

Landscaping to Save Money

Why Should I Do This?

Landscaping the area around your home with the right trees can help save you money by increasing the efficiency of your home. By properly planting trees around your home, you can achieve efficiency from the protection they provide from wind and shade and cool air they provide as well. In addition, planting trees can improve the appearance of your home and help the environment.

What type(s) of trees should I plant?

By using trees that lose all of their leaves each fall (deciduous trees) and regrow leaves in the summer, your tree can work for you in helping you save money. In the summer, the leaves will shade the home and in the winter, the “leafless” winter tree will allow sunlight to shine through it helping warm the home. Placing trees where they can shade homes, paved areas, and air conditioning units will help save you money. In addition, as water evaporates from the leaf surfaces, they also help cool the air around your home.

Where should I plant them?

Deciduous trees will shade east-facing walls and windows in the mornings and west-facing walls in the evening. Trees that will mature to heights of at least 25 feet should be planted between 10 and 20 feet from the home. Late afternoon and early morning shade can be accomplished by planting smaller deciduous and evergreen trees northwest and northeast of the building.

Both large and small evergreen trees and shrubs save energy by forming a barrier against cold winds in the winter. They can also provide shade, but since their branches are often near the ground, their shade is most effective when the sun is not directly overhead.

ENERGY SAVING TIP



- Until your trees grow or mature, you might consider solar screens, window films or awnings to control the direct sunlight coming through your windows.
- Planting the proper trees in front of windows and shading pavement as well as air conditioners can help save money.

SAFETY TIPS



- When selecting trees, make sure to consider their future size so as not to interfere with nearby power lines, sidewalks and your home. Seek the advice of a local plant nursery, greenhouse or arborist to help you select the trees most suitable for your area and application.
- Be sure to call before you dig by dialing 811 to have underground services located.

