for 'small business', and pretty soon you'll have the whole family flushing smart.

Dual flush buttons



RECYCLE WHAT?

As explained earlier, the garbage that comes out from our condos go to dumpsites. Since most of the stuff we throw, like plastic bags and bottles, aren't biodegradable and contain harmful substances, it is no wonder that landfills pollute our environment. Nevertheless, we can still do our part as a community of condo dwellers, so what better way to bring homeowners and tenants together than an in-house recycling programme? Here are some simple tips on how everyone can turn their common refuse chamber into a recycling hotspot!



DRY SHELVING

Making a refuse chamber recycle-friendly couldn't be easier with the help of shelving. These additions are handy for placing dry items such as old newspapers, magazines and glass bottles and jars, thus keeping them away from the occasionally wet floor. Once in place, disposing stuff becomes simple, for you and the cleaner. Shelves can be custom-made to maximise available wall space, or can be purchased off-the-shelf from your local hardware store.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Normally, cleaners engaged by management collect rubbish from every floor and transfer them to a centralised collection area where waste disposal trucks can pick them up. An in-house recycling programme on the other hand may involve several parties, ranging from a paper recycling contractor to a scrap metal collector. Once the programme is established, the management body will go about finding recyclers that are right for your condo development. The beauty of it is the transformation of our waste into something useful instead of ending up in a landfill. When the environment wins, everybody wins!



RECYCLE BINS

From lids and wheels to holes with flaps, bins have been around for ages and whose sole purpose is to hold our rubbish. So is a recycle bin any different from the regular kind? Technically, no. But when you have two to three bins collecting separate types of waste, that's when they become recycle bins. Start by having one bin dedicated to organic waste. A second can be used for plastics, and the third paper or metal. Bins should be clearly labelled so everyone knows what goes where. When rubbish gets this organised, you'll be wondering why no one thought of this in the first place!

For more info on recyclers, visit the Green Impressions Facebook page at www.facebook.com/green-impressions



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