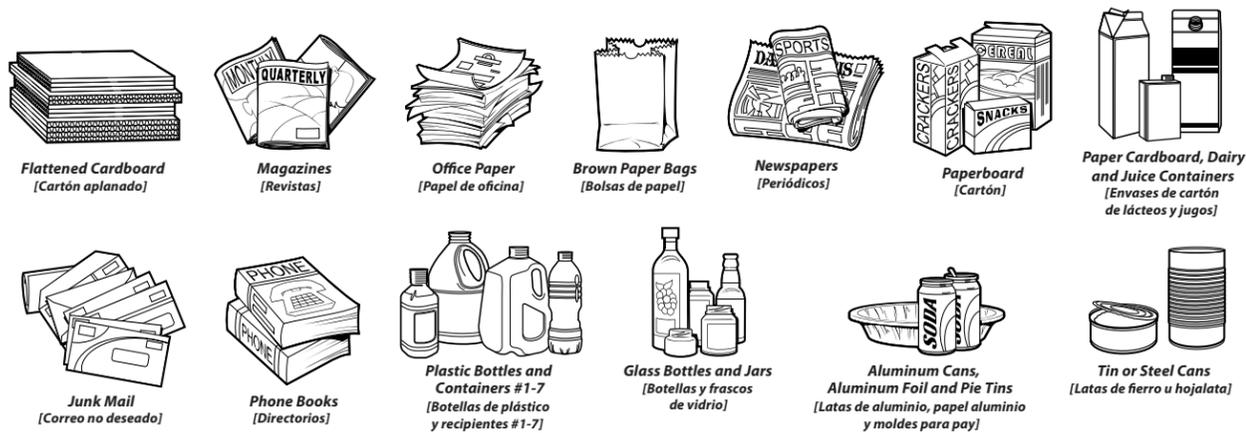


Recycling Guide



Do not include food waste, films, plastic bags, plastic wrap, or styrofoam.

Go Green Guide

A Resident Manual for Sustainable Living at Santa Cecilia Apartments



What is LEED for Homes?

Your building is certified under the LEED for Homes program, a voluntary rating system administered by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). USGBC is a non-profit organization that promotes the design and construction of high performance green buildings.

To be certified under LEED for Homes, a home must meet several required green measures and include many additional green features. These are chosen by the builder from a variety of optional credits to earn points. A project must earn a minimum number of credits to achieve certification.

The inclusion of the sustainability features is verified by a third-party, independent LEED for Homes Green Rater and a LEED for Homes provider, who confirm that the required green measures are installed in the home and the performance level of the home meets the program requirements.

For more information on the LEED for Homes program, go to: www.usgbc.org/LEED/homes

If you want to know more about the green features that were built in your building, your property manager has copies of the Project Checklist, Durability Forms and Accountability Forms in the management office.



Welcome to Your Green Home

Your green home in the Santa Cecilia community was designed and constructed to be environmentally friendly. What you might not know is how you use your home is almost as important as the construction. This manual is a resource for getting the most benefit from the sustainable construction of your home.

Why Go Green?

Save Money: The less water & electricity you use, the more money you save.

Be Healthier: Many health conditions are caused or worsened by environmental issues. By being more natural and environmentally-friendly, you can live a healthier life.

Save the Planet: Our Earth's natural resources are limited, and our environment is increasingly becoming fragile due to human impact. When we reduce our impact, we help maintain the planet for ourselves and future generations.

You can do your part to Go Green by saving energy and water, reducing and diverting waste, and making simple, healthy choices in how you live and maintain your home.



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MANAGEMENT

Save Energy

Your home was built to be energy-efficient, with ENERGY STAR appliances and efficient windows, doors, roofing materials and insulation. You can save additional energy and get lower utility bills by doing the following:

Use your programmable thermostat – the property management staff can show you how.

In the summer, close the blinds and in the winter, open the blinds.

Don't block vents with furniture, rugs and boxes.

Avoid using space heaters.

Keep your windows closed most of the time to regulate air temperature. Fresh air will come in through the ducts which are directly vented outside. If you open your windows, turn off the heating / cooling equipment first.

Unplug and turn off small appliances and electronics when not in use and use powerstrips to prevent “phantom loads” from chargers. Turn off lights in rooms when not in use.

Use pots that are the same size as, or larger than, your burners

Use cold or warm settings for laundry.

Reduce Waste

When we reduce, reuse and recycle the things we use, we keep things out of landfills and we reduce the amount of raw materials we are pulling from the planet. Natural and recycled materials were used during the construction of your building, and construction waste was diverted from landfills. You can help reduce your waste further:

Recycle using the storage bins and recycling drop-off areas. See the back page for a recycling guide.

Things like soft plastic bags, clothing, electronics, and household goods, hangers, and electronics can all be recycled by your city, a charity, or local retailer.

Reduce mail by canceling subscriptions you do not use and removing your name from mailing lists.

Use dish towels instead of paper towels, cloth napkins instead of paper napkins, and reusable plates and cups instead of paper plates and cups. Use refillable water bottles.

DON'T THROW AWAY TOXIC ITEMS like Compact Florescent Light (CFL) bulbs, paint, stains, paint thinners, cooking oils, chemicals, batteries, fuel, gas and oil, antifreeze, and pesticides. Find out from property management about how to handle hazardous waste.

Save Water

Your home was built to be water-efficient, with lower-flow faucets and showerheads, low-flush toilets, and ENERGY STAR appliances that use less water. In addition, the landscaping in your community requires less irrigation or no irrigation at all. You can help to conserve water resources further with the following actions:

Run your dishwasher only when it's full, and skip the dishwasher pre-rinse and drying cycles.

Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or lathering soap.

Limit showers to 5-10 minutes – turn off the shower while you are shaving. Don't run the shower for a long time to “heat up” the water.

Wash your clothes in cold water only when the machine is full.

Request that property management maintenance fix anything leaking or broken.

Healthy Living

How we live and the choices we make can affect our health and wellbeing - choices like how we clean, whether we are smokers, and how we reduce allergens. Your green home also has built-in features to help you live a healthier life, like washable hard surfaces, paints and sealants that emit fewer chemicals, well-lit stairwells, and mold-proof shower walls. Here are some additional things you can do:

Keep a clean house to avoid unwanted pests like cockroaches, mice, and ants and to reduce allergens.

Use “green” cleaning products that contain little to no scents or chemical odors.

Vacuum floors, rugs, couches, mattresses and window treatments weekly and wash bed-sheets weekly to reduce dust and allergen accumulation.

Santa Ceclia is a smoke-free community. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the property.

Turn on your range hood fan when cooking.

Eat as well as you can. Shop at your local farmers market or grocery store, reduce fried foods, and increase fresh vegetables and fruit.

Take public transit, bike, or walk when you can. If you do drive, avoid idling or parking the car with the engine on. Consider carpooling.

To avoid mold or mildew growth, do not allow wet towels or clothes to pile up, wipe down counters regularly, remove mold as soon as it is seen, do not block airflow from ducts and vents, turn on your vent when using the shower, and clean up any liquid spills. Contact property management if you suspect you have mold.