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PUBLISHER JEB BLADINE

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER OSSIE BLADINE

ADVERTISING MANAGER TERRY CONLON

MARKETING CONSULTANTS BONNIE GEORGE KELSEY SELPH

KATHIE STAMPER

PRODUCTION ARTISTS MORGAN KING MELISSA SCHARNAGL CASEY WHEELER

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# **ROOTS**<sup>TO</sup>**ROOFS**

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# How to add a pop of color to your kitchen

If your kitchen is looking a little lackluster, consider adding a splash of color. Here are some simple ways to brighten up the space.



For years, many kitchen renovations have focused on white cabinets. While popular, this choice can be uninspiring and often difficult to keep clean. Here are three ideas for your kitchen cabinets that will stand the test of time but have a bit more personality than white alone.



**1. Apply paint.** A fresh coat of paint can do wonders. Changing the color of your walls, cabinets, countertops or chairs can transform the look of the entire room.

2. Include accessories. If you want to change your decor and keep up with the latest trends without breaking the bank, decorative accessories are the answer. Go wild with stylish placemats, curtains, door handles and hand towels. Patterned teapots and evecatching light fixtures are also great options.

3. Incorporate plants. Another simple way to brighten up your kitchen is to include plants. It's best to choose varieties that can withstand temperature fluctuations such as hyacinths and maidenhair ferns.

# **Kitchen cabinets that aren't white**

1. Blonde wood. Naturally pale wood combines the fresh, airy feel of white cabinets with the warm, homey feel of a cottage kitchen. Think light-colored Nordic influences rather than the dark, lacquered stains from decades past.

**2. Grey.** Grey cabinets are great for kitchens because they're neutral but add the kind of visual interest that you can't get with white. No matter your style, there's a grey that will work for your kitchen. Go for an almost-white tone for an unexpected twist or try a charcoal hue for a more dramatic, elegant look.

**3. Two-tone.** There's no rule that says all cabinets have to be same. Double down on the grey trend by painting the lowers charcoal and the uppers a pale grey to make your ceilings look higher. Or experiment with color by pairing a bold-hued island with natural wood cabinets.

Choosing one of these stylish options will add character to your kitchen in a way that white cabinets alone can't.



**1.** Pot filler. A pot filler is a swing-out faucet on a long, jointed arm that's generally mounted over the stove. Pot fillers are extremely convenient and prevent you from having to lug heavy, water-filled pots from sink to stove.

2. Farmhouse sink. With their white, fireclay basins and tall, stainless-steel faucets, modern farmhouse sinks aren't only stylish; they're also wider and deeper than standard kitchen sinks. This helps make cooking and cleaning a breeze.

# **4 must-have features** for the ultimate dream kitchen

Are you updating your kitchen? If so, here are four fabulous features you may want to consider installing.

**3. Double oven.** Double ovens provide extra cooking space, so you have the flexibility to whip up multiple dishes simultaneously. They're especially convenient if you do a lot of entertaining.

4. Built-in refrigerator. If you want your kitchen to have a streamlined and uniform profile, a built-in refrigerator is the way to go. Built-in refrigerators sit flush with the rest of the kitchen cabinetry in the space and offer an upmarket appearance.



Cutting board. There are many cutting boards available that are designed to fit over your kitchen sink. Some even include a colander for rinsing veggies or straining a can of beans. Or, you can go all out and custom build an integrated cutting board that will fit perfectly over your sink. In either case, the cutting board can also act as a cover that you can use when you want to hide a mess.

# **Space-saving sink** accessories for small kitchens

If you have a small kitchen, chances are you've longed for more space to prepare meals or put clean dishes once they're washed. Why not use your sink? These ingenious accessories can help.

**Dish rack.** If you only have a single sink, you may need to use your limited counter space to dry your dishes. A great alternative is a dish rack that sits over your sink. Available in a variety of styles and sizes, these are designed to stay out of your way and off your counter. With space-saving products like these, your small kitchen will provide you with enough room to meet your needs.

# **Backsplashes that** enhance a kitchen

Where home decorating is concerned, the space between your countertop and your cabinets is the perfect place to express your personality. Backsplashes are more popular than ever and are elements that can transform the look of the most important room in your home.



4. Wallpaper and glass. Hang some gorgeous wallpaper and then have professionals cover it with a glass panel to create an eve-catching backsplash. The madeto-measure glass panel will protect your wallpaper while providing a beautiful, transparent finish.

**1. Brick.** A brick backsplash gives an instant traditional, European inspired cachet to your decor. The installation requires a layer of cement, or mortar, and the kind you use may differ depending on the material the wall is made of. Ask an expert about how to proceed.

**2. Hardwood.** Hardwood gives a warm, Zen touch to any decor. However, this material must be suitably waterproofed when used as a backsplash so it doesn't get damaged by the inevitable splashes.

**3. Decorative tiles.** Stores stock decorative tiles in a wide variety of sizes, styles and colors. With geometric patterns, glass and ceramic imitations, there's something for everyone. If you have a limited budget and aren't very handy, self-adhesive wall tiles are easy to install and give a nice effect at a reasonable price.

# **Kitchen lighting 101**

In a kitchen, it's best to have different types of light fixtures throughout the space that serve various functions. Here's an overview.



### **Ambient lighting**

This type of lighting is powerful enough to illuminate the entire room but tends to leave workspaces insufficiently lit. Recessed or can lights are a timeless choice for kitchens, as they have a low profile and work with any decor style. Alternatively, you can opt for a traditional ceiling fixture or track lights, which have individual fixtures that can be easily repositioned to better illuminate the space.

### **Task Lighting**

This type of lighting is used to brighten up specific areas. Pendant lights are great to hang over a kitchen island or sink, for example, and they can contribute to the decor. These lights are best paired with recessed lighting to avoid too much visual clutter. As for countertop prep space, under-cabinet lighting is your best bet since it's easy to install, practically invisible and won't create shadows.

To find the right light fixtures for your kitchen and elsewhere in your home, visit the hardware, home decor and specialty light stores in your area.

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## 4 ways to incorporate a TV into your decor

Whether it's in your living room, dining room or bedroom, your TV probably takes up quite a bit of space. Here are four ideas for integrating this device into your decor so it doesn't interfere with the style and flow of the room where it's located.





1. Hide it in a piece of furniture If you don't want your TV to be the focal

point of the room, consider placing it inside a cabinet. This way, you can close the doors when the device isn't being used.

2. Cover it with a decorative accessory Install a sliding panel in front of your TV, and decorate it with a painting, picture frames or a large mirror. Alternatively, you can hang a tapestry in front of your TV and roll it out of the way as needed.

### 3. Camouflage it with black decor

You can decorate the room your TV is in with black furniture and accessories, or install the device against a black accent wall so it blends in with the decor when it's turned off.

### 4. Mount it on the wall

This option allows you to swivel the TV so it's at the perfect angle for watching, and then press it up against the wall when it's not in use. Another option is to install the TV in an alcove.

If you want a custom solution to seamlessly incorporate your TV into a room's decor, reach out to a local interior designer.

As more and more people work from home, video conferencing is increasingly being used to replace in-person meetings. Like it or not, virtual get-togethers allow your colleagues to peek inside your home. Here are three tips to make sure your home office is ready for meetings.



1. Find your light Lighting is one of the most important factors to consider when setting up for a Zoom meeting. Try to position yourself so that you're facing a soft, natural source of light. Always avoid backlighting as it'll shadow your face and obscure your features. It's also not very flattering.



Viewing height. For the most comfortable television watching experience, the screen should be at eve level when you're sitting down. The recommended height is 42 inches, but this may vary depending on how tall you are and the size of your sofa and chairs.

Width. For safety reasons, your TV shouldn't be wider than the stand. Choose one that's longer if you want to put decorations on it as well.

Style. Ideally, your TV stand should complement the style of the room. Glass or metal pieces will look great in a sleek and modern space, while wood works better for more traditional rooms.

Are you shopping for a new TV stand? Here are four things to keep in mind when choosing one.

**Storage.** Drawers and shelves help keep the floor and surface of your TV stand uncluttered. If you plan to keep video game consoles, movies or anything else near vour television, choose a stand with ample storage.

Additionally, if you have kids or pets running around, safety should be a priority.

Besides choosing a stand that's wider than the TV, make sure its maximum weight-bearing capacity is greater than what your television weighs.

# **3 tips to make your home office Zoom ready**

### 2. Choose your backdrop

Avoid using virtual backgrounds. Instead, designate a simple but elegant accent wall as your backdrop. Apply color psychology to select paint that boosts your mood and productivity. For example, shades of blue are calming and promote good communication while shades of green are peaceful and easy on the eyes.

### 3. Get rid of clutter

Keep your space tidy and free of clutter, but not empty or bare. Create the right balance by adding a few tasteful items like a plant and some artwork. Just don't overdo it, as you don't want your space to be distracting.

Don't forget to test your camera angle so that you capture the best view of your space and yourself.

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# **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.













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# **READY MIXED CONCRETE**

# How to design a bedroom your child can grow into

It can be expensive and time-consuming to frequently update your child's bedroom as they get older and their interests change. If you want to create a space they'll feel at home in for years to come, here's some advice to follow.

### Buy a "big kid" bed

A wrought iron or upholstered headboard and matching bed frame will look just as appropriate in a teen's bedroom as it will in a child's. If you have the space, skip straight to a double bed.

### Invest in timeless furniture

Opt for wood or white bookcases rather than colorful storage bins so you don't wind up with pieces that feel too juvenile in a few years. You should also avoid child-size furniture they'll soon outgrow.

### Pick a neutral paint color

White, beige or cream walls will provide a neutral backdrop for colorful art and accessories, which can be easily updated as your child's tastes evolve.

### Keep staple items classic

Favor an area rug with a geometric or floral pattern rather than a space or princess themed one. Similarly, invest in window coverings that will stand the test of time.

### **Personalize the space**

Use fun blankets, throw pillows and wall hangings to make the space more child friendly. You can even encourage your kids to paint their own frames and choose what photos to display.

Remember to keep your child involved in the process. While you should avoid giving them free rein on the design, don't hesitate to let them select certain items or choose between several options.





# 3 ways to brighten up your closet

Does your closet feel more like a cave? Here are three ways you can shed some light on the situation without doing any electrical work.



1. Replace the rods in your closet with illuminated LED models. If there isn't an outlet nearby, opt for ones that are battery-operated.

2. Place small, batteryoperated puck lights in strategic locations such as beneath the upper shelf. Most models include adhesive strips to facilitate installation.



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3. Line the inside of the door frame with LED strip lights to provide an even distribution of light. Both wireless and plug-in models usually come with a switch.

Finally, consider freshening up the inside of your closet with a coat of pure white paint to further brighten up the space.



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### How to find the right professional for your renovation work

Do you want to gut your bathroom, renovate your kitchen or knock down a wall? Whether your renovation project is big or small, it's important to work with a licensed professional you can trust. Here are four tips to help you find the right person for the job.

1. Make sure they have the required licensing Before hiring a renovation specialist, it's important to verify if they have the required licensing. You can look up the company on the Contractors State License Board to ensure it has a valid license. You can also verify that the business is legitimate by consulting the Secretary of State website where you live.

### 2. Ensure there are no complaints filed

For peace of mind, you should hire a renovation specialist with a clean track record. You can conduct a search on the Better Business Bureau (BBB) website to find out if any official complaints have been filed against them. Make sure you take any negative comments made online with a grain of salt, as they're not official.



### **3.** Compare at least three quotes

To make an informed decision, you should meet with at least three professionals and have them each prepare a detailed quote. You can then compare them at your leisure and determine which one suits your needs and budget.

### 4. Listen to your gut

It's important to hire someone you trust. Are they respectful? Do they ask relevant questions and provide detailed answers? If the pricing and timeline meet your needs, listen to your instincts when choosing a renovation specialist.

### **3 resources to help you restore an old house**

If you own a heritage home, you might be interested in restoring it. Here are three resources that can help you with your renovation project and ensure you respect the building's history.

### 1. Craftspeople

When it comes to old houses, there are a number of repair and maintenance tasks that require specific tools and training. Look for individuals and companies that specialize in traditional trades, as they'll have the know-how to assist you with your restoration. Reach out to local guilds to find talented craftspeople in your area.

2. Technical guides Restoring a historic building is a major undertaking. Fortunately, there are guidebooks available that outline the steps involved and provide recommendations based on the style of your home. They might also give you a better idea about which types of professionals can help with your project.

**3. Building inspectors** 

# **4 renovation projects** you should always leave to the pros

If you want to make improvements to your home, you might be tempted to take on a few projects yourself to save money. However, even if you have experience doing work around the house, certain tasks are best left to the experts. Here are four renovation projects it's best to leave to a professional.

### 1. Repairing or replacing a roof

Professional roofers have the equipment and experience to work safely on a roof and avoid injuries. Additionally, they know how to properly install various roofing materials to ensure a final result that's sturdy, weatherproof and long-lasting.

### 2. Doing any kind of electrical work

Faulty wiring can lead to sudden power surges and fires. If electrical work needs to be done, hiring a licensed electrician is a must. These professionals know how to safely handle dangerous components and will make sure everything is up to code.

### 3. Installing or moving plumbing

Do you want to add another bathroom to your home or move the kitchen sink to the other side of the room? Working with a qualified plumber is the easiest way to avoid costly mistakes that could lead to flooding and other types of water damage.

### 4. Tearing down walls

Knocking down a wall might seem like a simple task, but if you remove one that's loadbearing without taking the right precautions, you'll compromise the entire structure of your home. Since load-bearing walls can be tricky to spot, this type of demolition work is best left to an expert.

To ensure your restoration project is up to code and respects local regulations, you'll need to hire an inspector. The American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) is a great resource to help you find building inspectors that specialize in historic houses.



To help you find the right person for the job, be sure to consult online custome reviews and ask potential contractors about their credentials and experience



### What new and future parents should look for in a home

If you're a new or expectant parent, buying a family home may be on your to-do list. Here are some essential features to keep top of mind as you shop for your dream home.



• A home on a quiet street in close proximity to a playground. Ideally, the route to the park should have sidewalks the entire way.

• A mudroom with plenty of storage to keep jackets, dirty shoes and other clutter from spilling into the main living space.

• Bedrooms on the same level. This is practical for nightly feedings and gives both you and your kids peace of mind.

• A bathtub, preferably one that's easy for kids to access and has an extra hand-held shower head.

• Stairs that are easy to baby proof. Avoid wide staircases that won't fit a safety gate and railings with large gaps between the rungs.

• A powder room on the main floor. This is helpful for potty training so your child has quick and easy access to a toilet.

To ensure you find the right home for your family, work with a real estate agent who's familiar with the area where you want to live.

# 10 tips for moving in winter

Are you moving this winter? If so, you'll need to take into account the likelihood of cold temperatures, slippery conditions and rain. Here are a few tips to ensure your move is as safe and stress free as possible.

1. Keep an eye on the forecast, and don't hesitate to reschedule if there's a storm.

2. Double pack fragile items and electronics so they're less likely to break in the cold.

3. Clear the walkway and driveway of snow and ice to prevent any accidents.

4. Cover the floors with plastic tarps to keep them clean and avoid damage.

5. Turn off the heat since people will be going in and out of the house all day.

6. Put a space heater in the bathroom with the door closed so you have a warm retreat.

7. Board your pets so they're not underfoot or stuck in an unheated house all day.

8. Confirm the utilities are working at

the new house before you arrive on moving day.

9. Have warm clothes, spare gloves and bedding in the car for easy access.

10. Fill a thermos with hot chocolate or a crockpot with soup for you and the movers.

# An aspiring homeowner's guide to real estate terms

If you're looking to buy your first home, you might feel a little overwhelmed by all the real estate lingo being thrown your way. Here's a short glossary of some common terms to get you started.

**Amortization:** The process of gradually paying off your mortgage with regular payments.

Appraisal: The process of determining how much a property is worth, typically used by a lender to decide how big your loan should be.

**Comparables:** A list of recently sold properties in the area that can be used to determine the market value of a similar property, also known as comps.

**Contingency clause:** A condition or action that must be met in order for a purchase offer to become binding.

**Deed:** A legal document that states the official owner of a property, also called a transfer.

**Equity:** The percentage of a property's value owned by the homeowner (its market value minus the amount still owed on it).

Foreclosure: A legal process that allows a lender to recover money owed on a defaulted loan by taking ownership of the property and selling it.



In escrow: A period of time after a buyer makes an offer and the seller accepts during which the property is transferred to a third party until the transaction is complete.

Lien: A legal claim to a property if the owner defaults on mortgage payments or has unpaid tax debt.

**Maturity date:** The last day of a mortgage term, at which time the loan must be repaid in full or a new agreement must be reached.

**Principal:** The amount borrowed from a lending institution. In mortgage payments, this doesn't include interest.

Title insurance: A policy that protects a homeowner against challenges of ownership to a property or other problems related to the title of a home.

Remember, a real estate agent can be an invaluable ally when it comes to navigating the language and processes of buying a home.

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### A guide to virtual tours

The need to implement social distancing measures has driven many businesses to find new ways to serve their clients. Realtors are no different. Here's what you should know about virtual property tours.

### **Different types of tours**

The term "virtual tour" can refer to either a tour of a property done via video chat or one conducted using 3D-modelling software. In a best case scenario, these two techniques will be used in tandem to provide homebuyers with the most complete experience possible.

### Tips for buyers

Virtual tours are more flexible than inperson visits, especially because they're easier to plan and less intrusive for homeowners. The most important thing to remember is that, in some ways, virtual tours offer more than traditional visits. Make the most of them by trying out various layouts and color schemes.

In addition to virtual tours, some realtors are offering virtual closing as well, adding another level of safety and convenience.

# **GREENIDEAS** 5 ways to save energy this winter

In winter, excessive energy use can result in costly utility bills. Fortunately, there are things you can do to minimize the amount of energy you consume. Here are five ways to conserve energy this winter.

### 1. Reuse the heat from your oven

Leave your oven door open after cooking or baking to take advantage of the heat that was generated to warm your kitchen.

### 2. Let sunlight in during the day

The sun offers a free source of heat. To warm your home naturally, simply open your curtains and blinds during the day.

### However, always remember to close them when the sun goes down, as this will reduce the amount of chill from cold windows.

3. Choose LED holiday lights LED lights use 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. They also last much longer. With proper care, you'll be able to use them for many years to come.

4. Change your air filters regularly Improve your indoor air quality and lower your energy expenditure by performing this home maintenance task. If you have clogged filters, your HVAC system will need to work

much harder to heat your home, resulting in higher energy bills.

### 5. Adjust your ceiling fans

In the winter, set up your fans so that they rotate clockwise. Putting your ceiling fans in reverse will produce an upward draft, moving the warm air down into the rest of the room.

Using these simple strategies can help you save energy while allowing you to stay warm at home. This winter, practice energy conservation in your home to help protect the environment and spend less on your utility bills.

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# What to include in a reading nook

Whether it's in your bedroom or a quiet corner of the living room, everyone deserves a cozy spot they can retreat to for some downtime. Here are a few must-haves for your reading nook.



• A fabric armchair with a small ottoman or pouf, or a soft chaise lounge

• A source of natural light as well as a conveniently placed floor lamp

• An end table where you can put your comforting beverage of choice

• A few plush throw pillows and a large, soft blanket

• A pop of color to make the space feel soothing and inviting

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• A small area rug to define the space and keep your feet warm

• An assortment of potted plants or a dried flower arrangement

• A candle or essential oil diffuser with a relaxing scent like lavender or rosemary

Finally, don't forget to add a classic bookcase, builtin shelving or an elegant magazine rack with an assortment of your favorite reads.









# Our Compost Can:

- Minimize the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Increase your soil's ability to hold moisture and retain nutrients
- Feed helpful earthworms
- Create a buffer for your plants against common toxins in the soil
- Control PH levels and support essential micro-organism growth
- Improve soil tilth & structure
- Increase water infiltration & storage



Mon-Sat 8am–5:30pm • 2200 NE Orchard Ave, McMinnville 503-434-1671 • RecologyOrganics.com

### BLOW-IN BARK SERVICE: IN-YARD PICK-UP • DELIVERY | COMPOST • SOIL BLENDS • BARK • ROCK