

AS SEEN IN SOUTH JERSEYTM MAGAZINE



Around the House

Home improvement time?

What you should know
before you start shelling out
the big bucks.

EXTERIOR

How can landscaping cut my energy bill?

There are a couple ways landscaping can reduce a home's energy cost. However, first you must understand the orientation of your house in regard to the path of the sun in the sky. Mid to late summer months produce the hottest late afternoons, with the sun shining from the south/southwest direction. Properly positioned shade trees will help block the hot afternoon sun from shining in the windows. In the winter, these same trees are defoliated and allow the sun to shine through the windows, heating up rooms. In addition, lawn areas and garden beds along the foundation provide a cooling effect by absorbing heat rather than hard surfaces that retain and reflect heat. Also, with proper planning and your desired needs, the use of native plant material and synthetic turfs will cut down on water usage. —Mark DelPrato, Landscape Designer, Young's Landscape Management, Inc. in Moorestown