

domicile



Although environmentally friendly products have been around for years, there was not a huge selection of items available across the board for consumers. Today, however, shoppers can find a plethora of merchandise to fit their lifestyle without harming the great outdoors. These include beauty, cleaning and pet goods as well as building materials, bed linens and more. Now you can add home décor to that list. Using a variety of renewable, sustainable and natural materials, manufacturers are creating a wealth of beautiful products for decorating any space.

While many consumers know that furniture can be found constructed of bamboo and other sustainable woods, they don't realize how many other materials constitute "green" products. These include hemp, wool, organic cotton, recycled glass and more. "There are many natural fabrics on the market now that range from naturally derived to 100-percent organic and naturally dyed," says Kent Schneider, co-founder and chief financial officer for Verde Home Inc. "The natural fabrics on the market tend to be woven textures or block prints, but that is changing and more options are arriving every day."

Green Living

With an increasing number of eco-friendly home décor items in the marketplace today, you can dress up your favorite rooms without desecrating the environment.

One company with an "eco" focus is Amenity, known for producing unique hemp pillows. While the exteriors are constructed of an organic cotton and hemp blend, the inserts are composed of either high-quality fibers made from recycled plastic bottles or the natural, downy fiber that comes from the seed pods of the kapok tree—a sustainable, pesticide-free, hypoallergenic product.

Another natural fabric that many consumers tend to overlook is wool, possibly because it has been a constant in the marketplace for decades. Because it is shorn from sheep annually, wool is one of the easily renewable materials available today. Furthermore, it is durable, biodegradable, non-allergenic, fire-retardant, water-repellent, and mildew- and mold-resistant. Therefore, it makes an ideal material for making eco-friendly items such as Angela Adams' area rugs.

Put together the perfect flower arrangement using these **jewel-tone bottle vases** by **VIVATERRA**. Manufacture from recycled bottles, each frosted glass vase adds a subtle hue to enhance an décor. \$39-\$165, vivaterra.com

Recycled glass also is showing up more frequently in home décor items. For example, VivaTerra features a selection of products, including vases and lamps, produced with recycled glass. Also "green," all of Fire and Light's dinnerware and giftware collections are made of more than 91 percent recycled glass.

Even though more and more home décor items are kind to the environment, thanks to renewable, sustainable and natural materials, some shoppers still feel that these items may carry too costly a price tag. However, that is not always the case. "Eco products can be slightly more expensive—by about 10 percent, though not always—but my experience has been that they are more expensive, quite often, because they are made more soundly," Schneider says. "I expect that going forward we will see the premium paid for the materials drop—in fact, it has been—but the quality premium is intrinsic to what makes it green."

For home décor that is both "green" and affordable, look into JCPenney's Kennedy bamboo grommet-top panels. Priced from \$40 to \$50 per panel, these window treatments go easy on both the environment and your budget. Who wouldn't go for that? —KARON WARREN

Add a punch of pizzazz to your couch or chairs with these **hemp pillows** from **AMENITY**. Made from organic cotton blended with hemp, they come in three sizes to accent any décor. Plus, they come with one of two sustainable inserts, so you can be sure they are eco-friendly inside and out. \$79-\$125, Le Creatif.

Add a burst of color to any table with **FIRE AND LIGHT'S hand-poured colored glass tea light candleholders**. Constructed of more than 91 percent recycled glass, these exquisite creations provide an elegant touch to any setting. Price upon request, Raiford Gallery.



Add the finishing touch to your room décor with a **vibrant area rug** by **ANGELA ADAMS**. Created with 100-percent New Zealand wool and available in six sizes, each rug—such as the Lulu/Pool shown here—is naturally durable, stain-resistant and flame-retardant. Prices start at \$349, Design Within Reach.

Natural bamboo has never looked better than it does on these **grommet-top panels** from **JCPENNEY**. Available in two different lengths, these affordable window treatments provide the right blend of natural light and desired privacy. \$40-\$50 each, JCPenney.