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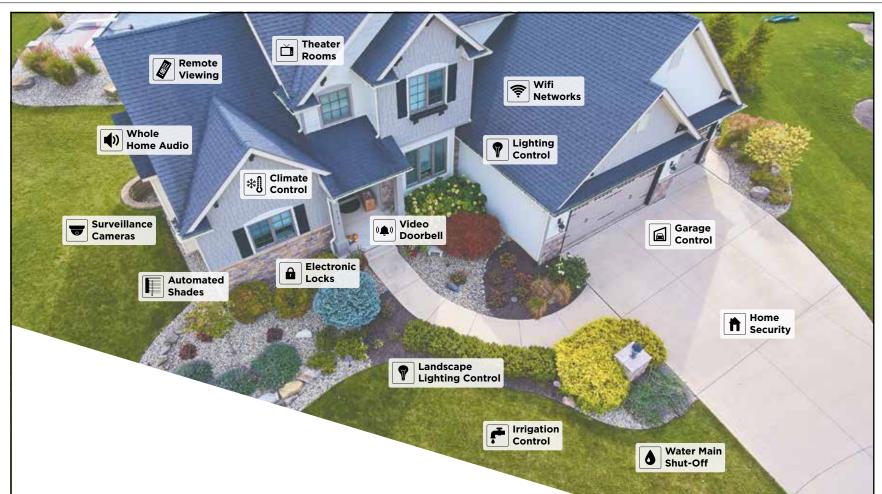








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©2022 THE NEWS-REGISTER
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

PO BOX 727 MCMINNVILLE, OR 97128 NEWSREGISTER.COM

PRINTED BY
OREGON LITHOPRINT, INC.
OREGONLITHO.COM

SUBSCRIPTIONS
CONNIE CRAFTON 503.687.1236

ROOTS TO ROOFS IS A SPECIAL SECTION OF THE NEWS-REGISTER ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT



ROOTS^{TO}**ROOFS**

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5 ways to enjoy and preserve your harvest

Did you pick your fill of fruits and vegetables from local growers, get carried away at the farmers' market or harvest plenty of veggies from your garden? Here are five ways to reduce waste and enjoy your bounty all year long.

- 1. **Pies.** Use apples, plums, blackberries, pears and pumpkins to make delectable pies. Store them in the freezer for several weeks.
- 2. Jams. Nearly any fruit can be made into jam. In addition to being spread on toast, you can use your jams to brighten up baked goods like cakes, cookies and buns.
- 3. Pickles. Pickle beets, radishes, peppers, cucumbers and other tasty vegetables to create a tangy side dish.
- 4. Soups and broths. Vegetables like squash, onions, leeks and cauliflower are the perfect addition to soups and broths. Make a big batch and defrost it whenever you want.
- 5. Dried fruits and vegetables. Dried strawberries, apples, tomatoes, carrots and kale have a long shelf life. They can be used in various recipes, including sangrias, salad dressings and sauces.



Decorating tips: welcome fall into your home



Do you want your home to exude the warmth other natural elements are ideal for creating of the blazing fall leaves? Here are a few tips to welcome nature into your home this autumn.

FOCUS ON TEXTILES

Textured fabrics are a great way to add a touch of fall color to your decor on a budget. Heavy curtains and plush wool throws have a perately lack sunlight and can be used to soothing effect. Moreover, table runners, napkins and cushion covers in varying shades of red, brown, orange and yellow instantly create an inviting atmosphere.

INCORPORATE NATURAL ELEMENTS

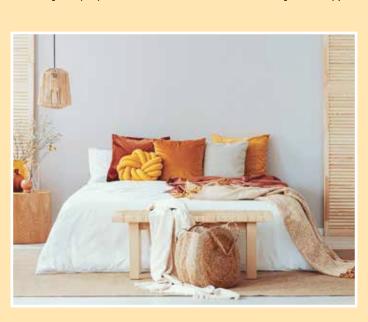
Pinecones, gourds, pumpkins, tree leaves and

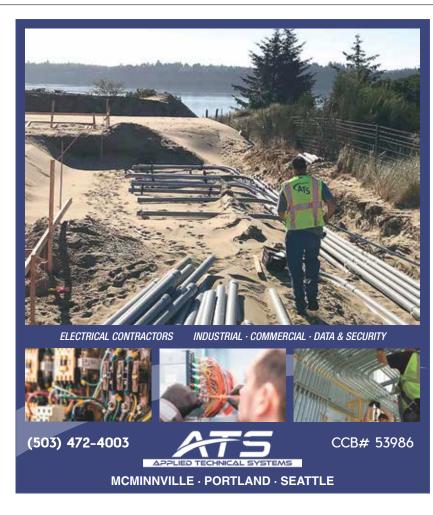
seasonal centerpieces and wreaths.

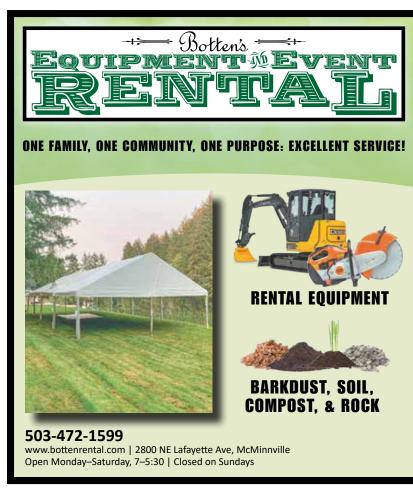
MAXIMIZE THE LIGHT

As the days get shorter, create a cozy atmosphere by installing string lights. These twinkling bulbs can brighten up rooms that desshowcase your banister or mantel. Decorative metallic objects are also great for reflecting natural light and making your space feel

Lastly, scatter scented candles around your home and let their soothing scent envelop you.







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Lawn care: must-do fall chores

In the fall, you need to do several things to prepare your yard **VEGETABLE GARDEN** for the cold winter weather and ensure green and lush growth come spring. Here's what you need to know.

HEDGES AND SHRUBS

Cut away leaves and prune stems and branches so the hedge can breathe and absorb more light. You should also cut back shrubs when they begin turning yellow or their stems start

FLOWERS AND VINES

Bring potted plants inside and use burlap to cover plants that don't handle the extreme cold. Dig up non-hardy bulbs like dahlias and cannas and store them inside. Thin out your perennials and protect the roots by applying a generous layer of mulch. If you want a colorful garden come spring, plant tulips, crocuses, daffodils and other hardy bulbs.

After your last harvest, compost your plants and till the soil. Fall is also the ideal time to plant certain vegetables, like garlic, leeks and Egyptian onions.

Rake up dead leaves and mow your lawn to a height of at least five centimeters to promote light absorption and weed resistance. You can also use a potassiumrich fertilizer that's low in nitrogen to strengthen the lawn.

Finally, turn off your outdoor water taps and drain any garden hoses. If necessary, remove the pumps from your pond.



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12 outings to make the most of fall

Are you looking for activities to brighten up your fall evenings and weekends? Here are some seasonal suggestions.

- 1. Pick local fruits or vegetables like apples, pears, pumpkins and plums 2. Attend a seasonal festival
- 3. Watch migratory birds
- 4. Visit a vineyard to enjoy a wine tasting or participate in the grape harvest 5. Plan a stay on the coast to take in the
- natural beauty of fall

- 6. Admire an outdoor exhibition in a local
- 7. Explore a nearby corn maze for hours of family-friendly fun
- 8. Go to a farmers' market and stock up on delicious vegetables for your preserves 9. Take in a show
- 10. Stargaze late into the night
- 11. Watch a movie at the drive-in before the end of the season
- 12. Participate in Halloween themed activities like haunted houses and ghost tours



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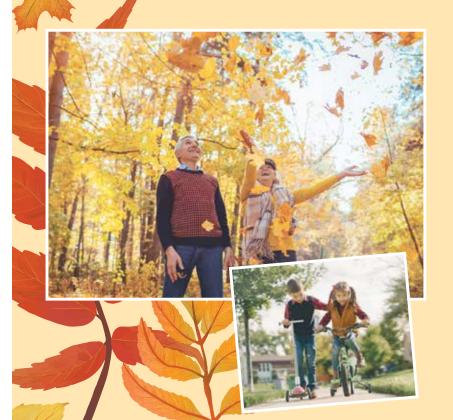
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10 activities to enjoy the fall colors

The cool fall weather brings out a brilliant display of brightly colored leaves. Here are 10 activities to make the most of this short-lived season.

- **Hiking.** Take a walk in the forest or climb a mountain to observe nature in all its splen-
- Biking. Ride along bike paths in enchanting locations and admire the majestic multicolored trees as they pass by.
- Kayaking. Waterways are often lined with trees and offer unique views of the beauty
- 4. **Picnic.** Enjoy the season's warm colors with a delicious meal in the open air.
- 5. **Camping.** Deep in the woods, the beauty of the rising or setting sun will make your environment shine.

- 6. Aerial trekking. Observe beautiful red, orange and yellow leaves up close by climbing or ziplining through the trees.
- Spa. Unwind in an outdoor bath and take in the breathtaking scenery. Rejuvenation gua-
- 8. **Driving.** Enjoy a leisurely drive along picturesque country roads or take a drive to the
- 9. Flying in a plane or helicopter. Discover fall like never before from high in the air.
- 10. Rock dimbing. Contemplate the glorious fall panoramas as you dangle from a rock face at dizzying heights.

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Roasted Pumpkin Hummus

If you love hummus, this creamy combination of chickpeas and roasted pumpkin is sure to become a seasonal favorite.

Start to finish: 50 minutes (10 minutes active) Servings: 6

Ingredients

- 1 small pumpkin (about 500 grams), peeled, seeded and diced
- 6 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 garlic bulb
 1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed (save some of the liquid)
- 2 tablespoons tahini
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 pinch of salt1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon sesame seeds
- 1/4 cup Italian parsley, finely chopped

Directions

- 1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. In a large bowl, combine the pumpkin, 2 tablespoons of olive oil and the ground coriander. Toss until the pumpkin pieces are well coated. Spread evenly on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Cut off the pointed end of the garlic bulb to expose the tops of the cloves. Place the bulb on the baking sheet. Bake for 30 minutes.
- Remove the pumpkin and garlic from the oven and let cool for about 15 minutes. Hold the garlic bulb at the base, turn it upside down and squeeze out the roasted cloves. Place the garlic, pumpkin, 3 tablespoons of olive oil, chickpeas, tahini, maple syrup, lemon juice and salt in a blender. Blend until the mixture is a uniform purée. Add seasoning and adjust the consistency with the chickpea liquid as needed.



Ratatouille

Have you harvested lots of delicious vegetables from your garden or stocked up on produce at your local farmers' market?

Whip up this fall classic and get ready to enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

Servings: 6

- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 5 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 orange bell pepper, finely diced1 yellow bell pepper, finely diced
- 1 can of diced tomatoes
- 10 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped
- 2 yellow zucchinis, cut into thin slices
- 2 green zucchinis, cut into thin slices2 eggplants,
- cut into thin slices
 4 Roma tomatoes,
- cut into thin slices2 tablespoons fresh Italian parsley, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons fresh thyme, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons fresh oregano, finely chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 375 F. In a large ovensafe pan, sauté the onion and 4 cloves of garlic in half the olive oil. When the onion is translucent, add the peppers and continue cooking for about 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add the diced tomatoes and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for about 5 minutes, crushing the tomatoes with the back of a wooden spoon to create a smooth sauce. Season the sauce with half the basil.
- 2. In the same pan, lay the vegetable slices flat, alternating to create a spiral.
- Coat them with remaining olive oil, basil, last garlic clove, parsley, thyme and oregano. Season with salt and pepper.
- 4. Cover the pan with a lid or aluminum foil. Place in the oven for 40 minutes, then uncover and continue cooking for another 20 minutes.



Mini pumpkin pancakes

These spiced mini pancakes will start your day off right.

INGREDIENTS

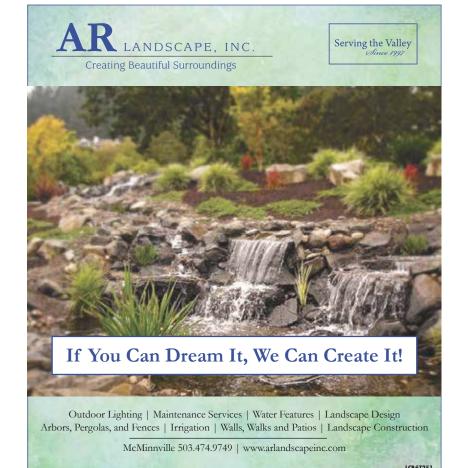
Yield: 24 mini pancakes

- 1 1/2 cups of milk
- 1 cup pumpkin puree1 egg
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 2 cups of flour
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon allspice1 teaspoon ground
- cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon grated ginger1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar



DIRECTIONS

- Combine the wet ingredients and dry ingredients in separate bowls. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and gently mix until smooth.
- 2. Melt the butter in a non-stick pan. Spoon 2 tablespoons of mixture into the pan per pancake. Cook for about 2 minutes on each side until golden brown.
- 3. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.



Wild mushroom risotto

This refined and comforting Italian dish will delight your guests.



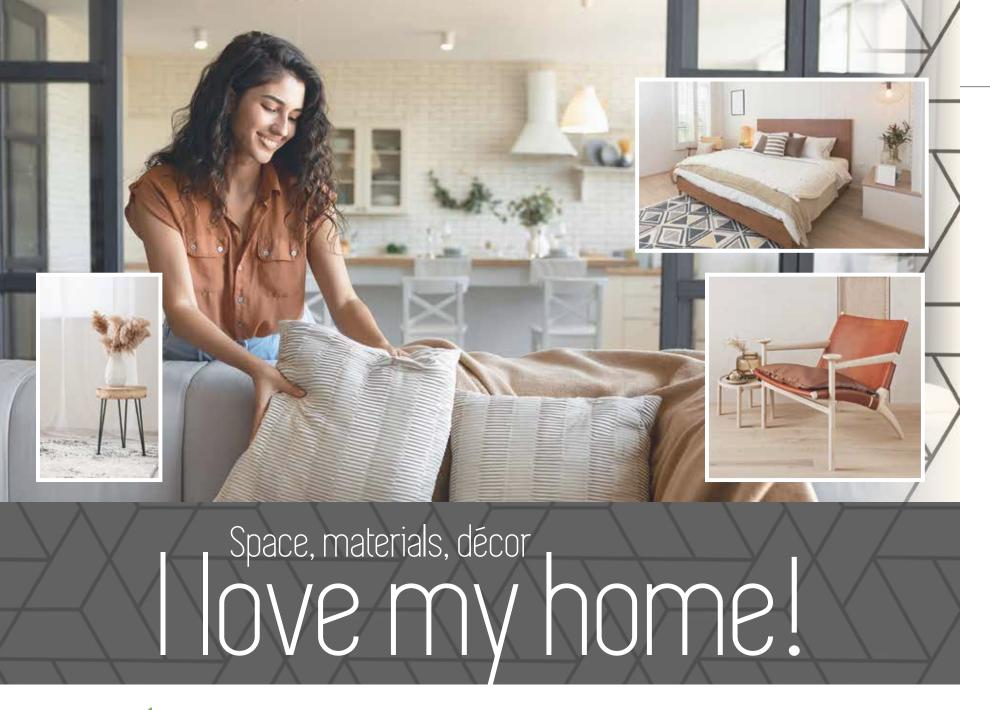
INGREDIENTS Servings: 6

- 15 grams dried wild mushrooms
- 1 cup of hot water
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary 7 cups chicken broth
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 French shallots, finely chopped
- 2 cups arborio rice
- 1 cup of white wine
- 3/4 cup of Parmesan cheeseSalt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

Rehydrate the mushrooms by soaking them in a cup of hot water with a sprig of rosemary for 30 minutes. Remove the mushrooms from the water and dry them on paper towels. Strain the water to remove any debris and the rosemary.

- 2. In a saucepan, combine the chicken broth and mushroom water. Heat until simmering.
- In a large skillet, sauté the French shallots in half the butter until translucent. Add the arborio rice and toss well to coat all the grains.
- 4. Deglaze the pan with the white wine and scrape the bottom with a wooden spoon. Let simmer until almost all the liquid is gone. Reduce the heat and add one ladleful of hot broth at a time, stirring until the liquid is completely absorbed between each addition. Once almost all the broth has been used, taste frequently to ensure the rice is cooked al dente. You may not need to use all the broth.
- Turn off the heat and add the other half of the butter and the Parmesan cheese to the mixture. Add salt and pepper to taste. Mix well. Serve in fancy bowls and garnish with a few sprigs of rosemary.





Clever ways to add storage to your home

If you lack storage in your home, there are many unique ways to utilize your space more efficiently. Here are a few ideas to

- Purchase bags and bins specifically designed to fit underneath your bed. If your bed isn't high enough, you can get bed risers to give you more room.
- Install a cabinet, shelf, or rack if you have an empty wall or door space. You may be surprised at how much you can fit inside.
- Invest in under-cabinet racks that slide conveniently out of the way when not in use. This is a great way to use the space underneath your cabinets and shelves.
- If you're looking for a new entryway bench or coffee table, consider buying one that has hidden storage space inside for odds and ends.
- Did you know your ceiling is a great place to store things? For example, you can install overhead shelves in your kitchen to store various everyday goods.



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4 ways to store your kitchen knives

You use your kitchen knives every day, so having an efficient place to store them is essential for your kitchen design. Here are four methods for storing kitchen knives.

- 1. Under-cabinet block. Some knife blocks come with a swivel and attach underneath your cabinets. Additionally, some under-the-cabinet designs are equipped with a fold-away drawer that separates and organizes your knife set.
- 2. Magnetic wall strips. Storing your knives on a magnetic strip attached to your wall or fridge frees up valuable counter space. Moreover, minimal contact with the blades means your knives will stay sharp.
- 3. Knife blocks. A knife block allows you to keep your knives close to your workstation for easy access. However, repeatedly inserting and removing them from the block can dull the blades.
- 4. Drawer docks. Drawer dock products protect and separate your knives, so you can quickly grab what you need. A drawer dock is an excellent solution if you have young children because it stores sharp knives safely away and out of reach.

Upgrading your kitchen knife storage is easy. Visit your local home renovation store and ask about available products.









How ceiling fans can save you money every season

Ceiling fans are known for keeping your home cool on hot summer days. However, did you know that fans can help keep your house comfortable all year long? They can also help you reduce your energy bills.

SUMMER

A switch on your ceiling fan's central unit allows you to operate it in a clockwise or counterclockwise rotation. Set your ceiling fan to turn counterclockwise during warm months to push air downwards and create a cool breeze.

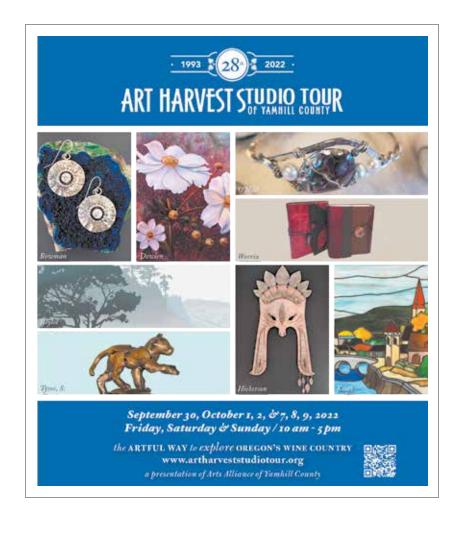
A standard air conditioning (AC) unit uses 3,500 watts of power. On the other hand, a ceiling fan uses just 50. If you use ceiling fans, there are many summer days when you don't need the AC. Ceiling fans also complement your air conditioning. Fans keep air flowing throughout the room and help maintain a constant temperature, so your air conditioner won't operate as much.



WINTER

During winter, change your fan's settings to spin clockwise at a low speed. The fan will redistribute rising warm air from your furnace throughout the room. You can turn your thermostat down and still be comfortable. Moreover, your furnace won't work as hard, saving

Lastly, ensure your fan blades are tilted at 12 degrees to provide sufficient airflow. However, if they're angled at more than 16 degrees, they'll cause too much wind causing loose objects to blow around the room.



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Space, materials, décor

love my home!





Pet-friendly decor ideas

Home decor can be a challenge if you don't want to compromise your pet's happiness and comfort. Here are a few ways to let your furry housemate live its best life while creating a space that's easy on the eyes.

CUSTOM-BUILT PET SPACES

Build pet spaces into your home to replace unattractive, utilitarian store-bought pieces. For example, you can build a sleeping nook for your dog and keep the crate for car journeys. You could also take the unsightly cat tree out of your front window and build in a window seat or a series of cute climbing shelves

FEEDING DRAWERS

Keep your pet's feeding area tidy and clean by installing a sideboard with a floor-level food drawer. The drawer can be designed with cutouts to help hold bowls in place and easily remove them for cleaning. Accompanying cupboards will allow you to keep food, extra dishes and other pet accessories within reach.



PET-LOVING FABRICS

Look for fabrics that are durable and easy to clean. Don't be afraid to use an attractive outdoor upholstery in your living room. Additionally, performance fabrics are available in an increasing variety of colors and textures. Consider taking a design cue from your pet and choosing a color scheme that complements its fur.



How to make your home more pet-centric

Whether you're a new pet owner or have had one for many years, why not try making your home more pleasing to your furry friend? Here are three ways to create a pet-cen-

1. Wash station. If you own a dog, why not create a dedicated area to groom and clean them? A ground-level wash station featuring tiled walls, a vinyl pan base, and a hand-held showerhead will help keep your pet and your house clean.

- **2. Pet door.** Do you want your cat or dog to come and go as it pleases? Fortunately, pet doors have come a long way in recent years. For example, older doors with a simple flap pose a security risk since other animals or heavy rain can also pass through them. Modern ones, in contrast, are electronic and use programmable collars to open only for your pet.
- 3. Pet flooring. Pets can be messy. Rather than get annoyed and frustrated, why not choose floor materials like linoleum, vinyl or stain-resistant carpet that are easy to clean? A small area of radiant-floor heating will also give your pet a welcome place to lie down.

Why you need a combi-boiler in your home

If you need to replace your boiler, you should consider upgrading to a modern combi-boiler system. A combination boiler heats your home and gives you hot water on demand. Here are some of the benefits

- Increased efficiency. More efficient than a conventional water heater that heats a full tank of water whether you need it or not, a combi-boiler can reduce your energy consumption by up to 40 percent.
- · Save valuable space. You don't need a lot of room for a combi-boiler because they're compact. For example, you can install a combi-boiler in an apartment or condo or in the space under the stairs.
- Save money. Modern combi-boilers are less complex than conventional boilers and have fewer pipes to install.

Moreover, combi-boilers are less expensive to install and repair than traditional ones.

- Enjoy unlimited hot water. You'll never run out of hot water because a combi-boiler doesn't have a water tank. Therefore, you can enjoy leisurely showers and hot baths without worrying about having enough water
- There's less maintenance. A combi-boiler doesn't have a water tank to flush and clean. Consequently, you don't have to worry about scheduling maintenance every six months.

If you're moving into a new house or making extensive renovations, it's a perfect time to upgrade your home's heating system. Talk to an expert at your local home renovation center.

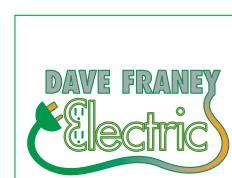


3 reasons to add an island to your kitchen

Islands are increasingly common features in many home kitchens because of their practicality and attractive design. If you don't already have one, here are three reasons you should consider installing an island in your kitchen.

- **1. Multifunctionality.** Kitchen islands are a great way to maximize your space. For example, an island gives you more counter space and can be used to house appliances like a dishwasher or extra sink. Moreover, if you have a small kitchen, you can use the island as a table.
- 2. Sociability. An island creates a focal point for gathering and engaging with friends and family. Instead of preparing food facing the cabinets and windows, you can work at the island while conversing with your quests.
- 3. Modern look. Many modern kitchens feature islands. Consequently, installing one in your home will give your space an updated look, undoubtedly adding value to your home.

If you're thinking about renovating your kitchen, talk to your contractor about adding an island.



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Trendy colors in 2022-23

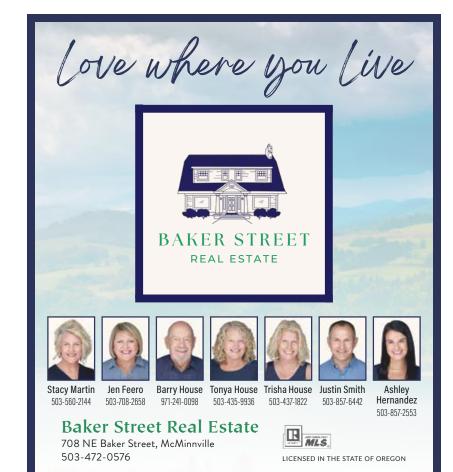
Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of life, and interior decorating trends haven't been immune. The calming color palettes in vogue for residential design reflect a desire for comfort during these unprecedented times. Here are three colors that are leading the way into 2023.

- 1. Natural green. This is the year of green, with brash and bold giving way to calm and subdued. Natural shades of green offer a connection to the natural world and have a grounding effect. Deep hues suggest greater intensity, while light shades convey serenity.
- 2. Sky blue. Alongside earthy greens, homeowners are choosing the naturally inspired energy of sky blue. This color works well on walls and provides a pleasing alternative to stark white.



3. Light brown. Another increasingly popular and organically inspired choice, pale brown hues are calming and serve as a backdrop for bold colors and patterns. Use brown for cabinet accents to bring a sense of cozy calm to your room.

Use your imagination and choose a shade that expresses your personality.





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Should you choose an open or closed floor plan?

Open concept designs have been on trend for many years. However, the recent move towards working from home has led many to rethink their living spaces. This guide will help you decide which style best suits your needs.

OPEN CONCEPT DESIGN

Open floor plans allow you to make the most of a small space, enabling less-restricted movement and optimal light. Choose this design if you:

Have small children. If you need to manage several tasks while keeping an eye on your little ones, an open concept keeps everyone in your line of sight.

Enjoy entertaining. This floor plan allows large groups of people to mingle and move around with ease.

Have accessibility needs. If you have household members or quests who need help with accessibility, an open concept affords adaptability.

Plan to resell. Your resale value may be higher with an open floor plan. Potential buyers appreciate the freedom to adapt a space to their needs.

CLOSED CONCEPT DESIGN

Closed floor plans provide more individual solitude and give you more control over noise and air quality. Choose this design if you:

Need quiet or privacy. If your household has multiple people studying or working at home, separate spaces are essential for privacy.

Are eco-conscious. A closed concept design lets you heat rooms selectively to minimize energy consumption.

Love to cook. Although home cooking creates a cozy atmosphere, the scents of aromatic cuisines may be unwelcome if they invade every corner of your open concept home.

If you're considering an interior remodel, a local architect or contractor can help you find the ideal solution for your family.



6 benefits of installing a water softener in your home

Hard water can damage your home's plumbing and appliances and make your hair and skin feel dry. Fortunately, a water softener can remove minerals like calcium and magnesium to improve your water quality. Here are six benefits of installing a water softener in your home.

- 1. Reduced plumbing repairs. The minerals in hard water stick to the inside of pipes and can cloq your plumbing and damage valves. Water softeners remove the minerals before they can do damage.
- 2. Longer-lasting appliances. Minerals can build up in your dishwasher, washing machine and water heater, causing them to break down. Appliances that operate with soft water last longer.
- 3. Lower energy bills. Scaly mineral build-up in your water heater forces it to work harder and burn more fuel. Installing a water softener can improve your water heater's efficiency.
- **4. Cleaner clothes.** Washing clothes with mineral-rich water can cause

your clothing to fade and give off a yellowish hue. Soft water leaves your clothes cleaner and makes them last

- 5. Easier household cleaning. Caked-on mineral deposits in your kitchen sink or bathroom are difficult to clean. Using a water softener prevents these stubborn white stains from forming.
- 6. Softer hair and skin. Showering with soft water leaves your hair feeling soft and your skin hydrated. You also don't need to use as much shampoo or conditioner.

Visit your local home improvement store or plumbing supply retailer to learn more about installing a water softener in your home.







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However, you must consider the pros and cons before deciding which one's best for vour home. Here's what you need to know.

INSTALLATION

Installing a gas fireplace is quick and easy if your home is already connected to a natural gas line. Remember that gas fitting is dangerous and must be done by a certified professional.

Conversely, an electric fireplace may be best if you don't have an accessible natural gas line.

FLAMES AND HEAT

Gas fireplaces create real flames, while electric models produce realistic-looking artificial flames. Moreover, you can enjoy an electric fireplace's flames year-round without turning on the heat.

while electric ones only heat about 430 square feet.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Electric fireplaces are more efficient than gas fireplaces because they don't burn fuel. Although gas fireplaces produce more heat, there's waste due to heat loss through ventilation pipes.

Gas fireplaces are hot to the touch and can burn children and pets. Burning natural gas also creates the risk of a deadly carbon monoxide leak. Alternatively, electric fireplaces aren't hot to the touch and don't emit poisonous exhaust fumes.

Gas fireplaces are generally more expensive than electric ones due to the increased installation cost and fuel prices.



5 ways to stay warm at home

1. INSULATION

First of all, a properly insulated house protects you from drafts and exorbitant heating bills. So, before temperatures drop, make sure your windows and doors are properly sealed. Repair or replace any damaged caulking or weather stripping.

2. HEAT PUMP

Central or wall-mounted heat pumps are a great choice for people who love cozy warmth throughout their homes. These appliances are doubly advantageous, as they circulate warm air during the winter and act as air conditioners in the summer.

3. FURNACE

Furnaces are indispensable elements of many homes, whether they're powered by electricity, propane, natural gas or oil. Many energy-efficient eco-friendly models are available. Talk to specialist retailers to find one whose price falls within your budget and that will meet your home heating needs.



4. STOVE OR FIREPLACE

A variety of inexpensive and eco-responsible stoves and fireplaces are available on the market as primary heating sources or for providing extra heat. Whether they're powered by electricity, propane or pellets, they add warmth to your decor, both literally and figuratively.

5. HEATED FLOORS

There's no doubt that heated floors provide the ultimate in even heat. This type of radiant electrical system has to be installed under stone, cement or ceramic tile floors. Heated floors also ensure a uniform temperature from floor to ceiling and are completely invisible and silent.

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Tips for choosing and using a backup heater

Most winter house fires are caused by people improperly using backup space heaters. Therefore, it's important to know how to use one safely. Here are some tips for choosing and using a backup heater in your home.

• Fireplaces and wood-burning stoves give your living room a cozy ambiance. However, they require regular maintenance, including cleaning the firebox and chimney.

Make sure to sweep your chimney at least once a year or when the creosote build-up reaches three millimeters on the firebox walls. Place the ashes in a metal container with a raised bottom and store them outside, away from combustible materials.

 Gas-burning stoves are perfect for power outages and can heat up to 2,000 square feet of living space. You also don't have to worry about cutting and carrying wood or doing any cleaEnsure your gas-burning appliance is approved by the American Gas Association (AGA) and that the fittings have been installed by a certified professional. Keep in mind that gas-burning stoves are hot to the touch and pose a danger to children and pets.

- Pellet-burning stoves burn specially designed pellets rather than wood. These heating appliances don't require a chimney but must be vented outdoors and regularly maintained.
- Electric heaters are the safest backup heaters available. They're portable and efficient. However, they don't work if the power goes out. Always keep your electric heater at least three to four feet away from combustibles such as furniture and curtains, and never use a heater with an extension cord.

Lastly, material-burning stoves produce toxic carbon monoxide gas, so installing a CO2 detector is wise. Consult a home heating professional before making your final choice.







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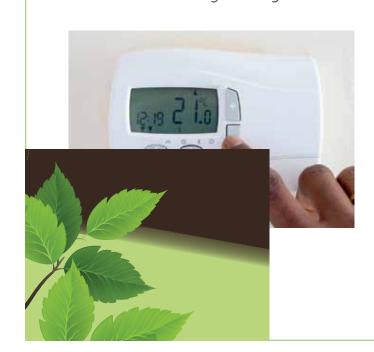


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GREENIDEAS

Eco-friendly ways to keep warm in winter



Depending on where you live, you may have no choice but to turn on your home's heating system to stay warm in winter. But did you know there are several ways you can minimize your impact on the environment without limiting your comfort? Here are some things you can do.

ADJUST THE THERMOSTAT

For every degree you heat your home above 68 F, your energy consumption goes up by two to five percent. Therefore, it's best to keep the indoor temperature between 65 and 69 F. If you're still a bit chilly, a knit sweater and woolen socks can help keep you cozy.

REVERSE CEILING FANS

While you should set your ceiling fans to spin counterclockwise in the summer to create a cool breeze, reversing them to a clockwise direction in the winter will provide an updraft that recirculates heat downward.

STOP ANY AIR LEAKS

To compensate for drafts, your home's heating system needs to work harder and use more energy. You can locate air leaks by holding a candle near exterior doors, window frames and electrical outlets. If the flame wavers, apply weatherstrip or window film to seal the leak.

MODIFY YOUR DECOR

Another way to improve insulation around your windows is to hang thermal or blackout curtains. And if the tile or hardwood floors in your home are always cold, lay down rugs to keep your feet warm and help create a cozy atmosphere.

Keep in mind that taking these simple steps to help protect the environment will also lower the cost of heating your home. It's a win-win situation.







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