



2023 Workshop Dates

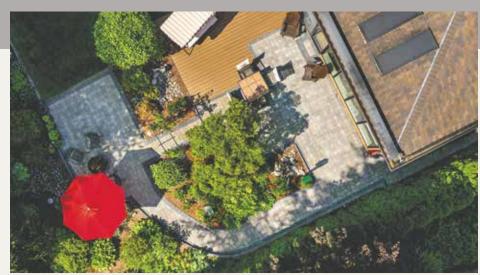


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ROOTS TO ROOFS

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©2023 THE NEWS-REGISTER PUBLISHING COMPANY PUBLISHED SEPT. 15, 2023

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



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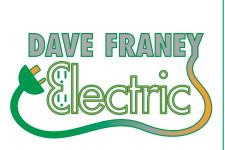






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- Industrial
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Are you fed up with winter chills and looking to invest in a backup heating system? Here are four inexpensive solutions that

WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACE

can help you enjoy a little more

comfort while lowering your

Wood heat is still one of the most economical options on the market. However, it does emit irritating pollutants, so you'll need to install a carbon monoxide detector. Additionally, you must have space to store firewood.

GAS FIREPLACE

energy bill.

Whether powered by propane or natural gas, this affordable appliance is growing in popularity because it only requires a vent or duct pipe rather than a chimney. This kind of fireplace can be installed virtually anywhere in your home.

PELLET STOVE

Wood pellet stoves are a good choice for backup heat. Sold in bags, pellets are inexpensive, store more easily than logs and take up much less space. The stove is fed automatically and can run as long as 20 hours, depending on the model. This solution also allows you to better control your interior humidity level.

ELECTRIC HEATER

Portable and safe, electric space heaters are easy to use and available at various price points. Just plug it into a power outlet, and you're done! A space heater can be installed anywhere in your home. However, if you experience a power outage, it won't work without a backup generator.

Check out your local businesses for all types of heating systems.







Get ready to heat things up!



What's the best backup heating solution for your needs?

Supplementary heating solutions can range in efficiency and effectiveness. Unsure which option to choose? Here's some advice to help you optimize your comfort based on your unique needs during the cold winter months.

ENTIRE HOME

Do you need a backup system that can heat the entirety of your home? Try a wood or pellet stove. Take care when choosing its location in your home to ensure you're complying with safety standards. Look for a model that complements your interior decor.

SEVERAL ROOMS

A propane or natural gas stove can provide extra heat to a portion of your home. It doesn't require a chimney, so it can be placed in any room. This is ideal if your supplementary heating needs are limited to a section or single floor of your home

ONE ROOM

If you spend long hours in one room of your home, like an office, a portable space heater is your best bet. They're easy to use, electrically powered and inexpensive to purchase. Different models have different noise levels and heating capacities. Be sure to check these features before making your purchase.

GARAGE AND BASEMENT

Whether or not your garage is separate from your home, an oil-burning heating system is an excellent backup option. This economical solution requires very little fuel and produces quick heat. It's great for your basement, too.

Ask the heating experts in your area for advice. They can help you make an informed decision.



How to paint a brick fireplace

If you want to update your brick fireplace, applying a fresh coat of paint can do wonders. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to paint your brick fireplace.



- 1. First, use a wire brush to remove loose dirt and debris from the brick and mortar.
- 2. Next, clean the area around the fireplace with a shop-vac.
- 3. Then, give the brick a deep clean with an all-purpose cleaner or degreaser to remove accumulated soot and other mineral residues that could prevent the paint from properly adhering.
- 4. Tape off the edges of your fireplace and trim. Use a latex primer to get the brick ready for a fresh coat of paint. Keep in mind that brick is porous. Therefore, a second coat may be necessary to get your desired coverage.
- 5. Once the primer has dried, it's time to paint the brick. Start by painting the mortar lines with a

brush. Then, use a roller to cover the face of the bricks. Once the first coat has dried, apply a second for a long-lasting, consistent finish.

Neutral colors like white and grey are popular shades. However, you can get creative and use bold or contrasting colors to make your fireplace a focal point. Paint with a matte or eggshell finish will allow the natural texture of the brick to shine through, whereas a semigloss finish will reflect light and make cleaning easier.

If you notice that your brick fireplace is crumbling or damaged while preparing it for paint, consult a professional masonry company to investigate and make the necessary repairs.





Whether bathing, showering, styling or shaving, you probably spend a good amount of time in the bathroom every day. If you're thinking about renovating your bathroom, you might as well take the opportunity to turn it into a pleasant and functional space. Short on furnishing and decorating ideas? Here are 10 trends to inspire you.

1. Glass baths and sinks.

Whether translucent or frosted, a glass bath or sink will give your room a spectacular and prestigious look. Since you can see through them, make sure that what's behind or underneath is stylish and tasteful.

2. Antiqued faucets.

Contemporary faucets that imitate antiques are currently all the rage. Metallic shades, such as gold and brass, are among the most popular in decorating magazines.

3. Italian stone showers.

Perfect for creating an organic and timeless look, large pale gray slabs of Italian stone are the perfect complement to serenityinducing bathroom décor.

4. Suspended vanities.

If you're into minimalist style, this trend is sure to please. Suspended vanities, which look like they're floating, create a serene atmosphere that's highly sought-after for the bathroom.

5. Wall lights.

Traditionally placed on either side of mirrors or above them, sconces are now being installed elsewhere in the bathroom as decorative accents.

6. Bold aquatic shades.

Add life to your space with vibrant shades of blue or green reminiscent of the ocean. Play with ceramic tiles, picture frames and natural or artificial plants.

7. Round shapes.

Circles and ovals help give the bathroom a soothing, light-hearted feel. Basins, vases and shower curtains are simple ways to embrace this trend.

8. Mirrors with integrated lighting.

Practical and attractive, medicine cabinets and mirrors backlit with LED lights give your room a decidedly modern, even futuristic look.

9. Fluted textures.

Curved or domed, in wood or ceramic, on vanity units or shower walls, fluted textures are attractive and create a sense of movement.

10. Large terrazzo tiles.

This retro motif adds a touch of playfulness to bathroom countertops and floors, especially if the tiles are large or multicolored.

Visit your local plumbing, furnishing and home décor stores to create the perfect bathroom.

CONTINUED >>>



5 bathroom storage solutions

Regardless of how large or small your bathroom is, organization is the key to creating a functional, clutter-free space. Here are a few storage ideas.



1. Baskets

Place wire, wicker or canvas baskets beneath a floating vanity to maintain an airy feel while benefiting from additional storage. Baskets can also greatly reduce clutter on open shelves.

2. Countertop tray

Control the chaos on your countertop by arranging toiletries on a tray alongside a potted plant, scented candle or fake bouquet. Keep small items like cotton swabs and hair clips in glass jars.

3. Bar cart

This is a great alternative to adding shelves or cabinets to a bathroom, especially for renters. Opt for a cart on wheels so it

can easily be moved out of the way or closer to the shower as needed.

4. Built-ins

Use the empty space in your walls to add shelving that doesn't eat into the footprint of the room. You can also create small builtins on the wall above the bathtub or next to the sink for toiletries.

5. Ladder towel rack

By leaning a wood or metal ladder against the wall, you'll create ample space to hang towels for the whole family rather than take up wall space with several individual towel racks.

To find these and other items for your bathroom, visit the shops in your area.

5 mistakes to avoid when renovating your bathroom

Are you planning to renovate your bathroom? If so, here are five mistakes to avoid.

- 1. Not having a plan. It's important to meticulously design every aspect of your bathroom before you do anything else. If you don't, you may find that the double vanity you had your heart set on won't fit or that your items won't work together.
- 2. Going over budget. It's easy to get carried away when you're in the midst of a renovation. If you're doing the work yourself, purchase all the materials you need before starting to avoid making impulse purchases. If you've hired a professional, be sure your contract states exactly how much things will cost.
- **3. Being too trendy.** It's normal to want your new bathroom to be stylish, but not every trend

stands the test of time. For a bathroom that will be as chic tomorrow as it is today, choose classic finishes and timeless styles.

4. Neglecting the ventilation.

It's important that bathrooms have the proper ventilation in place in order to deal with the abundance of moisture that arises when bathing. Without it, mould and mildew issues may develop down the line.

5. Using the wrong materials.

It's important to choose materials that can stand up to the dampness of a bathroom. You may love the look of hardwood flooring, but it's not suitable for a space that frequently gets wet.

If you find yourself making any of these mistakes, take the steps needed to correct it before it's too late.



Design ideas for small kitchens

Small kitchens can be difficult to use. However, a few design hacks can make a small space more maneuverable. Consider these layouts and design ideas.

SMALL KITCHEN LAYOUTS

Your kitchen layout can have a significant impact on efficiency and comfort. Try these styles in your home:

Galley. A galley kitchen utilizes a middle aisle flanked with cabinets and appliances on one or both sides. Ensure there's enough room for your kitchen cabinet doors to swing open all the way.

U-shaped. This horseshoeshaped layout features cabinets and appliances on three sides. You can place an island in the middle for extra workspace if you have room.

L-shaped. This layout efficiently utilizes a corner of the room with cabinets and appliances on two sides. It gives you a triangle-shaped workspace with everything you need within easy reach.



SPACE-SAVING IDEAS

Incorporate these space savers into your kitchen design to maximize efficiency.

Small appliances. Standard-sized appliances can take up a lot of room. Choose a smaller dishwasher, refrigerator and stove to free up space.

Accessories. Under-cabinet storage containers and slide-out pot organizers can increase the functionality of your kitchen and keep it organized.

3 reasons to hire a kitchen designer

Is your kitchen in dire need of a makeover? Do you have to start from scratch? Can you keep a few elements from your current setup? Do you even know where to start? Either way, a kitchen designer can help. Here are three ways this specialist can ensure your project is a success from start to finish.

1. You get advice tailored to your unique needs

When it comes to choosing materials, colors and furnishings, a kitchen designer can provide guidance based on your needs and preferences. Their primary goal is for you to be fully satisfied in your new kitchen.

2. You get access to a wide network of industry contacts

Designers often work with a wide range of suppliers and experts. They can save you a lot of legwork researching and tracking down the businesses you need to handle the various stages of your project.

3. You get a highly functional kitchen

Kitchen designers remodel your kitchen to optimize efficiency. They know how to create distinct zones for various functions, such as storing food and equipment, preparing food and cooking. Their goal is to create a space that matches your preferences and lifestyle.





6 ways to optimize your kitchen storage

Are you looking for ways to tidy up and declutter your kitchen? Here are six ideas to inspire you.

- 1. Shelves increase storage possibilities and come in various materials to match your décor.
- 2. Stackable containers maximize useable space and look good on shelves and inside cabinets.
- 3. Dividers are perfect for drawers and cabinets because they keep things like spices, utensils and snacks in place.
- 4. Stacking trays are ideal for deep drawers because they save space and keep each item accessible.
- 5. Swivel trays are easy to install and prevent you from awkwardly twisting and turning to reach rarely used items.
- 6. Door storage units have many uses, and you can hide them.

CONTINUED >>>

For the love OF HIME

How to organize your bedroom for better sleep



If you have trouble winding down at night, your bedroom may be part of the problem. Here are four tips on how to organize your bedroom to achieve optimal sleep.

- 1. Invest in your bed. Don't skimp when it comes to the quality of your mattress your comfort directly affects the quality of your sleep. If your mattress is over seven years old, shows signs of wear or simply doesn't feel comfortable, it's time to invest in a new one. You should also select quality bedding; choose sheets with high thread counts made from materials like Egyptian cotton or satin.
- **2. Pay attention to lighting.** Darkness is vital for allowing your body to go into sleep mode. Make sure your curtains and blinds adequately block out

natural light (buy blackout curtains if necessary) and choose light bulbs with lower wattages.

- **3. Get rid of clutter.** A cluttered bedroom can create anxiousness so it's therefore best to keep your room well organized and accessories to a minimum. Don't forget that your bed should be the focal point of the room.
- **4. Limit electronics.** Electronic screens emit a blue light that can keep you awake. Avoid placing a TV in your bedroom and consider charging your phone in a closed drawer when trying to sleep.

One final tip: if you regularly struggle with sleep, think about getting an air purifier for your bedroom. Not only do they make it easier to breathe, but they also create white noise that blocks out disruptive sounds.

4 advantages of custom designing your walk-in closet

If you're building a walk-in closet, it's worth designing one that truly meets all your needs. Here are four reasons a custom-built closet is better than a pre-fabricated one.

- **1. It's exactly what you want.** Your closet designer will take into account how much space you need to hang all your clothes, whether you need bars of different heights to accommodate longer pieces and how many shelves you'll need for your shoes and accessories.
- **2. Everything has a place.** It's easier to keep a space organized when it's designed to accommodate your specific belongings. Furthermore, extras like laundry hampers and jewelry storage help keep things tidy.
- **3.** It provides a private place to dress. If you live in a bustling household, turn your walk-in closet into a small sanctuary. Include a vanity and mirror to transform the space into a private dressing room.
- **4.** It eliminates clutter. A well-designed walk-in closet can reduce the need for extra furniture in the room and provide extra storage for your things.

To make the most of your walk-in closet, use the space wisely. This can include placing shelves above the rods to hold accessories and drawers below them to store clothes that can't be hung.







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Zucchini bread

When you add zucchini to lightly sweetened bread, the result is impossible to resist.

Start to finish: 1 hour 10 minutes (10 minutes active) Servings: 4

INGREDIENTS

- 2 zucchinis
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup melted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a 10 by 5 inch loaf pan.

2. Cut off the ends of the zucchinis, then grate them using a cheese grater. Place the grated zucchini in a large bowl, and combine it with all the other ingredients except the flour and nuts. Incorporate everything until the mixture has a uniform texture. Add the flour and mix well. Repeat with the nuts.

3. Pour the mixture into the pan, and bake for about 60 minutes or until a fork inserted in the center of the bread comes out clean. Let cool, then slice and serve.

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FALL inspiration



Whether you're looking for an activity to enjoy alone, with your partner or alongside your family, there's no shortage of ways to have fun in the fall. Here are just some of the ways you can make the most of the next few months.

1. Pick fruits and veggies

Visit a farm, orchard or vineyard in your area to collect your own apples, cranberries, grapes, artichokes, beets, carrots, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins and more. Consider picking enough to make preserves for the months ahead.

2. Tend to your garden

If you want beautiful blooms in the spring, be sure to plant crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips and other bulbs before the temperature drops. You can also take advantage of end-of-season sales to fill your garden with beautiful perennials at a low price.

3. Watch migratory birds

Depending on where you live, your area might be a prime location to spot flocks of geese, sparrows, ducks, shorebirds and other migratory species as they make their way to warmer climates for the winter.

4. Engage in outdoor sports

Fall is an ideal time of year to enjoy the great outdoors. From hiking, biking and kayaking to rock climbing, fishing and horseback riding, there are plenty of ways to combine exercise with being outside in the fresh autumn air.

Spaghetti squash with tomato sauce

If you're looking for a healthy and delicious alternative to pasta, spaghetti squash is now in season. Serve it up with homemade tomato sauce for a delightfully simple fall meal.

Start to finish: 1 hour (20 minutes active) Servings: 4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 spaghetti squash
- 1/4 cup olive oil, divided
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 can whole tomatoes
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon dried of
- 1 dried bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon dried chili flakes
- A few fresh basil leaves, to garnish

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Slice the squash in half lengthwise, and use a spoon to remove the seeds and stringy pulp from the center. Drizzle half the olive oil over the squash, and season it with salt and pepper. Place the squash cut side down on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Roast in the oven for 45 minutes.



- 2. Meanwhile, place the other half of the olive oil and the remaining ingredients in a pot. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and let simmer for about 40 minutes.
- 3. Remove the squash from the oven and let it cool. In the meantime, purée the sauce using an immersion blender, and add seasoning if needed.
- 4. Turn over the squash halves and use a fork to scrape the flesh into spaghetti-like strands. Divide the squash among 4 plates, top with sauce and garnish with fresh basil leaves.

5 types of winter squash to put on your fall menu

Packed with antioxidants, fiber, potassium and vitamin A, winter squashes are versatile ingredients that can be used to prepare a wide range of delectable dishes. Here are just some of the varieties that would make great additions to your diet this season.



This round, deep orange squash has a mild, sweet taste that makes it a delicious choice for homemade fries and pies. The seeds can also be roasted and enjoyed as a snack.

2. Sweet dumpling

Cream-colored with green stripes, this variety of squash is a particularly good choice for desserts such as pudding and sorbet thanks to its slightly nutty flavor.

3. Buttercup

This round, squat squash has a dark green skin and orange flesh that's sweet and firm. It can be used to make creamy soups and



curries, and it pairs well with mashed potatoes.

4. Delicata

Also known as sweet potato squash due to its similar flavor, this striped oblong variety can be cooked or eaten raw. Use it to make everything from jam to fries.

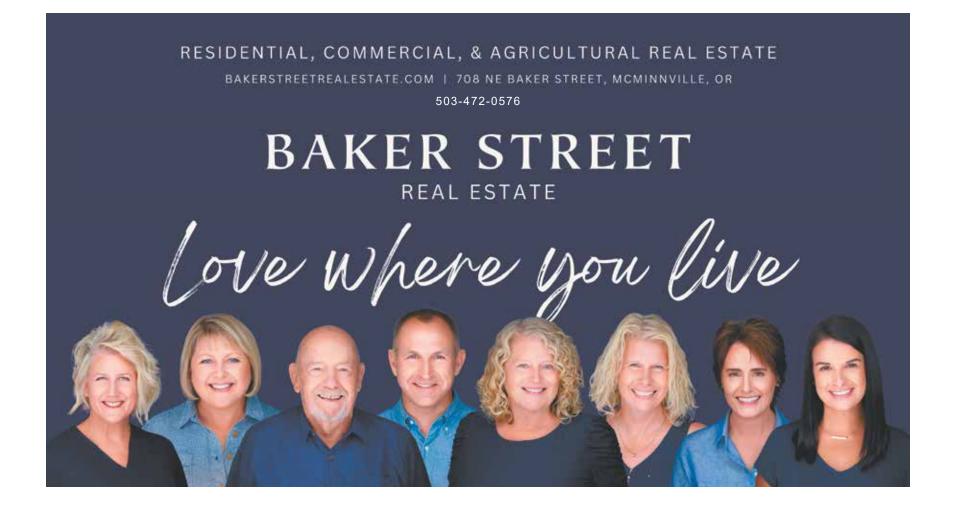
5. Hubbard

This large, blue-grey or dark green squash has a round base and very bumpy skin. Less sweet than other varieties, it's a great substitute for potato in stews and shepherd's pie.

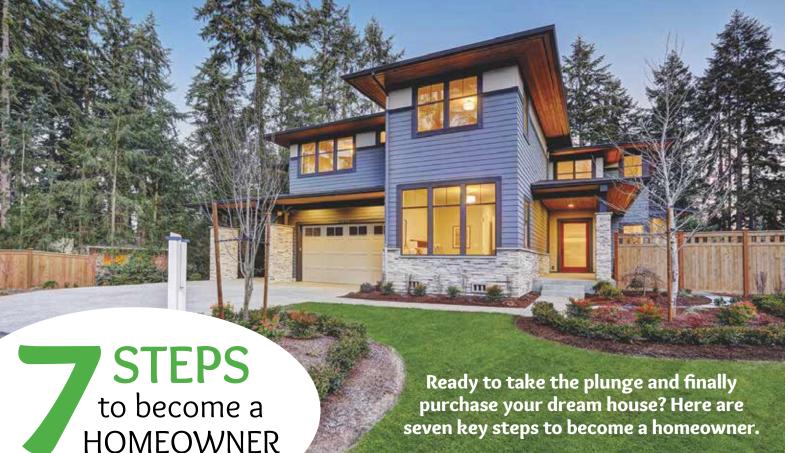
From acorn and butternut to heart of gold and spaghetti, there are plenty of options when it comes to winter squash. Visit the farms and food markets in your area to find a local selection.







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1. Set a budget

Start by figuring out how much you can realistically afford to pay for a new home. Remember that mortgage payments aren't the only expenses you'll have to consider; you'll also need to pay for utilities, property taxes, home insurance and repairs.

2. Save for the down payment

When you buy a house, you have to put down a large amount of money to secure your purchase. The larger the down payment, the smaller your mortgage loan will be. Keep in mind that if your down payment is less than 20 percent of the total purchase cost, you'll also have to pay for mortgage default insurance each month. As you're saving, pay attention to your credit score, which is a determining factor in how good of a mortgage you'll get.

3. Find the mortgage that's right for you

Mortgages depend on the amount you're able to pay upfront (the down payment) and the length of time you'll have to pay the loan back. Before you start house hunting, you should get pre-approved for a mortgage by your bank or mortgage broker. During the pre-approval process, the lender determines the amount you qualify for. Sellers will be more receptive to your offer if you're pre-approved.

4. Choose a real estate agent

Your real estate agent is your guide through the home buying process. Take the time to interview at least three different agents who have a thorough knowledge of the housing market in your area before choosing one who's a good fit in terms of your needs and personality.

5. Start house hunting

As you tour different homes, make sure to keep a list of all the features you're looking for during the visits and take notes so you can keep track of your impressions. You should also make a list of questions to ask your agent about each property.

6. Make an offer

When you find the home of your dreams, you'll need to prepare a written offer in consultation with your agent specifying how much you're willing to pay. It's recommended that your offer include certain contingencies like the right to have the home appraised and inspected before completing the transaction.

7. Finalize the deal

Once you've settled on a price, you'll be able to start making closing arrangements, such as finalizing the payment and mortgage terms. On closing day, the final documents will be signed and you'll receive the deed and the keys to your new home.





First-time homebuyer CHECKLIST

Shopping for your first home (or planning to have it built) is one of life's biggest and most exciting undertakings. Having your very own place lets you experience the freedom of no longer paying rent, the joys of redecorating as you see fit and the pleasures of entertaining in your own backyard—all thanks to an investment that could pay off in the long run. Ready

Building a new house

If you've decided to have the house of your dreams built, or to build most of it yourself, you need to:

to become a homeowner? Here are some tips

- Establish your budget
- Get a mortgage loan
- Purchase land in an area you like

to guide you through the process.

- Obtain all required building permits from your local government office
- Have your blueprints drawn up by an architect
- Sign an agreement with a building contractor
- Hire a lawyer or notary
- Purchase a comprehensive insurance policy

Unless you're extremely versatile and plan on doing everything yourself—which is quite the stretch—you'll need to rely on the expertise of various tradespeople and specialists throughout the project. Building your first home will require pros from the following fields, to name a few:

- Excavation
- Electricity
- PlumbingPainting
- Roofing
- Masonry
- InsulationCarpentry
- Ventilation- Landscaping
- Staircase building
- Window and door installation
- Drywall installation and finishing

Avoid unpleasant surprises by doing business with companies that are recognized by a legitimate building or homebuilder's association. Ask for references from your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors: word of mouth can help you find a trustworthy builder that will finish the work on time and on budget.

A word of advice: if you're offered a discount on "under-the-table" (i.e. undeclared) work, never, ever accept it. Not only are such transactions illegal, but work that's done off the books can't be guaranteed. That means that if it's not done correctly, your only option is to start over with another company—a hefty price to pay for an attempt to save a few dollars.

Purchasing an existing home

Before you head out in search of the house that will sweep you off your feet, make an appointment with a mortgage broker to check your loan admissibility. Then, pinpoint potentially interesting neighborhoods by considering what elements are important to you, such as proximity to parks, access to major highways, presence of young families and so on. Finally, drive around those neighborhoods and spot the "for sale" signs!

Are you ready to be a homeowner

FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Make your research more efficient by hiring a real estate broker to find houses that meet your criteria and to set up showings at your convenience. He or she will also be able to answer any questions you may have about buying property. The more knowledge you have, the less stressful the process should be!

Once you have your heart set on a house, you can move on to the next step: making an offer to purchase. Your offer should be contingent upon an inspection of the building. The pre-purchase home inspection will bring to light any major defects that could be detrimental to the property's function, comfort, value or safety.

If the inspection results are satisfactory, you can get back to your offer knowing that you've done your due diligence. Once you come to an agreement with the seller, all that's left is to make it official with a lawyer or notary. Congratulations on your new home!

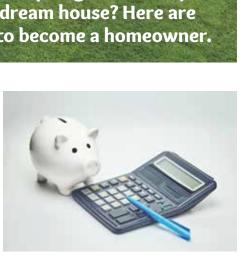
Moving

Contact a reputable moving company as soon as you find out when you'll finally have the keys to your new home. If you need to temporarily store some of your belongings, look for a storage facility that's well lit, adequately ventilated and securely monitored.

Don't forget to get mortgage insurance—it could save you a lot of headache in the event of an emergency or mishap.

Welcome home!





GREENIDEAS

How to reduce air pollution caused by wood heating



While wood-burning stoves and fireplaces provide warmth and a cozy atmosphere, they also emit pollutants and contribute to the formation of smog. If you rely on this type of heating system to warm your home, here are a few ways you can mitigate the harmful effects.

Install a quality appliance

If your wood-burning appliance is nearing the end of its lifespan, replace it with a newer model that complies with the CSA Group's B415.1 standard for the maximum emission rates of wood-burning heaters. You should also select a product that's certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as these emit up to 90 percent fewer harmful emissions than other options.

Follow these best practices

Since even the cleanest wood-burning appliances generate air pollution, here's how you

can further reduce the amount of smoke and harmful particles emitted by your heater:

- Burn seasoned wood that was split and stacked in a dry area for at least six months
- Use softwood to ignite a fire, but keep it go ing with hardwood which burns cleaner
- Keep fires small and bright since smolder ing generates little heat and lots of smoke
- Never burn garbage, plastic, cardboard, glossy paper, driftwood, plywood, particle board or wood that's been painted, varnished or pressure treated

Furthermore, keep the vent open to ensure smoke travels up the chimney rather than into your home. You should also maintain your wood-burning appliance according to the manufacturer's instructions, and make sure to get it cleaned and inspected by a professional at least once a year.

Can you compost in winter?

Composting creates nutrient-rich soil for your garden and helps reduce landfill waste. If you want an easy way to shrink your carbon footprint year-round, consider composting. It's perfectly fine to put food scraps in your compost bin in every season, even winter.

SURPRISING ADVANTAGES

Although the cold weather will slow and sometimes halt decomposition in winter, it'll also quickly freeze any kitchen scraps you add. This means you don't have to worry about the smell of half-rotted food attracting flies or critters. Plus, freeze-thaw cycles actually help break down organic materials, which will allow them to decompose faster in spring when the warm weather returns.

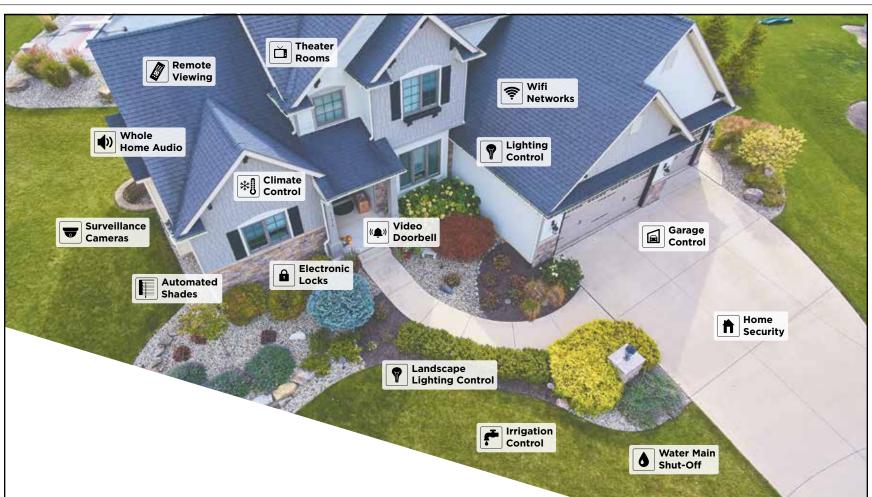
Additionally, the process of maintaining a compost pile is much simpler in the winter. In fact, it's best not to stir or water it since any disruption allows heat to escape and slows decomposition.

Finally, be sure to layer green and brown materials within your compost pile or bin. This will maximize the amount of heat generated by the mixture and facilitate decomposition. Green materials refer to kitchen scraps, whereas brown materials include pine needles and dead leaves.



PRO TII

After you rake your yard in the fall, keep a bag or two of leaves in your shed to ensure you have brown materials on-hand all winter.



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