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# ROOTS<sup>TO</sup>ROOFS

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# KITCHEN TRENDS OF 2021

## HOMES

If you plan to remodel your kitchen this year, you should know that lacquered cabinets, exaggerated modernism and large cabinet handles are passé. When it comes to kitchen designs, here's what's trending in 2021.



- 1) Oversized pantries.** Whether free-standing or walk-in, large pantries with showcase-like shelving and plenty of hideaway storage are a hit in kitchens of all styles. If you have the space for it, this trend is for you.

**2) Storage walls.** If there's limited room in your kitchen, floor-to-ceiling storage rather than multiple cabinets will maximize the space to accommodate all your cooking essentials. Pro-tip: add electrical outlets inside the cabinets so you can plug in small appliances.
- 3) Hidden range hoods.** Range hoods that are integrated into cabinets or walls are increasingly popular. You can also hide them behind tile or natural stone. However, make sure your range hood is positioned for optimal efficiency and easy to access for repair or replacement.

**4) Warm neutral tones.** Browns, beiges and grays are taking center stage in 2021. Hardware should also be warm. Choose matted gold, copper, champagne and charcoal pieces for your drawers, cabinets, faucets and other fixtures.

**5) Natural materials.** Wood, stone and other materials that evoke the natural world are the backbone of minimalist, contemporary, rustic and garden-themed kitchens. Opt for understated matte finishes and warm rather than cool tones.

If there's one trend not to ignore in 2021, it's the rising tendency to favor locally crafted items and regionally sourced materials. When renovating your kitchen, be sure to buy decorative items, cabinets, hardware, tile and stone from retailers and craftspeople in your community.



# HOME OFFICES: HOW TO MAKE ROOM

Have you recently started working from home? If you need a good-size office space but don't have a spare room, here are a few options to explore.

These days, many people feel an increasing need to have a work area at home. Ideally, a spare room would be used for this purpose. If that is not possible, setting aside an area in a bedroom, in the basement, or on the main floor will do, as long as it's quiet.

**Basement.** As long as it has adequate headroom, your finished basement (or a portion of it) can be a great place for an office. However, this isn't the best solution if your basement has moisture issues.

**Attic.** Some attics can be converted into usable living space. This isn't a small renovation, however, and you may need to install electrical outlets, solid flooring and much more to support your setup.

**Garage.** If you rarely use your garage to park your car, it can be made into an office. You'll undoubtedly need to invest in a number of updates to make it a comfortable space to work.

**Addition.** This isn't a budget-friendly option, but it could add permanent value to your home. Additions can be built above, behind or to the side of a house.

**Outbuilding.** An office space that's completely separate from the main house may offer the ultimate distraction-free work zone. However, this can be a costly project. The funds may be better allocated if spent on renovations to the main house.

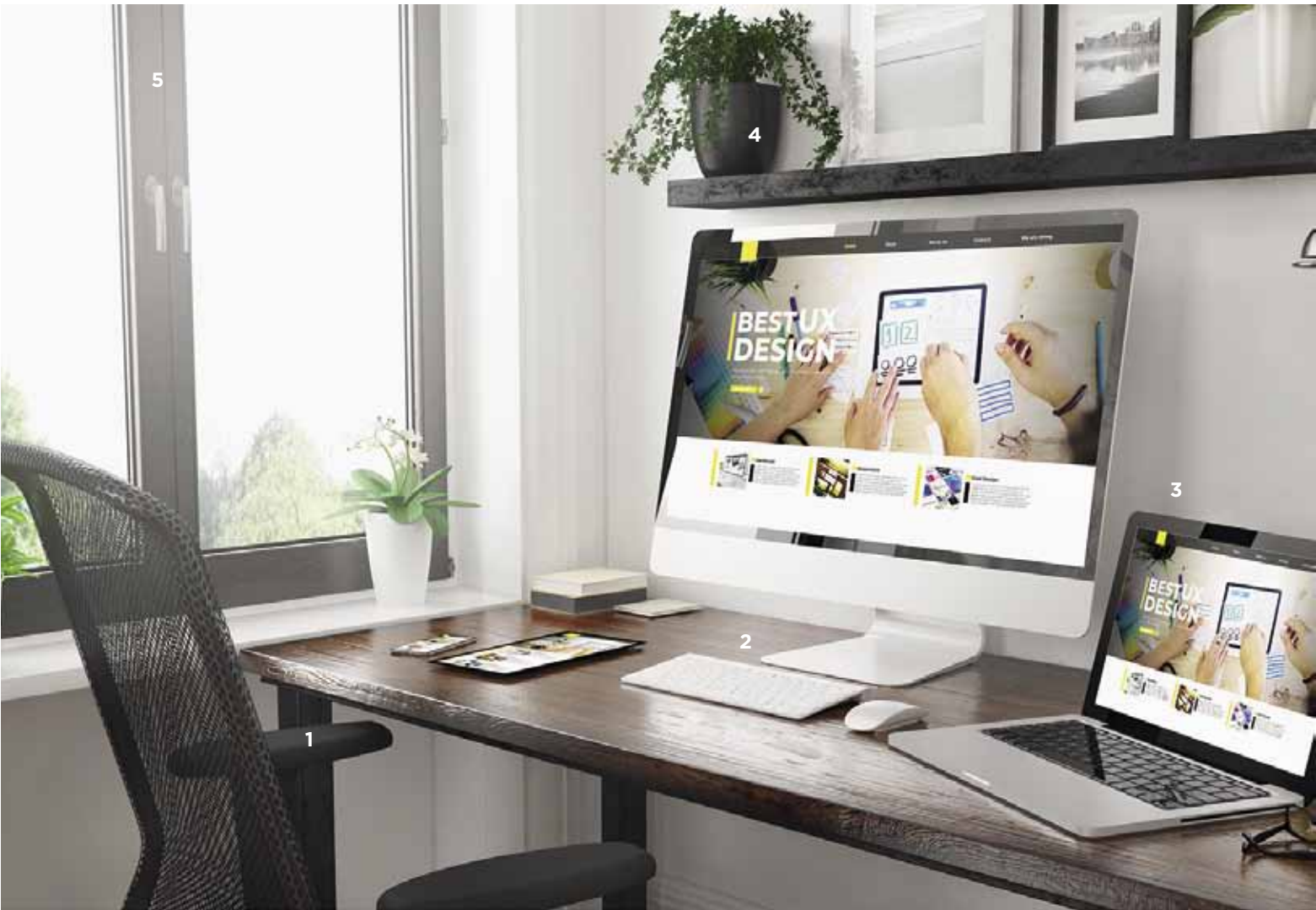
When deciding how best to make room for your home office, be sure to assess all of your needs. Furthermore, find out if the renovations will affect the resale value of your home.

Once you've decided on the room that best fits your needs, add your personal touch to the décor. Hang a striking piece of artwork and put up some shelves on which you can display trinkets or useful office items. The important thing is that you feel comfortable in this place where you will soon be spending a lot of time.



# 5 HACKS FOR YOUR AT-HOME OFFICE

Working from home can be challenging. Here are some helpful tips to make your office a productive, comfortable and functional place to work.



**1) Invest in a good chair.** Considering the number of hours you'll likely spend sitting at your desk per week, it's worth taking the time to select a chair that's a good fit. Choose a comfortable office chair on casters, and preferably one with armrests and an adjustable backrest. If necessary, use a footrest to help you adopt a good posture. Pay attention to back, thigh and arm support. On the other hand, you may want to consider investing in a standing desk.

**2) Use ergonomics to stay comfortable.** Whether you sit or stand while you work,

keep your back and neck straight and ensure your computer screen is at eye level. Choose a mouse and keyboard that are a good size and effortless to operate. Also, use ergonomic pads to protect your wrists. Avoid slouching or keeping your arms at odd angles.

**3) Set up a second monitor.** An additional screen can make coding, designing, writing, researching and other tasks easier. This small upgrade can seriously enhance your productivity and allow you to better juggle multiple tasks.

**4) Personalize the space.** Use art, paint, wallpaper and office accessories to decorate your space in a way that's cohesive and energizing. Consider adding touches like a fragrance you love, a quote that inspires you or a stylish vase to hold fresh flowers.

**5) Utilize natural and electrical lighting.** Bright overhead illumination will help reduce eyestrain and increase productivity. Windows should be at the side of the computer screen, not behind or in front of it, to avoid reflections and glare.



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TOUCHLESS DEVICES FOR  
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TECH

Touchless technologies have long been featured in public spaces to limit the spread of germs. Now, these motion-activated innovations are making their way into homes.



**Light switches.** Illuminate your home by walking past conveniently placed sensors.

**Faucets and toilets.** Touchless versions will help keep your bathrooms sanitary.

**Soap dispensers.** Wash your hands without getting the dispenser dirty.

**Appliances.** Dishwashers, refrigerators and ovens are increasingly featuring technologies that allow you to open and close them without using a handle.

**Garbage bins.** Open and close your trash can with motion-activated technology.

You can find touchless technologies at hardware and appliance stores in your area.

## 5 MUST-HAVE SMART HOME FEATURES

Smart home devices are becoming increasingly popular, and homebuyers are starting to expect them as standard features. Here are the key ones to consider adopting.



**Locks.** Openers for garages and locks for doors that can be operated from your smartphone are a convenient feature. They allow you to lock and unlock your home from virtually anywhere.

**Thermostats.** Delivering both comfort and savings on energy costs, smart thermostats are a smart investment.

**Lighting.** Controlling your lights is a must for anyone serious about home automation. Fortunately, there are a variety of options available, from hue-changing smart bulbs to smart switches and dimmers.

**Detectors.** Smart smoke and carbon monoxide detectors simultaneously sound an alarm and send an alert to your smartphone (and anyone else you authorize) if danger is detected. Some models also incorporate emergency lighting.

**Home security.** Keep an eye on your home from anywhere. Smart security systems are highly customizable and available as do-it-yourself configurations or comprehensive setups that include professional installation and monitoring.

Expect these and other smart home devices to become must-have features in homes. You can purchase them from the electronics, appliance and garage door retailers in your area.





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# WHAT IS ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING?

Architectural lighting enhances the structure of a space to create a cohesive experience. It's something to be considered during every building and renovation project, and the earlier the better. This is because this type of lighting is integrated directly into the space, blending in with the features of your home. Here are some ways architectural lighting is used.



**To emphasize ceilings.** If you have architectural ceilings, rather than installing pot lights consider adopting lighting that blends into the millwork and molding. This could work well on a beamed, coffered, coved or tray ceiling.

**To set the mood with wall wash lighting.** Wall washing is a technique that directs light at a wall to draw attention to the smooth, vertical surface. The fixtures can

be recessed in the ceiling or mounted to it. If you prefer to create an uplighting effect, install the lights on the floor.

**To light your way.** Illuminate stairways by adding pot lights on both sides of the bottom step, either on the lowest riser or the wall. Alternatively, add lighting within each riser. Uplighting can create height and drama, and when used to illuminate staircases, it also

focuses light where it's most needed. There are many other possibilities when it comes to architectural lighting, from illuminating the underside of kitchen counters and cabinets, to lighting up built-in shelving and other custom features. For the best possible results, make sure to speak with an architect before you start your renovation or building project.



# KITCHEN TECH: A WINNING RECIPE

Technological innovations in kitchen appliances are completely transforming the way we shop for groceries and prepare meals. Kitchen appliances come with a wide range of new technologies to simplify your life. Here's a bit of what's new for foodies.

Smart appliances are products you can sync up with a smart phone or home energy management system. This provides you with greater control over the way the appliance operates as well as real-time data about its energy usage.

In addition, many smart appliances, such as refrigerators, laundry machines and HVAC systems, can be programmed to operate when electricity rates are lowest, saving you money.

**The smart fridge.** Some smart fridges can help you with your food choices by managing food supplies on an ongoing basis; they check expiration dates and even suggest recipes based on food items that are on hand in the fridge. Scratching your head all day about what to make for supper may soon be a thing of the past with this very latest in kitchen aids.

**The smart oven.** Smart ovens can adapt their cooking time to the type and weight of the food being cooked. In other words, there'll be no more burnt offerings on the supper table and your smoke detectors will get a well-deserved break.

Moreover, the very latest in induction cooktops allows you to position pans anywhere you want on the range. The cooktop's computer detects where the pan is, as well as its shape, and then manages the cooking process flawlessly.

**Wireless technology.** Wireless technology for small kitchen appliances is another innovation we're seeing in modern kitchens. For example, it's now possible to operate a food processor at a distance of one yard from its base, thanks to a magnetic resonance device placed under the worktop. Multitasking has never been easier.

Once you've selected your new appliance, make sure to get it installed by the right professional. A faulty installation can impede your appliance's energy efficiency and even cause it to break down.

Welcoming technology into your kitchen will allow you to use your resources with optimum efficiency. With less waste of both electricity and food, your finances and your conscience can sleep easy.



# CREATE YOUR ZEN OASIS

## GARDEN

Would you like to create a relaxing, harmonious outdoor space inspired by the famed Japanese gardens? Here are five tips that will help you turn your backyard into a pleasant Zen garden.



**1) Don't overcrowd the space.** When it comes to designing a Zen garden, always think in terms of simplicity and sobriety. This means you should avoid including too many showy decor elements, which would create a cluttered effect. If you want the space to feel pure and minimal, keep accessories (lanterns, statues, fountains) to a minimum — two or three is plenty.

**2) Choose organic materials.** Stone tiles, sand pathways peppered with pebbles, a wooden bridge — organic materials are key in a Japanese-inspired garden. Any furniture you'd like to incorporate (a chair for meditation, for example) should be plain, simple and high quality.

**3) Incorporate aquatic elements.** Water, which symbolizes purity and relaxation, is a key element to showcase in your Zen garden. To do so, you could set up a calming fountain, a small pond, or even a discreet water feature like a rock with a small hollow in the middle.

**4) Say yes to asymmetry.** Avoid the straight, regular lines — such as a pathway bordered by parapets — often associated with Western gardens. In a Zen space, asymmetry and irregularity should be highlighted in celebration of the unpredictable randomness of nature.

**5) Choose inspiring plants.** Select trees, shrubs and flowers that inspire serenity. Japanese maple, alpine pine, boxwood and bamboo are just a few varieties that are ideal for creating a peaceful haven. The vegetation should be dominated by shrubs and foliage plants.

Flowers are present but always discrete; you'll need light touches of yellow, orange or white scattered here and there. One exception is the use of fall chrysanthemums. With their abundant flowers, skillfully placed fall chrysanthemums add incomparable splendour to a Zen garden.





# IF YOU WANT TO GROW APPLES, CHOOSE THE TASTIEST

If you're thinking about growing apples, take some time now to test varieties and talk with local growers. **By LEE REICH Associated Press**

I grow an apple called Hudson's Golden Gem and I do so for one reason. Yes, this apple's russeted, golden skin is beautiful. But it's the flavor that puts it above the rest.

When you buy apples at the store or orchard, your choice is limited to the dozen or so varieties that have been chosen because they look pretty, ship well, store well and have flavor with broad appeal.

We gardeners, on the other hand, can plant any of more than 5,000 apple varieties that strike our fancy. And we can plant and harvest without regard to a variety's appearance, shelf-life or other commercial attributes.

What the doyen of American horticulture, Liberty Hyde Bailey, said early in the last century about apples applies equally well today: "Why do we need so many kinds . . .? Because there are so many folks. A person has the right to gratify his legitimate tastes . . . (and) should be accorded that privilege."

We can also harvest at each variety's peak of perfection. My Macoun apples, for instance, taste different -- and much better -- than any Macoun apples I can buy. One reason is because I don't harvest mine until they are so ripe they are about to or have fallen from the branches.

Here are some other flavorful apples I've planted. They may have other shortcomings, but they all taste great!

Ashmead's Kernel originated more than 200 years ago in a Dr. Ashmead's garden in Gloucester, England. The fruit is a russeted golden brown with a reddish-bronze cheek when struck by sunlight. Inside, a delicious, crisp, yellow flesh.

Cox's Orange Pippin is another old variety that originated in England, thanks to a retired brewer named Richard Cox, in 1825. The color, orange and red, washed with carmine over a yellow background, limits its American market. Prized strictly for its flavor, Cox is still grown by British farmers despite some commercial flaws.

Ellison's Orange is a British apple, a relative youngster, that originated in Lincolnshire in 1911. It's a late summer or early fall apple, golden yellow with carmine stripes, with juicy flesh and a vinous flavor that hints of anise. Cox Orange Pippin is one of its parents.

Not all the good apples come from England. Macoun, for instance, originated in New York, in 1923, with McIntosh as one of its parents. Hudson's Golden Gem is also American, originating in an Oregon fencerow in 1931.

Another American apple that I've grown is Newtown Pippin, which originated in New York City (Queens) about 300 years ago. The light yellow fruit, tart with a hint of tangerine, rounds out the apple season by not developing its best flavor until it's been in storage until after Christmas. As testimonial to its good flavor, Newtown Pippins were shipped to England in colonial times.

And superior flavor isn't limited to old apple varieties, British or American. Mutsu (Crispin) came from Japan in 1948. This large, round, yellow apple has a delicate, spicy flavor and a pleasantly coarse texture that is reminiscent of biting into a snowball.

Jonagold was introduced only 40 years ago from the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. It combines the flavors of its parents, the sprightly Jonathan and the aromatic Golden Delicious. The large fruits are yellow with a splash of light scarlet. Jonagold also has a nice "cracking" flavor — the crisp fruits explode in your mouth with juice and flavor.

I round out my present collection with the variety Liberty, also from New York, dating to 1978. Besides excellent flavor, not surprising with Macoun as one of its parents, Liberty is resistant to the major apple diseases.

The above is only a sampling of the many great-tasting apple varieties. Take a little time to taste a lot of varieties and speak to locals in your area and you might find other varieties that tickle your taste buds and are well suited locally.

Before you get too enthusiastic about planting apples, one caution: Apples are not an easy fruit to grow in many regions. The plants require annual pruning and pest control. (Even Liberty, although disease-resistant, still gets attacked by insects.)

But if you're willing to learn about pests and make the efforts to thwart them, a few trees of apple varieties selected for excellence in flavor will reward you with years of delectable eating.



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# HOW TO BECOME A HOMEOWNER IN 2021

## REAL ESTATE

Is your New Year's resolution to buy a new home? If so, here's how to make good on this promise.



**Establish a budget and start saving.** Determine how much money you require to buy a home. Research house prices in the area where you want to live, and educate yourself about mortgages and what's required to apply for one. Your bank or a reputable mortgage lender can assist you.

Once you've calculated how much money you need, establish a budget that allows you to reach this goal. To make ends meet, you may need to trim unnecessary spending. However, you can grow your finances further by keeping your money in a high-yield savings account or investing it wisely.


**Boost your credit score.** A good credit score is key to buying a home. It gives you more mortgage options and will lower your monthly interest rate. Here are a few ways to improve your score:

- 1) Pay all your bills on time and don't surpass your credit limit.
- 2) Don't transfer the balance of an older credit account to a new one; the longer an account is open and in use, the better your score.
- 3) Use different types of credit, such as a credit card, car loan and line of credit. Using only one type can result in a lower score.




**Get pre-approved.** Once your credit score is in good shape, you can get pre-approved for a mortgage through your bank. This will equip you with a letter indicating how much you can borrow. Mortgage pre-approval is a great asset when house shopping, as it shows sellers that you're a qualified buyer.


Once your financial affairs are in order, you're ready to become a homeowner. To find a house that meets your needs, make sure to hire a realtor.





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Unique 3 BR, 2BA home on 12 acres. Wood exterior, vaulted living space and views of the natural setting. Two bedrooms and bath on the main upper level - bedroom, kitchenette, and laundry on the ground level. Marketable timber, some level pasture accessed off Dupee Valley Road, Large Shop, Many storage sheds.

**MLS# 20484762**



**Stacy Martin, Broker**  
Willamette West Realtors  
503-560-2144  
StacyMartin@willamettewest.com

**\$360,000**  
**McMinnville**




**Popular Home  
Near Park**

Popular 3 bed/2.1 bath Mason floorplan in LGI neighborhood, near the fun Jay Pearson Neighborhood Park. Stone front exterior with covered front entry, and fenced backyard with a brand new stone patio and low-maintenance landscaping. Quartz counters, refrigerator, gas range, and walk-in pantry in the gleaming kitchen. Possible reading nook or desk area at top of stairs! Master suite includes a huge walk-in closet and en suite bathroom. Laundry located upstairs. Memorial Elem & Duniway schools. **MLS#20606436**




**Lacey Summers  
Broker**  
Bella Casa Real Estate Group  
503-435-7059  
lacey@thebellacasagroup.com

**\$399,900**  
**Gaston**



**Cozy Farmhouse  
& Hobby Farm**

Affordable farmhouse & hobby farm in a beautiful country setting. NEW ROOF & foundation repair in November! Usable space for animals, garden, projects, or home business. Charming 2 bed/1 bath home built in 1920, barn, remodeled ag building, shed, & chicken coop. Freshly painted buildings, rebuilt arbor, new plank flooring, stainless appliances, concrete slab, drainage, fencing & more. **MLS#20505720**



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**Kim Duncel**  
McMinnville Branch Manager  
& Senior Escrow Officer  
TICOR TITLE  
503.472.6101

**\$499,000**  
**McMinnville**



**Beautiful Home!**

Easy walk to wonderful downtown Mac. Looking for an Air BNB? 4 BR, 3 BA home. Custom stamped concrete/brick driveway. New brick entryway with LED lighting and custom handmade steel railing artwork. Newer hot tub with reinforced deck. Kitchen SS appliances and washer/dryer stay. Garage floor sealed, cabinets included. Furniture is less than 3 yrs old and easily negotiable. Murphy bed in one bedroom. You can literally pack your bags and move in! **ML# 20549256**



**Debbie Johnson  
Broker**  
Bella Casa Real Estate Group  
503-434-0570  
debjohnsonhomesales@gmail.com

**\$549,000**  
**McMinnville**



**Spacious  
Custom Home**

Newly remodeled kitchen includes farmhouse sink, granite countertops w extra thick edge, ss appliances & tons of cabinet storage. Notice the new hardwood flooring & primary shower update, the tray ceiling in formal dining, 18ft ceiling in entry, lg bedrooms, large 2nd bath & laundry! 4th bed easily becomes bonus room, laundry features beautiful cabinets for more storage & primary bed & ensuite provide the ultimate in relaxation. Walking distance of W Hills Neighborhood Park. **MLS# 20351144**



**Stephanie Findley  
REALTOR®**  
Berkshire Hathaway  
503-435-7049  
sfindley@bhhsnw.com

**\$550,000**  
**McMinnville**




**Spacious One  
Level Home**

3 Bedroom, 2.5 bath home in the heart of McMinnville, close to the golf course and downtown area. Well kept backyard with covered patio and an extra large tandem garage 638 sq. with space for 3rd car or shop/storage space. **MLS#20485187**




**Barry House  
Broker**  
Willamette West Realtors  
971-241-0098

**\$560,000**  
**Amity**



**16475 SE  
Woodland Heights Rd**

5.75 acres in the beautiful Woodland Heights area of Amity. Built in 2001, the comfortable 1962 sq ft home has 3 bedrooms, 2.1 baths, and a large family room in the daylight basement. This property offers views of the surrounding acreage & trees, easy paved road access, and a large shop + barn for projects or animals. Buyer representation. **MLS#20513180**



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# GREEN IDEAS



## Composting 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 tip:** 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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