

## Energy Saving Tips - Landscaping



*On average, landscaping for energy efficiency provides enough savings to return an initial investment in less than 8 years. If you were already planning to landscape, these tips provide an ideal way to beautify your home while saving on your energy bill.*

**1.** Plant trees to shade your home, reducing your cooling costs in the summer months. Typically, newly planted trees will begin shading windows in their first year and your roof in years 5-10.

**2.** Planting shrubs, bushes, and vines next to your house creates dead air spaces that insulate your home in both winter and summer. Plant so there will be at least 1 foot (30 centimeters) of space between full-grown plants and your home's wall.

**3.** Shrubs or small trees can be used to shade split air conditioning or heat pump equipment that sits outside. This will improve the performance of the equipment. For good airflow and access, plants should not be closer than 3 feet to the compressor.

**4.** When trees are young and not providing much shade, vines can be used to provide shading on walls and windows. Trellises placed close to the walls can be used to support vine growth without touching the wall. In winter, these will also reduce heat-losses from exposed walls.

**5.** Remember to select trees and plants with non-invasive root systems if you are planting them near the house - there are many different types of trees, vines, evergreens and hedges that can be useful for shading, privacy and wind breaks.

**6.** Water your plants in the early morning or at night when evaporation rates are low. This also provides plants with water before mid-day when the evaporation rate is the highest.

**7.** Avoid allowing dense foliage to grow immediately next to a home where wetness or continual humidity are problems. Well-landscaped homes in wet areas allow winds to flow around the home, keeping the home and its surrounding soil reasonably dry.

**8.** Use a drip irrigation system to water your plants. By placing drippers and sprinklers close to the roots and in the shade of leaves, your plants will take up more water, the soil will remain moist and evaporation will be lower - saving water.

### *About Calleja*

*Founded in 1925, Calleja pioneered many supply, turnkey and consultancy methods that are now standards in the electrical supplies industry. Partnering with clients, Calleja delivers electrical expertise, resources and products dedicated to enhancing the success of its customers. With a product range of over 13,000 electrical products, representing the industry's leading brands, all housed in a floor area of over 5000 square metres, the company continues to set the benchmark by which this sector is measured in Malta.*

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