



How to make houses more comfortable and cheaper to run

#	What?	Why?
1.	Run the long axis of the house east-west	Optimises solar orientation
2.	Have a light coloured (off white) roof	Reflects heat and lowers house temperature
3.	Install large northern windows	Allows in heat during the winter
4.	Include 500mm eaves	Keeps sun off windows in summer
5.	No western windows	Western sun is strongest and overheats the house in summer
6.	Insulate all walls (external and internal), ceilings, and floors	Reduces heating and cooling requirements and will be quieter
7.	Double glazed windows	Reduces heat escape and noise
8.	Reverse cycle air conditioners	Most energy efficient way to warm and cool the house
9.	5 - 6kw solar system on the roof	Power saving when panels face east, north and west
10.	External awning on eastern windows	Reduces the full force of heat from morning sun
11.	Thermally backed curtains and pelmets	Reduces both: heat loss in winter, and heat gain in summer
12.	LED lights	Avoid down lights as they compromise ceiling insulation
13.	Induction stoves	Uses less electricity and very safe (switches off if the pan has been removed)
14.	Water saving shower heads and taps	Reduces water and energy consumption
15.	Grey water recycling	Saves water
16.	Rainwater tanks	Saves water
17.	Deciduous trees near the house	Offers shading in summer & facilitates solar access in winter