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BANG FOR THE BITE



If 10,000 Biters plant shade trees on the two sunniest sides of their houses, once they're grown, we'll avert the CO2 created by 280 houses in a year, every year.

COCKTAIL FACT



In ancient Rome, rich residents cooled their houses by circulating aqueduct water through their walls.

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home - cool hand biter

Jun 29, 2009

KEEPING COOL

Cool Hand Biter

The Bite:

Feel like a prisoner to your summer utility bill? Make like Paul Newman and fight...inefficient A/C, that is. Houses lose up to 50% of their A/C and heating energy through windows, but tricks such as planting shade trees and window treatments help keep you cool. A sweet escape from energy waste.



The Benefits:

- Savings the Boss'll love. Strategically placed shade trees help naturally cool your house, and treatments like window films cut your household energy use by up to 10%.
- Cool CO2 savings. Less A/C = less power = less pollution from power plants.
- Bringing your valuables outta hiding. Keeping out heat and UV rays from the sun means you don't have to worry about your furniture or artwork fading.

Personally Speaking:

Life at the Biter offices would be a whole lot sweeter without window films (see below) - especially when the A/C goes out, which happened with unwelcome regularity last summer.

Wanna Try:

- Try putting adhesive, tinted window films on your windows. Films from companies like [Panorama](#) keep out solar heat and UV radiation while still letting in light (prices vary).
- Plant a shade tree. Check [Lowe's](#) for advice on the best types of trees to plant for shade (hazelnut trees are a sure bet); and where to plant them for max shade in summer and sun in winter. Bonus: Trees eat up CO2.
- Get window shades. Some, including [Hunter Green](#), reduce the amount of cool air you lose through windows (\$190/typical 60- by-42-inch shade).
- Install awnings. Again, check [Lowe's](#) (or any home improvement store) for tons of styles, including metal or fabric; manual or motorized retractable; and window, door, or patio awnings (prices vary).
- [Energy Star](#) - find federal tax rebates for window treatments.



When planting shade trees near your home, choose trees that naturally grow in your area. Many popular domestic plants and trees are probably not native to your area and pose a threat to the survival of native species. Check your local botanical garden for a list of native trees in your region.

Posted by: Tara L | June 29, 2009 at 07:56 AM

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