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**GARDEN PEST
PROFILES**
(and Natural Ways to Get Rid of Them)

one THING

If you can only do one thing to boost your sustainability ...



COURTESY MICHELLE ANDERSON

The place we choose to call home is probably the single greatest way we can directly affect our impact on the environment. Whether you prefer an apartment in a multistory high-rise or a detached house in a suburban neighborhood, minor details can have a significant impact on the energy efficiency of your home.

My family's home is oriented with the longest face toward the southern exposure and minimal windows on the east and west ends, where the sunlight is difficult to control. With carefully designed roof overhangs, we are able to let the sun into the house in the winter to light and heat the rooms and block it in the summer to reduce the need for cooling.

Being able to garden and raise our own food is also important to us, so we made sure the house, other buildings and large trees don't shade too much of the property. We've selected low-water plants, kept the lawn to a reasonable size, and installed drip irrigation for our landscaping and garden. When we remodeled our home, we selected energy-efficient windows and doors, carefully sealed cracks to make the home more airtight, and selected interior finishes that are non-toxic and durable.

— Seth Anderson, licensed architect in Oregon and Washington, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional. Anderson specializes in sustainable building practices and building-enclosure technology. He and his wife live on a small acreage in Bend, Ore. **uf**

