

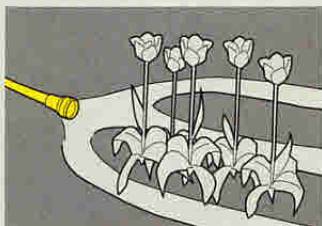
# How To:

## Turn Your Gray Water Green

A WASHING MACHINE IS THE BEST SOURCE OF RECYCLED HOUSEHOLD WATER FOR THE GARDEN. GRAY-WATER-RECYCLING PIONEER ART LUDWIG SAYS MOST PLANTS LOVE THE EXTRA NUTRIENTS FROM THE RINSE CYCLE. DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH YOU WATER AND HOW OFTEN YOU WASH, YOU COULD KNOCK HUNDREDS OF GALLONS OFF YOUR ANNUAL BILL FOR THE CLEAR WET STUFF. — BOB PARKS



**1.** Snake the drain hose from the washer through the dryer vent to a 30-gallon plastic drum outside the house. At the base of the drum, drill a hole to fit an adapter so you can connect a garden hose. The bucket won't fill up; it just buffers the hot water surges from your machine.



**2.** Run a hose from the drum to the areas of your garden that need water, letting the nozzle spill through 10-inch-deep moats of mulchy leaves and bark. Stick to ornamental flowers and fruit trees — using wash water directly on veggies is dicey.

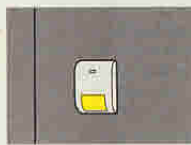


**3.** Switch to a liquid detergent like AlfaKleen or Ecover to pamper your newly flourishing fruit trees.

### HOW TO:

## Install Automatic Lights

OCCUPANCY SENSORS FLICK ON THE LIGHTS WHEN PEOPLE ENTER A ROOM (AND OFF WHEN THEY LEAVE). IT'S NOT THE KIND OF HOME AUTOMATION THAT COOKS YOU DINNER WHILE YOU'RE DRIVING HOME, BUT IT'S GOOD FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS, AND IT COULD SAVE YOU A FEW BUCKS A WEEK (HEY, THAT'S ALMOST A LATTE). — BOB PARKS



**1.** Don't buy an ultrasonic setup unless you have plans for a cube farm; get an off-the-shelf passive infrared system (from \$15). Install it near the door.



**2.** As you move through the door and into the room, the infrared sensor will respond to your body heat and turn the lights on.



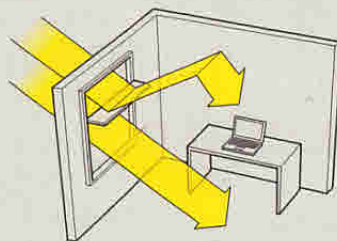
**3.** As long as you stick around (and stay alive), the lights will remain lit. Set the shutoff timer to kill the lights just seconds after you leave for maximum savings.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID S. ALLEE

### HOW TO:

## Deflect the Glare

A HOME OFFICE THAT FACES SOUTH IS A MIXED BLESSING: YOU WANT THE NATURAL LIGHT, BUT THE RAYS ARE HARSH ON YOUR SCREEN. CUT THE GLARE BY INSTALLING LIGHT SHELVES. THESE PLATFORMS MOUNT ON THE INSIDE CASING OF A WINDOW AND REFLECT BEAMS TOWARD THE CEILING, CREATING INDIRECT GLOW. — B.P.



**1.** Make a light shelf the width of your window from specialty construction plywood and paint it white.

**2.** Affix a mirror or piece of polished, galvanized steel to the top surface. Steel provides more even illumination. Watch out for areas of intense heat — over time they can burn.

**3.** Paint your ceiling white, all the better for photons to bounce around your workspace.

**4.** Hinges are a helpful option, letting you drop the shelf when the summer heat becomes too great. Why save on lighting only to pay more on cooling?