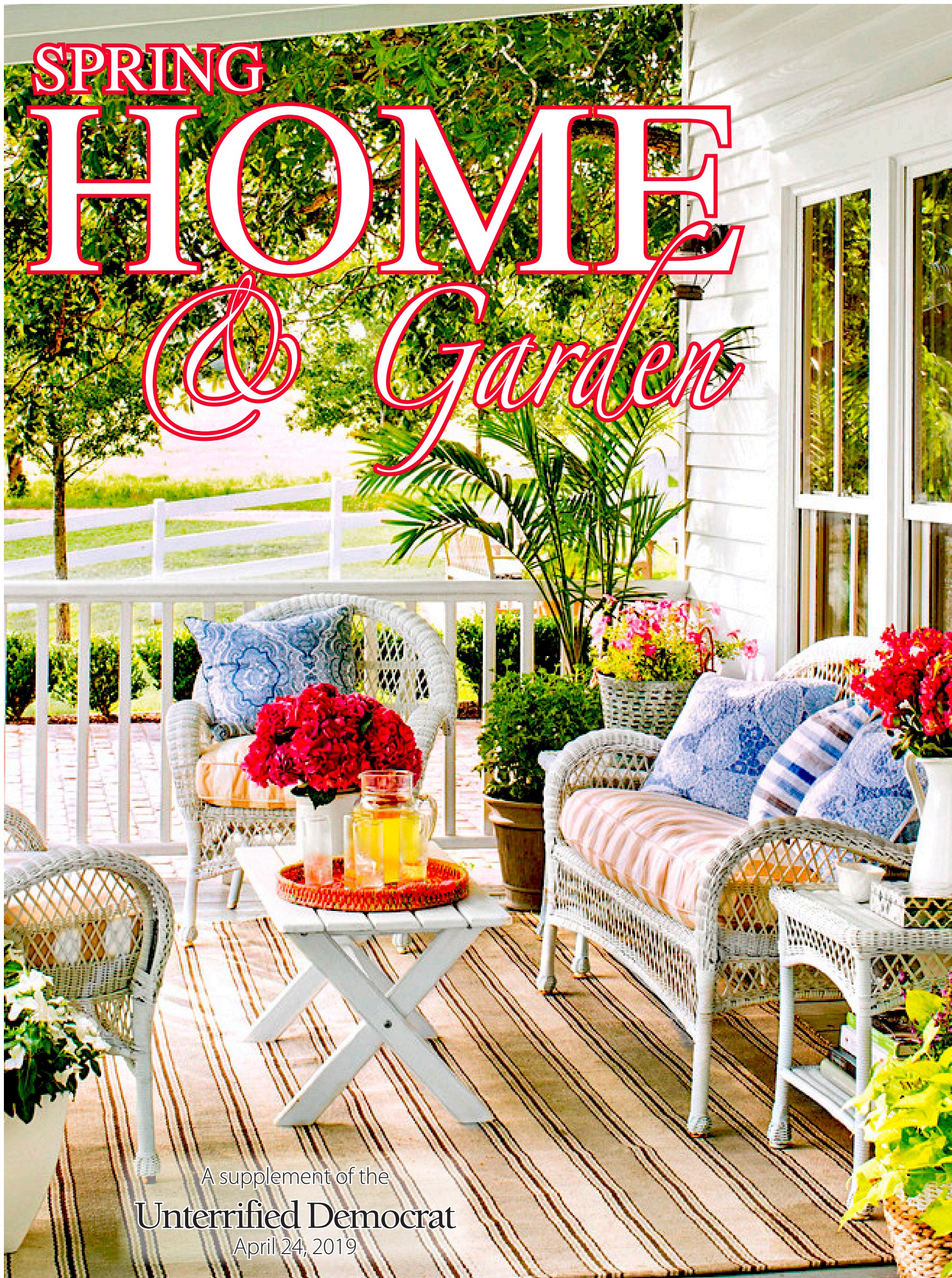


SPRING HOME & Garden



A supplement of the
Unterrified Democrat
April 24, 2019

How to Finish an Attic and Convert It Into a Room

Interested in transforming your unfinished attic into usable living space? Whether you're in need of an extra bedroom, office or playroom, a DIY attic remodel is a great way to add space to your home without paying for a whole home addition.

Use this guide to learn how to transform your space from exposed rafters to a finished room.

What to Consider Before Finishing an Attic

Make Sure Your Attic Meets Local Building Codes

When converting an attic to a living space, it must meet the same building requirements as the other rooms in your home. To meet most building codes your attic should:

- Have at least 7 feet of vertical clearance in the majority of the room, be a minimum of 7 feet wide and have at least 70 square feet of space available.
- Be accessible by a full-size staircase.

• Have another exit in case of an emergency, typically an easily accessible window.

If your attic is only accessible from a ladder or a pull-down staircase, you will need to build a permanent staircase before it can be used as anything more than storage space.

Find Out If You Need a Building Permit

Reach out to your local permitting office to find out if you need a permit for your attic conversion. A permit is usually only

needed if you are adding electrical wiring or ventilation, or if you plan to change the structure of your home in the process, such as knocking down an existing wall or adding a dormer.

Consider Your Heating and Ventilation Needs

If your attic does not already have duct work, you will need to find out if your current HVAC system will support an additional room. Bring in an expert to look at the capacity of your current heating and cooling system and find out if additional ductwork can be added to reach your attic.

If adding ductwork or HVAC capacity is beyond your budget, other options include baseboard heating and mini-split systems.

In addition, have the contractor check for or install rafter vents to ensure air can move behind the insulation you will install to finish your attic. Rafter vents will keep your roof cool even while your attic is warm.

Consider the Cost to Finish an Attic

The average cost of an attic conversion is \$49,438, according to Home Advisor. The cost of the project will depend on the elements your project includes.

continued to page 3B



Pro Tip: If most of your attic's ceiling is under 7 feet tall, you can hire a professional to build a dormer to increase the height of the room.

B&P Patterson
Concrete & Construction L.L.C.

Brian Patterson-
Proprietor

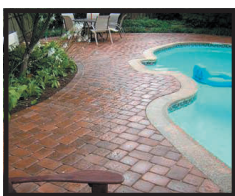
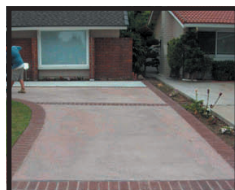
FLAT WORK
DRIVEWAYS,
FLOORS
CURBS &
GUTTERS

Bonded
& Insured
FREE ESTIMATES

P. O. Box 307 * Linn, MO 65051

Cell: 573-690-1249

Fax: 573-897-5701



Don't Let the Little Things in Life BUG You!



Premiere Perimeter Program
Residential
Commercial
Termite Pretreat
New Construction

Ants • Termites
• Roaches and others

"Ask about
Sentricon Total
colony Elimination
Termite System."

Art's
Pest Control

429 W. Miller St.
Jefferson City, MO

573-634-3299

Attic Conversion

continued from page 2B

If you are planning on a DIY attic remodel, you can expect to pay approximately \$5,000 for materials including drywall, insulation and carpeting depending on the size of the attic.

Finishing an Attic With Trusses

If your roof is supported by trusses, you will probably not have the space in your attic to build a room. You would need to relocate the trusses to create the space and ceiling height required by building codes. This would require an architect, engineer and a significant financial investment.

How to Finish an Attic

Be realistic about your skill level when it comes to doing the work yourself. If this is your first remodel, consider hiring a professional to help you convert your attic.

1. Clean Out Your Attic

Before you begin converting an attic, you need to clean out the area and remove any old junk and building materials you will no longer need. Assuming you are going to add new insulation before installing drywall, remove any old insulation. If the insulation is loose or blown-in, use an industrial vacuum to remove it.

If the insulation on your attic floor is in good shape, you can install subflooring over it. If it is old and compressed, consider replacing it.

2. Wire the Attic for Electricity

Once your attic is brought up to code and you've obtained a permit, hire a licensed electrician to ensure all wiring meets code requirements. By hiring a professional to install electrical wiring across the walls and ceiling, you can avoid many of the common problems DIY homeowners tend to come across.

If you do the work yourself, you run the risk of electrical fires. As a rule of thumb, there should be at least one outlet on each wall and at least one outlet every 12 feet.

3. Build a Subfloor

If joists are visible on the floor of your attic, you will need to build a subfloor. Start this process only once all electrical and ventilation installations are completed. To reduce sound traveling from your finished attic through the floor to the rest of the house, you can add insulation under the subfloor paneling or choose a thicker subfloor panel.

4. Insulate Your Attic

For a DIY project, the best insulation for an attic is batt insulation with a vapor-retardant facing. This insulation is great for finishing an attic because it is flexible and easy to install and can even be layered for additional coverage. Before installing the batts, caulk any spaces or leaks where air can pass to the rooms below.



Batt insulation is usually cut to fit between standard wall joists and 8-foot-high walls. Attic walls are not always this tall. If the batts don't fit, trim pieces with a utility knife.

5. Install Drywall and Ceiling

Once you've finished installing the insulation, it's time to finish your walls. Hanging drywall will really make your attic conversion take shape. Hang drywall horizontally from your exposed studs and secure with drywall screws. Finish by covering seams and screws with drywall mud.

Depending on the height of your ceiling, you may be able to choose a dropped ceiling for a more finished look, but if you need to conserve space to meet building code standards, install drywall directly to the ceiling as well.

6. Paint Attic Ceiling and Walls

Next, paint your drywall and watch as your attic starts to look like a real living space. New drywall will need to be primed

prior to painting. After priming, add at least two coats of paint to give the drywall a finished appearance. If you used drywall on the ceiling, paint it before starting on the walls.

When choosing colors for your attic room, consider lighter options, especially if the room has few windows and little natural light.

7. Choose and Install Attic Flooring

You're almost finished with your DIY attic remodel. Your next step is to choose and install flooring for the room. Carpeting is a good option for an attic because it helps reduce sound and adds additional insulation to your floor. Follow installation guidelines based on the flooring of your choice.

Enjoy Your Finished Attic

Next step, decorate your converted attic! Now that your attic includes painted walls and finished floors, move in furniture and décor to make the room the living space you need.

FOR SALE

Gratz
Real Estate
Auctioneering

Four Generations Strong
FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!! CALL TODAY!!
573-635-4168
www.callgratz.com

*This is a seller's market.
With the limited inventory of houses
for sale, why remodel?*

Call Gratz to see what's available!

House Looking Tired?

Before

After

REVIVE IT
WITH A HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN FROM
Heritage Community Bank
101 S. Main Street, Chamois MO
573-763-5958
call or stop by for more information
**IT MAY BE JUST WHAT BOTH YOU
AND YOUR HOUSE NEED!**

Member
FDIC

EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

Grandpa's rules for mowing grass

Old man winter was officially said goodbye on March 21 when we welcomed the start of spring. My wife and I love the spring when we can sit out on our deck in the evening with a glass of wine and enjoy the cool air without the interruption of flying insects.

But spring also means that it is grass mowing season.

Every now and then a curious acquaintance will ask me what my responsibilities are at the newspaper. My list of duties include shoveling snow (which I had to do more than normal this year) and mowing the grass.

Both at my house and at our Owensville office I cut the grass with a push mower in under an hour. Thankfully there is no grass to mow at our office in Belle, Vienna or Linn.

At one point, in my middle school years I mowed at least five yards a week. Of course they were our neighbors' and relative's yards. I never saw a riding mower. Everything was done with a push mower. After all, why spend the money on a riding mower when you have the strong legs of a 10 year-old to do the work for you.

My maternal grandfather, Ed Koepke taught me how to mow grass. His number one rule was to push the mower clockwise.

With the grass discharged on the right side this accomplished two things.

First, since your grass clippings were thrown to the center of the yard the mower ran over them again and again cutting them in smaller pieces. Remember at the time there was no such thing as a mulching blade.

The second reason grandpa gave me for mowing this way was to minimize the possibility of throwing an errant rock or stick through a window of the house.

Grandpa's second rule was to cleanup after yourself and remove any lawn clippings from the driveway or sidewalk.

Now I rarely see a young boy, or girl out mowing the yard. If they are it's on a lawn tractor,

or a zero turn mower.

That's progress.

This brings me to one of my pet peeves. There are many people out there who do not follow my grandfathers' rules. They mow counter clockwise.

This may seem like a small insignificant thing, but when one mows grass counter clockwise the grass clippings are discharged on the road.

I'm sure you are thinking, Dennis with all the problems in the world you get upset over grass clippings?

At home, our yard has a long narrow flower bed between the street and the grass. How would it look if I bagged my grass, took it up on the road and dumped it?

Do you discharge your grass clippings on your driveway, your sidewalk or where you park your car? Of course not. If you did you would use a broom or a leaf blower to remove it.

I once spotted a homeowner in my neighborhood using a leaf blower to do just that, blow the grass clippings off the road. His grandfather must have taught him right.

Today many make a good income cutting grass at commercial and residential properties. Their objective is to mow the property as fast as possible and move to the next job.

Do the owners wonder how bad it looks for their grass clippings to be on the road in front of their business? I'm sure they would complain if the clippings were thrown on their parking lot.

It's bad enough to have grass on the road in town. It cannot be safe, driving 50 to 60 mph on a highway and drive into grass clippings. I've seen it where the road is almost completely green from fresh mowed grass.

In my opinion there should be a law against yard waste being placed on the street or highway.

Thanks for putting up with my pet peeve.

Up to \$500 off selected Titan HD and Timecutter HD zero turn mowers

TORO

Off manufacturer's suggested promo price. Select models only.

Rosebud Tractor & Equipment Company
 241 Hwy. 50
 Rosebud, MO 63091
 573-784-3393

RTE of Linn
 1325 Main Street • Linn, MO 65051
 573-897-2249

www.RosebudTractor.com

How to Build a Raised Garden Bed

Looking for a way to grow more flowers or vegetables in your small yard? Consider building a raised garden bed to give yourself plenty of space to grow healthy, hearty plants.

Keep reading to learn the benefits of a raised garden bed, as well as a step-by-step guide to build and plant a bed.

What Is a Raised Garden Bed?

A raised garden bed is a raised box used as a garden plot for growing plants. A raised garden bed is filled with quality soil and placed where there is plenty of sunlight.

The Benefits of a Raised Garden Bed:

- Easier weeding with less bending and kneeling for the gardener.
- Better drainage for your plants.
- Fewer weeds than a typical garden.
- Higher ground temperature for a longer growing season.
- More fertile soil than a typical garden.
- Minimal space requirements.

A raised garden bed should be a maximum of 4 feet wide so you can easily weed the center of the bed without stepping into it. For depth, the bed should be at least 6 inches deep, but the deeper the better. Raised garden bed expert Ian Wilson advises 24 inches in depth for a comfortable working height and healthy plant roots.

This simple guide will help you build a 4-foot by 8-foot bed that is 12 inches deep.

Tips for Choosing Wood for Your DIY Raised Garden Bed:

- Pressure treated wood is less expensive and will last longer, but will put your garden in contact with chemicals. Choose carefully.
- Cedar is a weather-resistant wood that will last longer but is also more expensive.
- If you choose a less expensive and untreated wood, make it last longer by using some of the optional materials listed above to line the inside of the bed with plastic sheeting to protect the wood from the damp soil.

How to Build a Raised Garden Bed

Step 1: Prepare the Ground for Your Garden Bed

Choose the location for your bed based

on the light and shade needs of the plants that will be in your garden. If you haven't chosen plants yet, choose a spot that gets at least six hours of sunlight every day.

While you can place your bed on concrete, a dirt or grass location will give your plants more space to grow their roots and provide better drainage. Choose a relatively level area and measure the space to ensure your bed will fit. If you're following this guide, the space should be 4 feet by 8 feet.

Using your hoe or shovel, remove the grass in this area and loosen the dirt while leveling the ground. You want the sides of the bed to sit flush on the ground so vermin and weeds won't fit under the edges.

Step 2: Frame Your Garden Bed and Set Screws

Lay out your wood with the longer pieces parallel to each other and the shorter pieces perpendicular to each end of the longer boards.

On the broad side of the 4-foot boards, measure 1 inch in from the end and 3 inches down from the top. Mark this spot for a screw. Measure 3 inches down from that spot and mark a second spot. Repeat one more time. Complete this process at both ends of the two 4-foot boards.

Using the electric drill, sink the screws one-third of the way into the marked spots or until the screws stand on their own.

Step 3: Build the Bed

Next, use the screws to attach the 4-foot end pieces to the 8-foot side pieces. With the help of a second person, hold one 8-foot side piece on its side, making the outside edge flush with the end of the 4-foot board so they overlap. Use a speed square to make sure the boards meet at a 90-degree angle.

Finish sinking the screws to attach the two boards.

Repeat this process at the other three corners of the bed until both sides are attached.

To extend the life of your wood, use a staple gun and heavy-duty plastic sheeting



continued on page 8B

Commercial and Residential Landscaping, Bobcat Work, Irrigation, Rock Walls, Snow Removal

897-4083

Home

619-4122

Mobile

*Free Estimates
Licensed & Insured*



Dale Rost
LANDSCAPING LLC

P.O. Box 1162 • Linn, MO 65051

Freedom Products Co., Inc.



*Quality Hardwood Products
for over 95 years*

- Interior Doors • Entry Doors
- Hardwood Flooring • Mouldings
- Furniture • Stair Parts
- Lumber

Linn, MO

573-943-2233

www.freedomwoodproducts.com

How to Tell If a Wall Is Load Bearing

Knocking down a wall is a great way to create an open floor plan, or simply make a room larger. But before you start, you should get an idea of the feasibility of the project by identifying which walls in your home are load and non-load bearing. The type of wall you are hoping to knock down will greatly affect the cost, timeline and simplicity of the project.

"The job of a load bearing wall is to transfer the load of the roof and floor levels down to the ground," says Sara Martin, who owns Open Door Architecture with her husband. A non-load bearing wall is simply a room divider, which makes removing it a much simpler project to complete.

To determine which type of wall you're looking at you'll need to look at the structural design of your home. Here are a few terms you'll need to know to do this:

Joists: These are horizontal structures that support the floor and ceiling of your home. You can see floor joists in any unfinished area of your basement and ceiling joists in any unfinished areas of your attic or crawl space.

Beams: These are sturdy pieces of wood or metal, which transfer the weight of your home onto the foundation.

How to Tell If a Wall Is Load Bearing From the Basement

If you want to remove a wall on the first floor, the best place to start is in the basement, if you have one.

If your basement is unfinished, look up at the ceiling and you will be looking at the floor joists. Ask yourself these questions:

Does the wall above run parallel to the joists you are looking at? If yes, it is most likely not a load bearing wall.

Does the wall above run perpendicular to the floor joists? If yes, it is most likely a load bearing wall.

In the basement, is there a wall, column or horizontal beam directly below the location of the wall? If yes, the wall above is most likely load bearing.

If you have a finished basement, you may not be able to see the floor joists but you should be able to locate any additional walls or beams that provide evidence. To gain more information on the wall, you'll have to move upstairs.

How to Tell If a Wall Is Load Bearing From the Attic

If you don't have a basement, or have a finished basement that offers no clues, move

to the attic. Even if the attic is not directly above the room you are redesigning, you should still be able to learn which walls are load bearing.

In the attic, look down at the ceiling joists and ask yourself these questions:

Are the joists running parallel to the wall you're looking to knock down?

If yes, this is a good sign that the wall isn't load bearing.

Are the joists running perpendicular to the wall you're looking to knock down? If yes, it is most likely a load bearing wall.

Is there anything bearing down, like a roof brace or a beam, on the area directly above the wall? If yes, the wall is most likely supporting the structure of the house and is load bearing.

Additional Ways to Identify Load Bearing Walls

If you have a single level home or gathered no information from your basement or attic, you can use one of the following methods to identify load bearing walls:

• **Check the original blueprints.** If you have blueprints of your home, there should be pages marked "S" for Structural. These pages should show which way the floor joists run, and help you determine if they

run parallel or perpendicular to the wall.

• **Check for columns or posts near the wall.** While you may think a column or post at the end of a wall is just for looks, it might also indicate that it's a load bearing wall.

• **Check the location of walls above or below the wall in question.** If the wall in question is directly above or below a wall on a different level of the home, it may be supporting weight.

• **Check the foundation.** Any walls connecting directly to your foundation are almost certainly load bearing walls. This includes any exterior walls or walls that were exterior prior to a home addition. Additionally, any walls that run parallel to the ridge, or peak, of your roof are most likely load bearing.

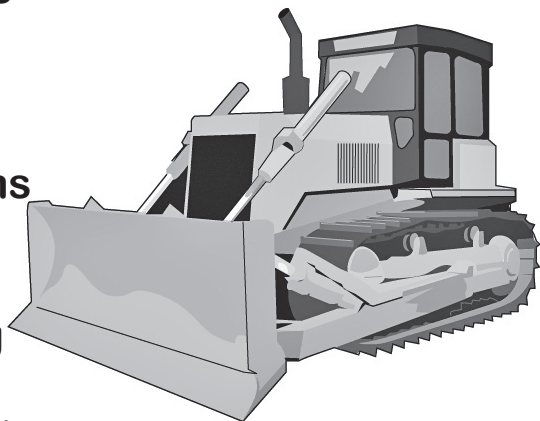
If you suspect your wall is load bearing, you still have some options for your redesign but you will definitely need to consult a professional.

If your wall is not load bearing, you can consider taking it down yourself. Check out our post on knocking down a wall for a step-by-step guide, but we do advise consulting a professional to confirm your observations before reaching for the sledgehammer.

Balkenbusch Excavating, LLC

Land Improvement Work

Ponds
Lakes
Rock Chipping
Clearing
Basements
Roads
Septic Systems
Dirt Moving
Terracing
Land Clearing
Site Level
Backhoe Service



Kenny

573-690-1432 • 573-897-3720

SPECIALTIES INCLUDE:



- FURNITURE
- OFFICE FURNITURE
- AUTO UPHOLSTERY
- CONVERTIBLE TOPS
- BOAT COVERS & SEATS

Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

COLE COUNTY UPHOLSTERY

720 Wicker Lane • Jefferson City, MO

573-634-7415



all your vegetables or flowers, thoroughly water the bed and then cover with mulch if desired. For seeds, choose a light mulch like straw or peat moss to conserve moisture without weighing down the growth. You can add a heavy mulch like wood chips to prevent weed growth at a later time.

Now you're ready to sit back and watch your raised garden grow, but remember to water it daily and keep an eye out for pesky weeds and other invaders.

How to Plant in a Raised Garden Bed

Once you've chosen plants for your raised garden bed, choose a layout that will make weeding simple, allowing you to take advantage of the entire space and help your plants thrive.

Tips for Your Raised Bed Garden Layout:

- Plant tallest to shortest, starting at

the north end of the bed and working south.

- If you are growing vine plants like cucumbers or peas, build a trellis on the north side of the bed to prevent them from crowding or shading the other plants.

- Place plants slightly closer together than you would in a typical bed.

- Plant herbs around the edges or in corners to save space.

Now that you know where each plant should be in the bed, you're ready to insert your seeds and seedlings. Dig holes based on the needs of each plant, remembering to bring them slightly closer together than is typical.

As soon as you're done planting

"If you are growing vegetables in your raised beds, choose vegetables that are high yielding for the space they take up, like salad greens, root vegetables, or productive summer vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants."

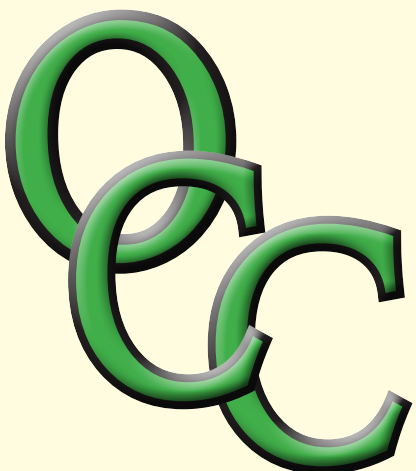
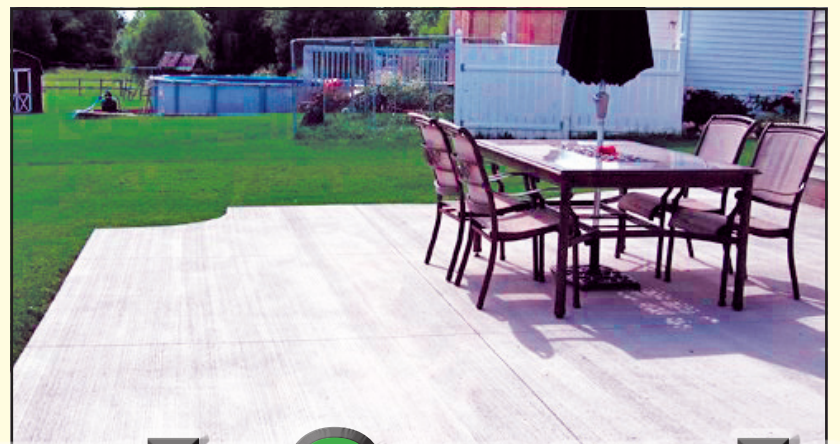


Create a beautiful appearance and functional outside with long-lasting concrete!

A LASTING IMPRESSION

If you're interested in installing or replacing a **PATIO, SIDEWALK OR DRIVEWAY**

see us - your concrete specialists!



Osage County Concrete

428 Hwy. 50 W • Linn • 573-897-2149

Raised Garden Bed

continued from page 4B

to line the sides of your bed. This will make them more rot resistant. Cut the plastic sheeting into 12-inch-wide strips and cover the inside walls of the bed using staples at the top and bottom of the sheeting every few inches.

Step 4: Place and Fill Your DIY Raised Garden Bed

Move your completed bed to the prepared area. If there are any gaps between the ground and the bed, fill them with dirt.

Using your newspaper, cardboard or other compostable fabric, line the bottom of the bed to further reduce weed growth.

Fill your bed with the dirt and compost mixture until the dirt is half an inch from the top. Fill it slightly less if you plan to add mulch once you're finished planting. Level the dirt with your rake.

Now you're ready to fill your DIY garden bed with plants.

You can treat your new raised garden bed like a regular garden and plant anything that will survive in your climate, from flowers to gourds. It's a good idea to choose plants that will thrive with the loose soil and quick drainage a raised bed provides. Companion plants also do well in raised beds because of the close quarters.

Some of the best vegetables to grow in raised beds include:

- Root vegetables, like carrots and beets.
- Leafy greens, including lettuce and kale.
- Tomatoes.
- Onions.

Materials for DIY Raised Garden Bed

- Two 2 inch by 12 inch by 8 foot long boards
- Two 2 inch by 12 inch by 4 foot long boards
- Electric drill
- 12 4-inch decking screws
- Tape measure
- Speed square
- Pencil
- Newspaper, cardboard or compostable fabric
- Hoe
- Shovel
- Rake
- 1 1/5 cubic yards of dirt and compost mix*
- Plants of your choice

Optional materials: Staple gun, plastic sheeting and mulch

*If you're making a bed of a different size, the amount of dirt you will need will vary.

S&K Roofing, Inc.

Serving Central Missouri Since 1996

*Standing Seam Steel,
 Single Ply Membranes, Tile Roof,
 Shingle Roofs, Storm Damage Repair*



Mark Kloepfel • 573-690-5100 • Mike Schwartz • 573-690-5513

Enjoy the moment...

knowing your local independent agent, and the company that stands behind them, has your family covered.



MUENKS INSURANCE AGENCY

573-897-9900

www.MuenksInsurance.com

Auto-Owners
 INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Quality Outdoor Living Furniture



Rust free Aluminum frames | Maintenance Free Resin Wicker
 Welded Joints | Durable Outdoor Living Fabrics

Customize and build sets to fit your needs

FREE DELIVERY

*Within 60-mile radius of store.



BESCHEINEN
 FAMILY FURNITURE
 OF LOOSE CREEK

2188 Loose Creek Hwy. • Loose Creek, MO • (573) 897-2480 • www.BescheinenFurniture.com



How to Remove & Reinstall Baseboards Without Damaging

Baseboards are those nice pieces of molding that fill the gap between your floor and walls, turning those sharp edges into decorative accents. But as many homeowners know, those little pieces of carpentry

can become a big obstacle when ripping up carpet, or even installing hardwood floors. Fortunately, removing and reinstalling baseboards are pretty straightforward projects. All you need are a few basic tools, a

gentle hand and a little elbow grease.

Tools You'll Need for Baseboard Removal:

- Hammer
- Putty knife
- Utility knife
- Small pry bar
- Pliers
- Pencil

Step 1: Prep the Baseboards

When removing old baseboards, start by checking the corners and tops of the molding for any caulk or other sealant, then cut through it with a utility knife. This will prevent the paint and wood from pulling away with the trim once you start prying.

Step 2: Double-Check the Cut of the Inside Corners

To ensure you don't damage the baseboards while removing them, double-check the inside corners to see if they're mitered or coped. Mitered corners meet at a 45-degree angle, whereas coped corners overlap each other using beveled cuts. If yours are coped, you'll need to remove the coped side first to prevent damaging the other piece.

Step 3: Start Loosening the Baseboards

Work a putty knife between the top edge and the wall, being careful not to crack the top part of the board. You should focus on the areas where the baseboard is attached to a wall stud, loosening up the nails holding it in place.

Step 4: Pull the Boards From the Wall

Now it's time to remove the baseboards using a pry bar. Slide the pry bar into the crack, making sure it's resting against the middle of the trim and not the top edge. You should also slide the putty knife behind the pry bar so you aren't directly prying against the wall. Work your way from one end of the baseboard to the other until it is completely free.

Step 5: Remove Any Nails Left in the Trim

Use a pair of pliers to remove any remaining nails through the back of the baseboard. You do not want to try hammering the nails through the face of the board as this will chip the paint, or possibly damage the wood itself.

Step 6: Number Each Board

This extra step will save you a lot of time when it comes time to reinstall your baseboards. Using a pencil, write a number on the back of each board representing the order in which you'll reinstall them. Then, mark each board number on the section of wall where it will be reinstalled.

How to Reinstall Baseboards

Tools You'll Need to Reinstall Baseboards:

- Nail gun
- Finishing nails
- Nail set
- Paint & Brush

Step 1: Paint the Baseboards Beforehand

Apply a new coat of paint or finish to your baseboards before installing to remove any marks or discoloration they've picked up over the years. This will also make it easier to add any touch-up paint they need after going back on the walls.

Step 2: Nail the Baseboards Back in Place

Starting with your first numbered board, use a nail gun to reinstall each baseboard with finishing nails. Typically, you only need one nail for each wall stud and two for each end of the board (.

Step 3: Sink Your Nails

Use a nail set to tap the nails just below the surface of the board. If a nail starts to bend, slide your putty knife between the nail head and board, then pull the nail out with a pair of pliers. Renail the board in a different spot and remember to spackle the old nail hole.

Step 4: Spackle and Touch Up the Baseboards

After reinstalling your baseboards, fix any damage by filling it in with spackle or wood putty. Also make sure to fill in the nail holes before painting over them.

After you've reinstalled your baseboards, you can finally relax and enjoy your new flooring, whatever it may be.

Pro Tip: Do Not Pry Between Nails

Prying baseboard where there's no nail can easily crack it. Make sure you are always prying near a nail so the force of pulling on the board doesn't damage the wood.

Becker Millwork & Hardware

573-744-5204 ~ Freeburg, MO
www.beckermillwork.com

Building Materials

Trusses
Roofing
Siding
Windows
Doors
Insulation

Decking & Railing

Drywall

Paint & Stain

Tubs, Showers

Toilets

Electrical & Plumbing

All of your building needs from Frame to Finish

Things to consider before building a greenhouse

Avid gardeners may be enticed by the idea of a greenhouse that allows them to explore their passion for plants year-round. While it's true that greenhouses afford this luxury, there are important things to consider before erecting a greenhouse in your yard.

Greenhouses require ample time to maintain. Greenhouses are not self-managing; they require heat, water, venting, electricity, and maintenance on the part of gardeners. Individuals need to determine how much time they have to devote to a greenhouse and then consider their options.

Start by choosing the size of the greenhouse. Many experts, like those at the home and garden information site The Spruce, suggest getting the largest one you can afford and fit into the yard. It is much easier to fill a large greenhouse than try to expand on a small one later on.

Next, consider whether you want to build the greenhouse from scratch or utilize

a prefabricated kit that can make easier work of the job. Kits typically contain all of the materials needed, and are easiest for someone who is a construction novice. Look for "grower greenhouses," which are all-purpose options with adjustable shelving and space for growing plants full-term.

The next step is deciding where the greenhouse will be located. The goal is to have a consistent amount of sunlight year-round. A south-facing locale is ideal, and structures should remain north of the greenhouse so they do not cast a shadow on it. The building, cars and technology resource Popular Mechanics advises gardening enthusiasts to take into consideration the angle of the sun during all seasons before choosing a location. Doing so ensures that the sun is not obscured in the winter or fall.

Select a spot that also has ample drainage, as you will not want water pooling up along the sides of or underneath the greenhouse.

Raise the greenhouse on footings to alleviate flooding concerns.

Consult with a gardening or agriculture expert about the best way to heat the greenhouse. Options abound with electric-, gas- and propane-powered heating sources. Some systems will require venting. You also will need to know what is available and legal in your area. Check to see if you

need a building permit for the greenhouse and any accompanying heating elements.

Once the greenhouse is situated, you can begin to add other items, like benches, additional shelving, hooks for tools, and even an automated watering or misting system.

Greenhouses take commitment, but the reward is the chance to enjoy gardening



GREENHOUSES CAN be a great addition to a yard for those who know what to expect.

Grow your Community
BUY LOCAL



Don't Put It Off Another Year

AdvantEDGE E4
Replacement Window Solutions by



QUAKER
RESIDENTIAL WINDOWS & DOORS

Find the authorized Quaker dealer nearest you at:
www.QuakerWindows.com

How to control crabgrass before it appears

Homeowners who enjoy tending to their lawns know that grass is vulnerable to a host of problems, many of which appear at a time of year when lawn enthusiasts want to showcase the fruits of their lawn-and-garden labors.

Crabgrass is a common problem that appears in summer. According to Lowes, crabgrass plants produce thousands of seeds between midsummer and early fall. While the first frosts of late-fall or early winter kill the crabgrass plants, the seeds produced by the plants remain dormant throughout winter and then begin to grow as the ground temperature warms up with the spring and summer thaw. As a result, controlling germination, which is the development of a plant from a seed or spore after a period of dormancy, is the key to preventing crabgrass from becoming an unsightly blemish that can harm your lawn in summer.

A proactive approach to crabgrass can save homeowners the headaches of dealing with this unwanted guest taking over their grass. The following tips, courtesy of Lowes, can help homeowners reduce the likelihood of their lawns being overcome by crabgrass as summer hits full swing.

• Recognize that routine lawn maintenance may not be enough. Even lawns that receive sufficient TLC can fall victim to crabgrass. A proactive, crabgrass-specific

approach to lawn maintenance is the most effective way to control the problem before it pops up.

• Apply a pre-emergent herbicide. Pre-emergent herbicides kill crabgrass seedlings as they germinate. While these herbicides are highly effective, they must be applied at precisely the right time. The right time to apply them depends on weather patterns. For example, Lowes notes that homeowners who live in regions that might have experienced warmer than usual winters will probably need to apply the herbicides earlier than usual. While the manufacturer instructions should always be followed when applying herbicides, it's essential that homeowners take weather patterns into consideration as well.

• Wait until the ground temperature rises above 60 F. Applying herbicides when the ground temperature is below 60 F might render the products ineffective. Gauging soil temperature can be tricky, but Lowes advises monitoring shrubs and trees on the property. Once shrubs begin to bloom and trees bud, herbicide can be applied.

• Wait when treating newly seeded lawns. Pre-emergent herbicides might kill new grass seedlings, so homeowners with newly seeded lawns should wait until they have mowed their lawns three times before applying a herbicide.



• Emphasize uniform application. If a herbicide is not applied uniformly across the lawn, crabgrass can establish itself and ultimately spread to the rest of the lawn.

• Do not thatch or aerate after applying a herbicide. Thatching or aerating a lawn after applying a herbicide might break the product's chemical barrier, thereby rendering it ineffective.

Crabgrass can quickly spread on an untreated lawn. A proactive approach that prevents its growth can keep lawns looking great through summer.

**Unterrified
Democrat**
573-897-3150
udnewslinn@gmail.com
udnalinn@gmail.com



**STIEFERMAN
TRUCKING &
EXCAVATING**

**Basements • Clearing • Ponds
• Lakes • Roads**

Chat - Gravel - Lime

FULLY INSURED - FREE ESTIMATES

958 Highway C • Bonnots Mill, MO 65016

Brad 573-291-7400

Doug 573-291-0958



**HOMETOWN
BUILDING CENTER**

Hwy. 50 West • P.O. Box 650
Linn, MO 65051

**Complete Line of
Building Materials**

• LUMBER • PLYWOOD • ROOFING • CEMENT • PANELING
• TREATED LUMBER • ELECTRICAL • RE BAR • INSULATION
• GATES • FENCING • DRYWALL • MOLDINGS • MARBLE TOPS
• SINKS • WINDOWS • DOORS • FIBERGLASS TUBS & SHOWERS
• CULVERT PIPE • PLUMBING • SEPTIC TANKS

Complete line of Hardware

**BOOM TRUCK DELIVERY
ROOF-TOP DELIVERY FOR SHINGLES
WE SELL AND INSTALL GARAGE DOORS**

(573) 897-2276
1-800-428-2288

**BUILDING SUPPLY
ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING • HARDWARE**

How To: Cheap Kitchen Remodel

When it comes to remodeling on a budget, the name of the game is buying used; or you can stick to the Duggar philosophy of buying used and saving the difference (yes, I'm a fan of 19 Kids and Counting). You can find great used kitchen appliances at stores like Goodwill and Salvation Army. For the purposes of this blog post, I will explain how you can complete an entire cheap kitchen remodel.

The most difficult items to find used or on sale will be the major appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, sinks, and microwaves. Things such as chairs, decorations, and glassware should be easier to find at garage sales and donation-like stores. One great place to find cabinets and countertops is at Habitat for Humanity's ReStores.

Before you can go out and start with your kitchen remodel, you'll first need to remove all the old things in your kitchen you'll no longer need. I suggest removing the cabinet doors and handles first because this is probably going to be the easiest part. If you are planning to toss them out, it may help to rent a dumpster for all of your unwanted materials.

Once you have the cabinets removed, the next logical step would be to remove the countertops. According to our market research, copper countertops are a new and upcoming trend. It's time to toss those old tile countertops and replace with either copper, granite, or some other type of stone.

You should be able to find cheap and in-style countertops at a ReStore near you.

Now that all of your countertops and cabinets are removed, the time has come to remove your appliances. You may need professional help removing your refrigerator and stove due to the electrical wiring, as well as their hernia-inducing heaviness. I find it best to really envision your kitchen remodel once you have everything out of it that you intend to replace.

Here comes the fun part, shopping! I suggest shopping for your larger appliances first because these will be the most expensive items in your kitchen remodel. When looking for a refrigerator, stove, microwave, or sink, it may help to check out your local second hand store or even the Restore. You should be able to get these items for a combined total of under \$2,000 if you play your cards right.

The next part of your kitchen remodel I would recommend working on would be your cabinets and countertops. The newest trend in countertops is to have copper plated countertops, but if you are trying to stick to a budget, you will need to forgo the copper and search for used but undamaged countertops. In an ideal world, your cabinets would match the countertops but if you are seriously trying to stick to a tight budget, you should at least go for countertops and cabinets with the same color palette.

Decorations and all that other jazz should be the last part of your kitchen remodel. I save this part for last because it's my favorite and therefore, usually the easiest. It is important to pick a theme and do your best to stick to it. Let's say your theme is Italian, I would suggest using the colors red, green, and white. Look for Italian themed kitchen towels, paintings, dishes, and silverware holders.

I hope these tips will help you complete a cheap and easy kitchen remodel. Remember to always be on the lookout for great deals and when specific items such as large appliances go on sale. Do you have any other tips for an inexpensive kitchen remodel? If so, leave us a comment in the section below. We always love to hear from our readers. Thanks for reading!



Hackmann Trenching & Backhoe Service

- Drainage systems
- Water Lines
- Footings
- Utilities

For all your Trenching & Backhoe needs!

We offer Excavating Services!!

- Skid Steer Services
- concrete chipper and brush grapple

- Brush Removal

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES

AARON HACKMANN
573-763-1036 OR 573-694-2169

Everything for your lawn and garden needs

- BAGGED TOP SOIL
- BAGGED POTTING SOIL
- BAGGED GARDEN SOIL
- BAGGED COMPOSTED MANURE
- BAGGED PEAT MOSS
- YARD AND GARDEN LIME
- WIDE SELECTION OF FERTILIZERS FOR YARDS, VEGETABLE AND FLOWER GARDENS
- WIDE SELECTION OF BULK GARDEN SEED
- WIDE SELECTION OF GRASS SEEDS
- WIDE SELECTION OF YARD AND GARDEN TOOLS

BULK MULCH

BY THE CUBIC YARD SCOOP IN CEDAR, RED AND BROWN

BAGGED LAWN GOODS

BAGGED MULCH - RED, BROWN, CYPRESS AND HARDWOOD

MFA #280

FREEBURG & LINN

573-744-5284 573-897-2157

Reasons to hire an interior designer

How many times have you sat on the sofa pouring over a home magazine wishing your rooms could be ripped from its pages? Some people are gifted with a natural talent to impart a space with perfectly balanced colors and schemes that fit with one's lifestyle and design preferences. Others are not as equipped. But that doesn't mean design has to suffer. An interior designer with knowledge and resources who's in your corner can make all the difference.

Many people are hesitant to bring in professional designers because of cost. But

contrary to popular belief, working with an interior decorator is not something reserved for the rich and famous. Designers actually can save homeowners money in the long run. A good designer will choose the right amount of high-quality elements that will be durable and timeless. This means less money will ultimately be spent on replacing cheap materials or redesigning rooms that have gone out of style.

According to the design experts at Home-polish, utilizing a designer to transform a space can create rooms that are more in tune

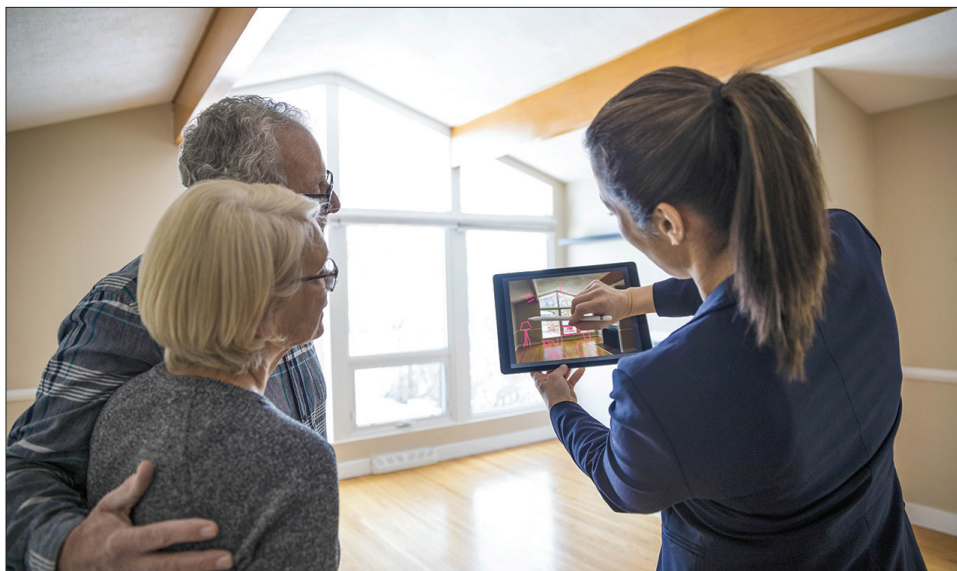
and balanced with homeowners' needs — helping to improve mood and functionality. That can extend to other areas of a person's life and well-being. Putting the task of designing a home's interior in someone else's hands frees up time to focus on other projects as well.

Designers can look at a space with a careful eye and not be influenced by items that have sentimental attachment. He or she can help decide if anything should be repurposed

or removed. Plus, an interior designer can help homeowners stay on budget.

Designers also can serve as liaisons for clients who have difficulty communicating with builders and architects. Designers are trained to think about things that homeowners tend to overlook, such as placement of lighting, outlets and room flow. He or she also likely has contacts within the industry that can be utilized, saving even more time and money.

A good designer can be worth the investment. The end results will be an interior that homeowners will be proud to call home.





**PAULETTE
DESIGNS, LLC**
*Residential Drawings
and More!*

**Design, Working,
Drawings and
Consulting
with Individuals and
Contractors**



**Paulette
(Whitthaus)
Keter**

(573) 690-1072
Fax (573) 395-4597
paulettdesigns1@gmail.com





**WE GO
OUT ON
A LIMB
FOR YOU!**

- **TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL**
- **STUMP GRINDING**
- **FREE ESTIMATES**

Fully Insured For Your Protection

FEELER TREE SERVICE

(573) 864-2759
or (573) 859-3798

33449 Hwy. 28 E. • Belle
Jim Robertson



**Three Rivers
PROPANE**

**Propane for Home,
Farm and Business**

1324 E. MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 1104, LINN, MISSOURI 65051

(573) 897-0202

Organize and declutter room-by-room

GETTING ORGANIZED IS A POPULAR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

Clutter can be a major source of stress that affects how individuals feel about their spaces. Psychology Today indicates messy homes and work spaces can contribute to feelings of helplessness, anxiety and overwhelming stress. Clutter bombards the mind with excessive stimuli, makes it more difficult to relax and can constantly signal to the brain that work is never done.

Tackling messes no matter where they are lurking is not a one-time project. Much like losing weight and getting healthy, clearing a home of clutter requires dedication and lifestyle changes. With these organizational tips and tricks, anyone can work through their home room-by-room and conquer clutter.

FIND A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

Clutter creeps up as people accumulate possessions over the years. Over time, failure to regularly go through belongings and thin the herd can lead to the accumulation of clutter. But clutter also can accumulate if people fail to find a place to put items. Racks for garages, organizational systems for closets and furniture with storage capacity, such as storage ottomans, are some

storage solutions that can help people find a place for their possessions.

UTILIZE VERTICAL SPACE WHEN POSSIBLE

Getting items up and off the floor can maximize square footage in a home. Bookshelves, hanging wall shelves, hooks, cabinetry, built-ins, and other storage solutions that rely on walls and ceilings are simple and effective storage solutions. Unused space behind cabinet or closet doors are some additional places to store belongings. Hang razors or toothbrushes on medicine cabinet walls and curling irons and other hair tools on the interior of cabinet doors in bathrooms.

CREATE A CODING SYSTEM

Home offices can be some of the more disorganized rooms in a house simply due to the volume of electronics and paperwork within them. HGTV suggests using a color-coded system for important files to keep them organized. Label important items, whether they're paper or digital files, in accordance with your system.

PUT IT AWAY

When you finish using an item, return it to its storage location. This eliminates piles of belongings strewn around the house — and hunting and pecking for missing things. If you can't put it away

immediately, have a few baskets on hand labeled for the different rooms in the house. Pop the items in the requisite baskets and then routinely take each basket around the house to return the items.

Investing in custom cabinetry and or-

ganizational systems also can help people organize their belongings. Tackle rooms such as the garage, basements, bedroom closets, and pantries, or those areas that tend to accumulate clutter the fastest.



REHAGEN

HEATING AND COOLING INC.

Call us for all your heating and cooling needs!



SALES
•
SERVICES
•
INSTALLATION



Proudly Serving
Central Missouri for
over 30 years!
573-455-2394



Let our experience and efficiency work for you!

How tree services can protect your property

Cold weather can take its toll on a property, especially in regions of the world where winters are harsh. Most parts of the landscape are vulnerable to damage from winter storms, but trees may be especially susceptible. By the end of winter, many homeowners wonder if their trees would benefit from some professional TLC.

Tree services provide a host of services. While fall is a popular time to remove trees from a property, doing so in spring is not unheard of, especially if trees were affected by winter storms and now pose a threat to a home and the people who live inside it.

Homeowners considering tree services can explore the following ways that some professional arbor attention can protect them and their homes.

- Tree services can help protect a home's foundation. Old trees that stretch well into the sky can be captivating, but they also can pose a threat to a home's

foundation. Such trees may have especially large root zones that may extend beneath walkways and even a home. In the latter instance, foundations may crack as roots try to stake their claim to the ground beneath a home. According to the home improvement resource HomeAdvisor, homeowners pay an average of just over \$4,000 to repair foundation issues, though major problems can cost considerably more than that. A professional tree service can remove aging trees that might be beautiful and awe-inspiring but still pose a threat to a home and the areas surrounding it.

- Tree services can improve visibility. Trees that have aged a bit since their last trimming might affect the view of a property from inside a home. Overgrown branches can compromise residents' ability to see and experience the natural beauty just outside their windows. The average homeowner may be able to trim short trees on his or her own, but if

views from the second floor of a home or higher have been compromised, it's much safer to call a professional tree service. Such services have the right tools and experienced personnel necessary to safely trim high branches on tall trees.

- Tree services can help prevent future damage. Even if trees made it through a recent winter unscathed, that's no guarantee next winter or even the coming seasons of spring, summer and fall won't ultimately prove their undoing. Travelers Insurance notes that weather-related roof damage, including damage resulting from falling limbs and branches weighed down by snow during the winter months, accounted for more than half of all Travelers property loss claims between 2009 and 2016. According to BNC Insurance and Risk Advisors, homeowners may be liable if a tree they knew posed a threat falls onto a passerby or a neighbor's property and causes damage or injury. Having all trees properly trimmed each

year, but especially those that can fall on your home and your neighbors' homes, may prevent future damage and legal issues.

Tree services can ensure trees maintain their awe-inspiring beauty and help homeowners protect their homes and their belongings.



Stop in and check out our wide variety of services and products we have to offer!

ADURA MAX
Ready when life gets messy.

THE ANATOMY OF ADURA MAX

- ScratchResist™ Urethane With Aluminum Oxide Wearlayer
- Best of the Best Styles and Design
- HydroLoc™ Core
- Ultra-Quiet Pad

Adura Max is available in today's most popular decors and features our innovative HydroLoc waterproof core – making it the perfect choice for your most challenging rooms.

Thicker and more rigid than ordinary vinyl, ADURA Max is available in easy to assemble 6" x 48" locking planks that include our premium, Ultra-Quiet attached pad for superior sound reduction and greater comfort underfoot. Planks can be installed quickly on all grade levels and over most existing floors and subfloors. The result is a beautiful, durable, quiet and comfortable floor that can be enjoyed right away.

Featuring our patented ScratchResist with aluminum oxide surface protection, ADURA Max can stand up to the most active households and offers the industry's best wear, scratch and stain resistance. AduraMax is backed with a stress-free limited, lifetime residential and 10-year light commercial warranties against wear through, staining, fading, delamination and joint.

FREEBURG HOME CENTER

609 N. Hwy. 63 • Freeburg, MO 65035
573-744-5405

THE LAST PLACE YOU NEED TO SHOP FIRST

Dining

Time to replace old wiring?

Old homes can be charming and contain architectural elements not often seen in many modern housing developments. But what older homes may have in design appeal, they may lack in updated features.

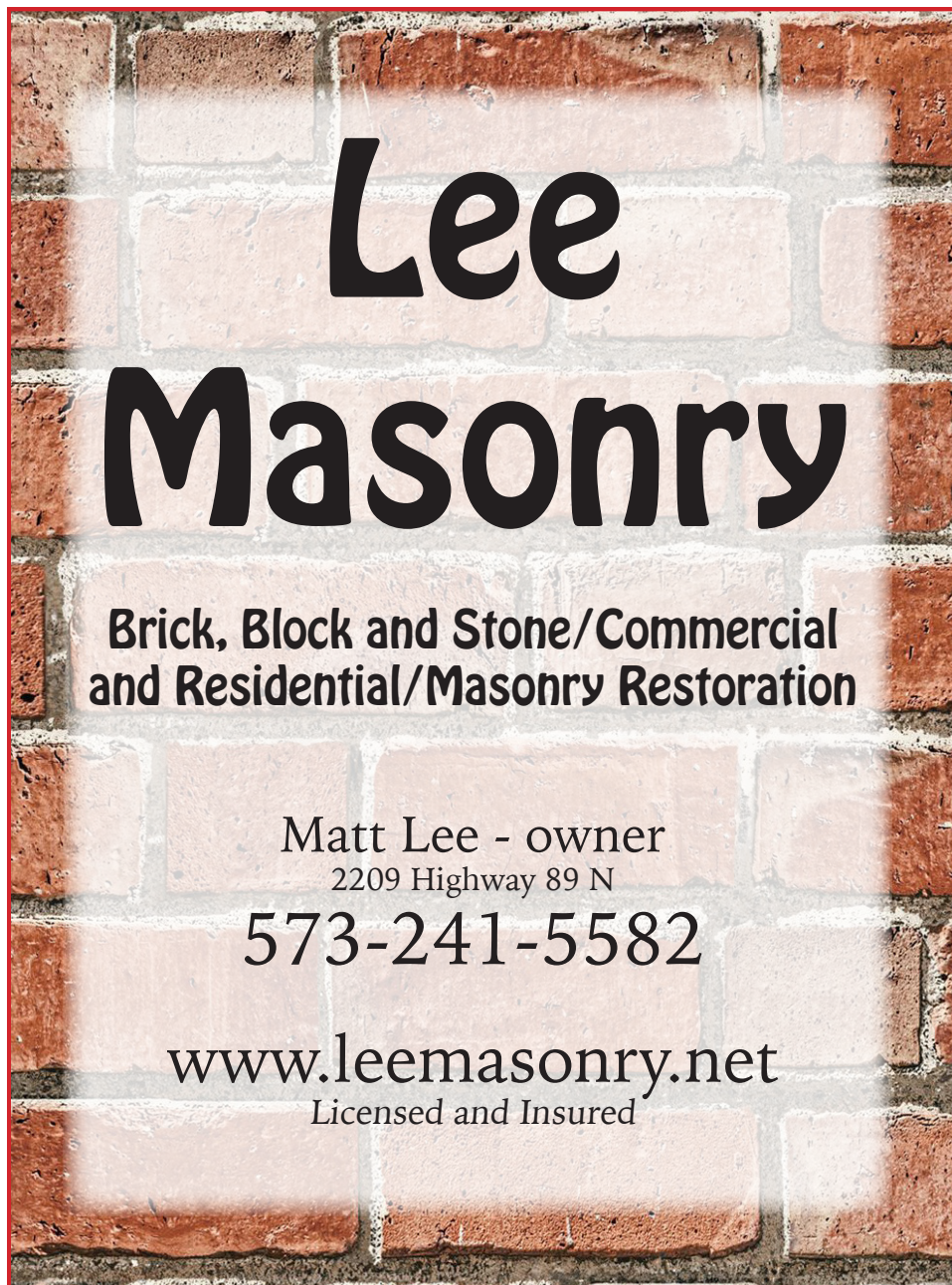
While cosmetic changes are not necessarily difficult, one area of concern in historic homes — and sometimes even in houses built 40 or 50 years ago — is archaic wiring. Wiring provides power to every room of the home. In today's electronics-driven society, electricity that works is an essential component of daily life. Over time, wiring can be compromised through simple aging, pest infiltration, weather, or other conditions. Deteriorated wiring can present a shock hazard and also a serious fire hazard, warn the home renovation experts at The Spruce. Furthermore, the home improvement site This Old House advises that the amperage of old wiring may not be able to meet the needs of the devices used in homes — overpowering the circuits. This can cause breaker blowouts and other problems, such as overheated wires that may spark and cause fires from within the wall.

Wiring often falls into the “out of sight, out of mind” category. Homeowners may make allowances for inadequate electrical systems, such as running extension cords or using multiplug connectors to increase their wiring capacity. However, they may not be diligently keeping on top of upgrades needed to stay safe. Confirming that a home's electrical system is safe is a necessary part of home maintenance.

For those who haven't already done so, schedule an inspection with a licensed electrician to go over the home's wiring. He or she can determine if any areas pose a safety risk and/or do not conform to local code requirements and the National Electrical Code. Failure to meet code can lead to difficulty obtaining permits to make other home renovations, or difficulty selling a home later on.

The electrician can also go over improvements that can improve safety and function. Additional outlets, including GFCI outlets in kitchens and bathrooms, may be part of the plan, as well as rewiring a fuse box or circuit panel to allow for better flow of power around the house. Frayed wiring or underinsulated wiring also may need to be replaced.

Owners of old homes should recognize possible electrical system dangers that require attention. Plus, considering electrical codes change quite frequently, it is always in a homeowner's best interest to work with a qualified electrician to keep wiring inspected and up to date.



Lee Masonry

**Brick, Block and Stone/Commercial
and Residential/Masonry Restoration**

Matt Lee - owner
2209 Highway 89 N
573-241-5582
www.leemasonry.net
Licensed and Insured

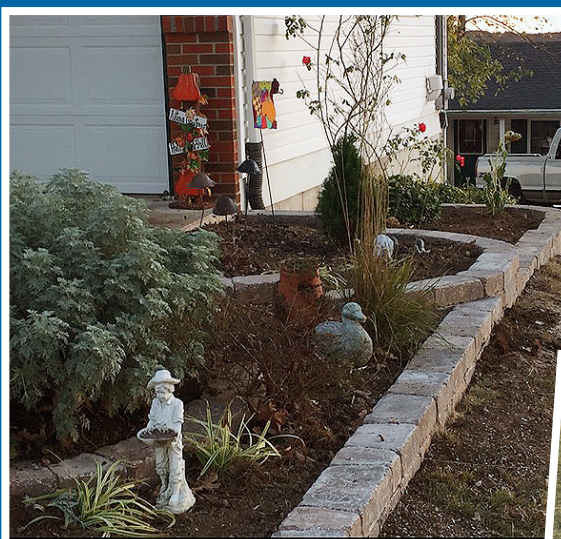
Corey Jaegers Owner/Operator **Jaegers Lawn Care** LLC

2469 County Road 602
Loose Creek, Mo. 65054

573-680-3481

JaegersLawnCare.com
fb.com/JaegersLawnCare

Corey@JaegersLawnCare.com



Residential and Commercial
Mowing, Landscaping, Walls,
Outdoor Construction
and Snow Removal

Ten Sustainable Landscaping Ideas for a Greener Yard

Creating a beautiful yard takes a lot of hard work. And part of that hard work is taking the time to incorporate a few sustainable landscaping ideas that will allow you to keep your yard green without using more resources or damaging your local environment.

Wondering what you can do to make your yard a little greener? Take a look at these six green landscaping and gardening ideas.

USE RAINWATER TO WATER YOUR PLANTS

Rather than using a sprinkler or garden hose to water your landscaping, an eco-friendlier alternative is to use rainwater. You can build a basic rain barrel using a 32-gallon trash can and a little elbow grease, but there are pre-made options out there if you prefer to hit the ground running. In either case, your rain barrel will include a spigot you can use to fill up a watering can or connect to a super-efficient drip irrigation system.

INSTALL A DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Using collected rainwater with your own DIY drip irrigation system is the least expensive, most eco-friendly landscaping idea out there. Instead of using sprinklers to spray droplets of water over one area, a drip system trickles out a small amount of water throughout a garden using a pipe or tube. This simple DIY design should work for most gardens, though you can also spring for an irrigation system kit that includes an automated timer, making your watering even more efficient.

“Has watering window boxes or pots on steps or porches been a hassle? With punch-in connectors on a drip line, micro-tubing, and micro-emitters that have adjustable flow controls, you can water them through the automatic system and not be tied to a hand-watering schedule any longer.” John Swaringen | Member of the Ecological Landscape Alliance

POPULATE YOUR YARD WITH DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS

The average container plant needs watering a couple of times a day, but plants adapted to drought conditions may need watering as little as two or three times a month. By planting hardier plants, you can cut your consumption dramatically, saving more water and possibly more money on your water bill.

Here are a few green landscaping plants to consider:

- Agave: Needs watering about once every two weeks.
- Lavender: Needs minimal, if any, watering once planted.
- Sage: Requires occasional water when soil is dry.
- Blanket Flower: Requires occasional water when soil is dry.

GROUP PLANTS WITH SIMILAR NEEDS TOGETHER

Just as low-maintenance plants can save water, so too can grouping those plants together, separate from those that

require regular watering. If you have multiple garden beds to work with, group those plants with occasional watering needs in one bed so you know just how much water to give them. Some plants can even protect each other from pests and diseases when planted close to each other – this practice is called companion planting. Following this planting method throughout your yard and garden will help you avoid wasting water and pesticides, making for an overall greener landscape.

USE COMPOST TO RETAIN WATER

Your average bag of fertilizer may be helpful for growing plants, but the chemicals it contains can easily runoff into local streams and rivers, contributing to things like algal blooms. A more sustainable landscaping practice is to use compost for your plants’ nutritional needs. Using compost not only reduces harmful runoff, but also helps your soil retain water, saving even more H₂O.

You can buy bags of compost at your local garden supply store, though the greenest way to acquire it is to make your own compost bin.

LOOK FOR ECO-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS

When it comes landscape features,

such as foot paths or garden beds, look for low-impact or recycled materials. A few sustainable landscaping materials we recommend:

- Adobe or Terra-Cotta Bricks: Unlike normal bricks, these ones aren’t made in kilns, reducing emissions and energy consumption.
- Backyard Rocks: Using rocks from your own soil reduces pollution caused by mining those from quarries, especially quarries located near bodies of water.
- Recycled Concrete: Manufacturing

concrete produces a lot of carbon dioxide but using recycled concrete avoids producing more emissions.

The key to any sustainable landscaping design is to minimize water and energy use as much as possible. But that doesn’t mean you have to start removing large parts of your luscious lawn. With the eco-friendly landscaping ideas above, you can take the first steps to creating a beautiful yard that is green in more ways than one.

FREE COUPON

Celebrating **20+ YEARS** of Service

Central Missouri Septic Service, Inc.

Septic Tank Pumping & Disposal

FARM — RESIDENTIAL — COMMERCIAL

Portable Toilet Rental • Aerator Unit Replacement • Risers & Lids
• Lagoons • Drain Cleaning • Effluent Filters • Grease Traps

Did you know Septic Tanks need to be pumped every 3 to 5 Years?

FREE SEPTIC TANK ADDITIVE to FFA Members
at time of pumping with this ad
(\$45 VALUE, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

SERVING CENTRAL MISSOURI

Toll Free: 1-888-892-8587

State Certified Local: 573-764-3407-573-764-2534

FREE COUPON

1ST CLASS SERVICE



Blow-In-Blanket® System

Premium Insulation System



HBA OPTIMA
HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

CertainTeed

KNAUF INSULATION

GREENGUARD

www.muenksinsulation.com

Leon Muenks Insulation LLC

573-897-3378

Cell: 573-690-1235

LOOSE CREEK



- Dry Blown Insulation**
- No Moisture**
- No Chemicals**
- Naturally Fire Proof**
- Won't Promote Mold**
- Outstanding Thermal Efficiency**
- Sound Control**
- Premium Insulation**
- Professional Installation**

Meet the She Shed, the Man Cave for Women

You've probably heard of man caves before. A place in (or outside) the home where a man can drink beer, leave dirty plates out overnight and decorate the walls with everything from deer heads to Fathead posters of LeBron James. What you probably haven't heard of are their feminine counterpart – "she sheds". Whereas man caves are for sports and lax hygiene, she sheds are about relaxation and coziness. They provide a quiet place where the woman of the house can read a book, hang out with girlfriends or simply crash and relax for a spell. Intrigued? Read on to learn how to build a she-shed of your very own.

HOW TO BUILD A SHE SHED

Step #1: Gather Some Ideas for Your She Shed

Pinterest is chock full of décor and design ideas for she sheds, making it a great place to start looking for design ideas. Take a look at what others have pinned to decide on the look and feel of your shed. One common design theme you'll quickly notice is the use of natural lighting to illuminate the space, with some sheds resembling greenhouses with wall-to-wall windows and skylights. Coupled with a splash of white paint, you could have a very bright she shed to retreat to in the mid-afternoon. Other she sheds are plainer, with fewer windows and a simple stained interior, giving it a rustic, cabin-like look. But your own shed should reflect your tastes, not someone else's. Pick a few elements that you'd like to incorporate into your own space, and save a few broad design examples you enjoy so you can reference them once you start building your she shed.

Step #2: Clean Out, Buy or Build Your Shed

You might be wondering why this isn't step #1. If you don't already have a shed in your backyard, you should at least have an idea of what you are going to do with it before buying or building a she shed. That way you can follow through on your she shed ideas right away rather than leaving your new shed empty. If you are planning on converting an already existing shed, then the only thing you might need to do is clean it out. We recommend renting a roll off dumpster to get all of that clutter cleared out before you start renovating and redecorating.

You have a couple of options when it comes to actually acquiring a shed. Most big-box retailers carry pre-fab sheds that they can install for you. Online retailers also provide ready-made kits that can be shipped to your home and put together yourself. But if you know your way around a hammer you can always pay a visit to the local lumber store and build the whole thing from scratch. Popular Mechanics has a great guide you can follow to build a simple shed.

Step #3: Paint and Furnish Your Shed

If you are re-purposing an old shed, you'll want to give it a fresh coat of paint once everything is cleared out of it. You'll have noticed during your research that a lot of she sheds go for an all-white interior, a great option for illuminating the whole space on a sunny day. But this is your sanctuary, your



home 20 feet away from home, you decide what color paint palette is most pleasing to you. You'll want to paint the entire interior, including the floors and ceiling, to give every inch a fresh look.

You'll also need to spend some time furnishing your shed with the essentials. A coffee table and chairs are the gold standard, especially if you plan on doing a lot of socializing in your new home away from home. If you love a good afternoon nap (when the opportunity oh-so-rarely presents itself) you could add a bed or small futon to stretch out on. However, if you plan on doing a little work in your rosy little cottage, you could follow Tina Keymer's example of a she shed turned office, featured on Wayfair's site:

Step #4: Fill Your Shed With Your Hobbies

Are you a bookworm? Give your shed a mini-library filled with your favorite books and a couple more novels you've been meaning to scratch off your reading list. Have a flair for the artistic? Set up an easel and canvas so you can brush up on your chiaroscuro every time you pay a visit to your new shed. A she shed is a reflection of your interests, as well as a place for all your favorite possessions. If your husband can keep his video game collectibles in his man cave, you should be able to keep your antique tea pots in your she shed!

Step #5: Enjoy the Tranquility—As Long As It Lasts

After you've decluttered, built and decorated your she shed, what's left to do? Relax. Find a spare moment during your day to head out back and spend some quality time away from the responsibilities of daily life. Leave a "Do Not Disturb" sign on the doorknob to deter your spouse or tiny people from disrupting your quiet time. This is your little sanctuary, take some time to enjoy it!

Why should you care about **electrical safety**?

because they depend on you to know

Electrical safety is a serious issue. Most don't fully appreciate the value until an accident or close call happens to them or someone they love.

Power yourself with knowledge and teach those who depend on you how to stay safe. Contact your electric cooperative to learn more.

80 Three Rivers Electric Cooperative
TREC

With offices in Linn and Brazito • 800-892-2251 • threeriverselectric.com

Identify and treat a garden mole problem

Lawn and garden enthusiasts often must address unforeseen issues when tending to their lawns. Weeds can be a blight, and drought can compromise the look and integrity of a lawn.

Another, more deceptive potential adversary is moles. After a spring and summer spent tending to their gardens, no homeowner wants to have their hard work compromised by moles.

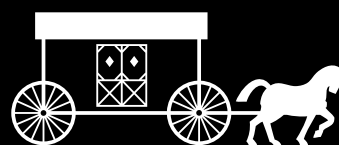
“The Old Farmer’s Almanac” says that moles are ground-dwelling insectivores that feast on insects in the soil. Moles grow to be roughly six to eight inches long and have gray or black, velvety fur. Their snouts are slender and hairless, and they have very small eyes and ears. Their large front feet have long claws that scoop dirt out of the way like a garden hoe.

Even though moles are more likely to snack on grubs, worms and beetles than plants, they damage gardens and lawns because of their underground tunneling behavior. Moles make subterranean channels throughout the yard in search of food. Some of the telltale signs include sprouted mounds of displaced soil, holes and raised burrows and hills. Tunneling can separate roots from soil, eventually killing vegetation in the process, according to the home and garden experts at BobVila.com.

There are various ways to address mole problems in a lawn or garden. Some professionals may recommend fumigants, home

remedies and repellents. But these methods are not always effective, according to Better Homes & Gardens. Using insecticides can rid the lawn of some of the foods that moles dine upon, ultimately discouraging them from coming onto a property. However, many experts agree that trapping is the only reliable means of stopping these creatures.

Homeowners can trap moles humanely by catching the mole in the act. This involves waiting for a mole to start channeling, then using two shovels to block egress on either side of its path. The mole can be removed to a box and relocated. There also are various mole and gopher traps available for sale that operate with spring-loaded snares. Individuals should check if trapping moles is legal where they live. For more information regarding moles, visit www.almanac.com or www.bobvila.com.



Classic Buildings

40% off

Options/Shed Upgrades
on any Classic or Chateau Portable
Delivered Building, or

18 months of No Interest

Foster Care awareness month,
Classic Buildings is supporting 3 organizations by donating \$100
(for every building sold in May)
to one of the below 3 organizations.



A farm for family restoration



CALLLED TO CARE. COMMITTED TO CHILDREN.



Classic Buildings

Kenneth Miller

Founder and CEO



Office | 573.897.5753

Cell | 573.247.2617

visit us at

www.ClassicBuilding.Sales.com

Cabinets | Countertops | Kitchen & Bath Faucets & Fixtures | Appliances | Custom Showers

Building or remodeling your home stop by and see our huge selection of products for every style and every budget.

Need personalized service
Call now and schedule an appointment with a member of our experienced staff.



2027 Christy Dr.
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573-636-0401

www.dkbshowroom.com



Get ready: Early spring landscaping tips

During the cold months of winter, many people stare longingly out of the window dreaming of spring and time spent outdoors. For those with green thumbs, images of tending to the garden and other aspects of their landscapes no doubt dominate such daydreams.

Draw inspiration from those budding crocuses and daffodils pushing through the last remnants of snow and employ these tips to prepare for the upcoming gardening season.

- One of the first steps is to apply a preemergent weed killer to get a head start knocking out weeds that can plague the lawn during the growing season. Killing weeds at the roots early on can mean far fewer hassles in spring and summer, and may prevent new generations of weeds from cropping up each year.

- While it may be tempting to take a prematurely warm day as a sign that spring is in full force and purchase a bunch of annuals, it's better to know the last of the possible frost dates (check "The Farmer's Almanac"); otherwise, you may waste time and money planting flowers or vegetables only to have them zapped by another frosty day.

- Amend the soil so that it is the right consistency — just crumbling when lifting it. Soil that is too muddy after spring thaw can harden, making it difficult for plants to flourish later on. Speak with representatives at a local lawn and garden center about which types of amendments you can add to the soil in your particular area to enrich it.

- Lawn and garden experts at The Home Depot suggest filling in bare patches of lawn

now by mixing a few shovelfuls of soil with grass seed. Then apply this patch to the bare areas, water, and continue to care for the area until the spot fills in.

- Spend a day in the garage or shed tending to the lawn mower and other gardening equipment. Clean all tools and ensure that everything works, repairing parts as needed.

- Give outdoor entertaining spaces a

good scrubbing, clearing away dirt and grime that may have accumulated over the winter. Use a leaf blower to blow away any leftover leaves.

- Check if the front porch, railings or decking need painting and/or staining. Tackle these projects when the weather is cooler so everything will be ready for those peak spring days.

- Think about any annuals you might want to plant in the landscape this year that will complement any existing shrubbery or perennials. Come up with a theme so that the entire yard is cohesive.

Before homeowners know it, winter is gone and it is time to once again enjoy long days spent outdoors. Get a jump start on spring lawn prep as soon as you can.

INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW

Cub Cadet ULTIMA SERIES

Step up to the ultimate all-around mowing experience

- ✓ Next-level comfort
- ✓ Superior speed and control
- ✓ Best-in-class cut quality**
- ✓ Enhanced strength and durability

- Tubular steel frame for enhanced durability; maintenance-free spindles
- Quick knob-adjust lap bars; ergonomic soft-touch rubber overmolded hand grips
- Premier Kohler and Kawasaki V-Twin OHV engines
- Strongest warranty in its class***



ULTIMA ZT1

3 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

3-year unlimited hours warranty and limited lifetime warranty on frame and fabricated deck shell***

ZT1 42	22 HP Twin Kohler KT7000 42" Stamped Deck	Dual EZT 2200, Premium Seat, Front Tires: 11"x6"-5", Rear Tires: 20"x8"-8 LED Headlight, Floor Mat, Ergo Grips, Removable Floor Pan	\$2,699
ZT1 46	22 HP Twin Kohler KT7000 46" AeroForce Fabricated Deck	Dual EZT 2200, Premium Seat, Front Tires: 11"x6"-5", Rear Tires: 20"x8"-8 LED Headlight, Floor Mat, Ergo Grips, Removable Floor Pan	\$2,899
ZT1 50	23 HP Twin Kawasaki FR691V 50" AeroForce Fabricated Deck	Dual EZT 2200, Premium Seat, Front Tires: 11"x6"-5", Rear Tires: 20"x10"-8 LED Headlight, Floor Mat, Ergo Grips, Removable Floor Pan	\$3,099
ZT1 54	24 HP Twin Kohler KT7000 54" AeroForce Fabricated Deck	Dual EZT 2200, Premium Seat, Front Tires: 11"x6"-5", Rear Tires: 20"x10"-8 LED Headlight, Floor Mat, Ergo Grips, Removable Floor Pan	\$3,099

CLEARANCE PRICES ON ALL IN STOCK MOWERS UNTIL APRIL 30, 2019

SCHAEPERKOETTER



Mt. Sterling
573-943-6323

Since 1893

Owensville
573-437-4421

www.Schaeperkoetter.com

** Based on testing and evaluation conducted with The Ohio State University of cut appearance in side discharge, mulch and bagging modes of current model Cub Cadet ZT1 54, John Deere Z355 E, Toro TimeCutter SS 5000, Hustler RAPTOR 52, Ariens ICON X 52 and Husqvarna Z 254 conducted on June 5-7, 2018. The Ohio State University does not endorse or promote Cub Cadet or any of its products and services. *** The Strongest Warranty in its class 3-year / unlimited-hour warranty. Plus, limited lifetime warranty on frame and fabricated deck shell.



Show & Sell Your Home

Advertise your home for sale in our Real Estate Classifieds, and reach thousands of potential buyers right here in our area.

Unterrified Democrat
573-897-3150
udnewslinn@gmail.com
udnalinn@gmail.com

Are backyard chickens right for you?

Raising backyard chickens has been a growing phenomenon for several years. Many cities have passed laws legalizing backyard chickens, encouraging many to raise chickens as a rewarding hobby.

One of the biggest benefits to raising backyard chickens is that their eggs are fresher and often tastier than store-bought varieties. Hens can lay one egg per day. Multiply that egg per hen, and breakfast is always available.

Another benefit to chickens is they produce a natural fertilizer that can be used in gardens. "The Old Farmer's Almanac" says chicken manure can be composted, aged and eventually added to the garden. In about six months, a person will accumulate about one cubic foot of manure per chicken. Egg shells and other compostable material can be added to create an even richer formula.

Chickens also can help control bugs around the yard, offers the experts at Tractor Supply Company.

Before investing in backyard chickens, people should determine if chickens will fit with their lifestyle. Costs and care are a big consideration.

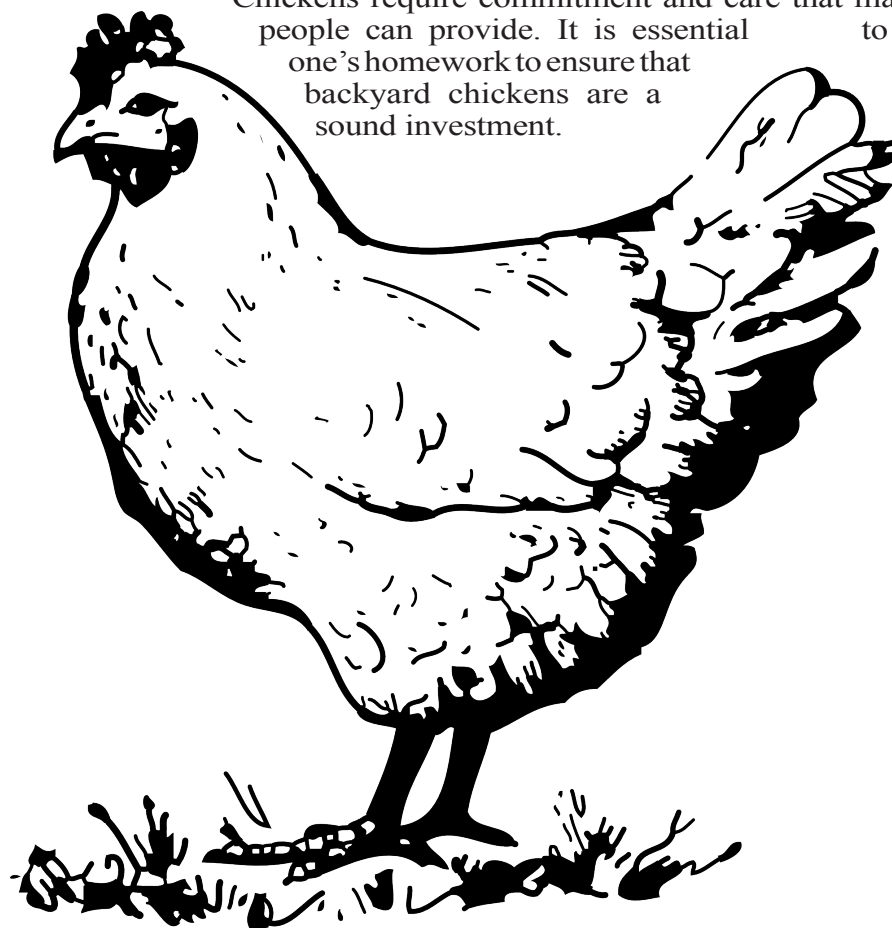
Each chick will cost anywhere between \$3 to \$5 a bird. Then there's feed to consider. The most expensive item will likely be the coop. The experts at The Happy Chicken Coop, a resource for raising chickens and starting coops, says handy men and women can build homemade coops, but ready-made ones will cost a few hundred dollars. The coop will need to offer around four square feet of space per chicken (or what's recommended for the breed).

Despite being seemingly independent birds, chickens need people to be active caregivers. They require feed and water daily. The chickens will need a caregiver while you vacation. People who are frequently away from home should reconsider chickens.

Chickens also are prone to worms, parasites and lice. They need to have rear feathers trimmed to stay clean and sanitary, and they will require an area where they can "dust" and self-groom. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises not to cuddle and kiss chickens

like pets because they can carry salmonella. Not every coop is completely varmint-proof, and some chickens may succumb to predators. Squeamish or sentimental folks may find chickens aren't the right fit.

Chickens require commitment and care that many people can provide. It is essential to do one's homework to ensure that backyard chickens are a sound investment.



Residential • Commercial • Agricultural

LOCK'S MILL
LP PROPANE
INCORPORATED
Loose Creek, MO

573-897-2197

- Family Owned • Competitive
- **Reliable** • **Guaranteed Source of Propane**
- SERVICES INCLUDE:**
 - Customer Owned Tanks • Lease Tanks Available
 - Cylinder Fills • 24-hour Emergency Service
 - Flexible Payment Plans
 - **Pre-Buy Programs** • Keep Full and Will Call



If you are a first-time propane customer, or would like to switch providers, please consider us for your propane needs.

Serving Central Gasconade, Maries and Osage counties



We provide sales, service and installation for heating and cooling systems. We've set a high standard of excellence for ourselves, and our mission is to provide complete customer satisfaction. Fully licensed and well-experienced technicians always perform the highest quality of work and are available in emergency year around.

Since 1999, Superior Service, Inc is dedicated to exceeding customer expectations. We remain committed to a high quality of workmanship and support.

Superior Service, Inc has even met the standards to become a Ruud Factory Authorized Distributor, making your satisfaction one hundred percent guaranteed!



HEATING
AIR CONDITIONING
REFRIGERATION

511 Gateway Dr. • Jefferson City, MO 65109

573-761-0572

superiorservice.hvac@gmail.com

How to Identify Asbestos During a Home Renovation

When people hear the word “asbestos,” their first thought is often one of the dozens of personal injury ads they’ve seen on TV featuring a fast-talking voice actor and a bright, bold 1-800 number emblazoned on the screen. Yet despite its association with questionable advertising, asbestos remains a very real danger as nearly 15,000 people die every year from asbestos exposure in the U.S.

The greatest risk for many homeowners occurs when remodeling or renovating an older home that was built before modern-day regulations were put in place. Fortunately, there are precautions you can take to help identify asbestos in your home and prevent it from becoming a major health risk.

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a set of minerals known for their resistance to heat, fire and electricity. Because of these properties, it was widely used in everything from building insulation to oven mitts throughout the 20th century. But by the 1970s, public knowledge of asbestos’ ability to cause cancer, especially a rare, aggressive form of the disease called mesothelioma, caused governments around the world to ban or extremely limit its use in both industrial and consumer products.

Today, asbestos use is heavily regulated in the U.S., yet it still lingers in many homes throughout the country, as Emily Walsh, director of community outreach for the Mesothelioma Cancer Alliance, explains:

“One of the biggest misconceptions, especially with home renovation, is that asbestos is no longer a concern because it’s been regulated. To this day in the United States, certain materials and other products are allowed to contain up to one percent of asbestos, not accounting for those imported from other countries.”

And even regulations meant to deal with existing asbestos have a huge blind spot. “This regulation [the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act] by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also fails to address the concentrations of asbestos found in homes built before the late 1970s, before regulations were put into place,” says Walsh.

It’s important to note that asbestos is

only a health risk in a friable, or dust-like, form, allowing its microscopic fibers to be inhaled. In cases where undisturbed asbestos is found, the best course of action is usually to leave it instead of removing it to avoid contaminating the home with asbestos dust.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF ASBESTOS?

But how do you find and identify asbestos in your home in the first place? Part of what makes asbestos so difficult to detect is the fact that it was used in so many different materials, as Walsh explains:

“Asbestos can be found almost anywhere in the home. It was used in a variety of construction products, including cement, insulation, adhesives, siding, roofing tiles, textured paints, and vinyl flooring.”

Despite the difficulty, there are some red flags to look out for when working on your home, especially if it was built prior to the late 1970s, such as:

- Crumbling drywall
- Cracked siding
- Damaged shingles
- Discolored or cracked floor tiles
- Old corrugated cement roofing
- Brittle ceiling tiles or coatings
- Frayed building or piping insulation

Remember, finding any of the above materials doesn’t mean that your home has asbestos. The only way to confirm its presence is by testing the material. “Asbestos can’t really be seen by the naked eye, so it’s important to have your home tested to yield conclusive results,” says Walsh.

Additionally, you can reduce your chances of exposure by following a few basic home improvement safety tips:

“Anyone renovating, either DIYer or professional, should wear the proper gear when taking on a project. This could include wearing an asbestos respirator mask and protective clothing, as loose fibers can cling to clothing and be tracked throughout the house.” Emily Walsh

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND ASBESTOS IN YOUR HOME

If you suspect you’ve found asbestos in your home, do not touch the material. Look for signs of wear, such as water damage or tears. If the material looks disturbed, limit access to the area and call a licensed

asbestos tester to take samples for testing.

“Home inspections are the best place to start. A trained asbestos professional should be the only one testing for the mineral, as the process disrupts the fibers and can lead to exposure. Asbestos only poses a threat once it has been disturbed or damaged, so finding out it is part of your home may serve as a red flag before going through with a renovation.” Emily Walsh

If the material is undamaged, and it doesn’t need to be removed as part of your project, then it is usually better to leave it in place. Consult a specialist to confirm that this is the safest choice for your home.

WHO SHOULD YOU CALL FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL?

If the asbestos-containing material is clearly damaged and poses an exposure risk, you will need to call an abatement specialist to have it removed. Professional asbestos removal contractors can be found throughout the country, but you should always verify their credentials with your state’s asbestos program before hiring one.

“If the materials have already been damaged, the only real remedy is to call a professional to remove the toxic mineral. Until then, homeowners may want to restrict entry into that specific room or leave the house until they are sure no one will be exposed.” Emily Walsh

If the asbestos is throughout your home, you may have to stay elsewhere while

the abatement specialist removes it. Your contractor will be able to tell you when it is safe to return.

HOW MUCH DOES ASBESTOS REMOVAL COST?

Removing asbestos from a home can be expensive, with smaller jobs often falling within the \$1,500 to \$3,000 range. In cases where asbestos is found throughout the home, removal can easily cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

It is possible that your state may offer financial assistance for costly asbestos removal. Call your regional EPA office or your state’s department of environmental protection for more information on these programs.

The best advice for identifying and removing asbestos in your home is not to panic. As long as you know what to look for and when to call a professional, you’ll be able to keep yourself and your family safe.

“When it comes to renovations, your health and wellbeing should take precedence over everything else, and the best way to do that is by getting your home tested, wearing protective gear, and calling a professional when necessary.” Emily Walsh

If you or a loved one is currently suffering from an asbestos-related illness, visit Mesothelioma.com for resources to help patients and families.



THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.
THERE’S NO COVERAGE LIKE OURS.

From discouraging crime to preparing for weather, we offer resources to help you protect your home from the elements — both criminal and natural. If the worst does happen, rely on us to help get you back under your roof. Trust in Tomorrow.®

Steve Nolte, Agent
United Mutual Insurance Company  **GRINNELL**
573-294-7391 (home)
573-619-5441 (cell)
MUTUAL.

“Trust in Tomorrow.” and “Grinnell Mutual” are registered trademarks of Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. © Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, 2018.

Have we got plans for you!

New Homes (Single & 2 Family) • Room Additions • Remodeling Projects



NILGES

homeDESIGNS, I.L.C.

P.O. Box 711, Cuba, Mo.

Linn, Mo.

573-885-7700

573-897-0077

Quick and simple ways to make a front door pop

Visitors' impressions of a home are often dictated by the home's entryway. Just as one may judge a book by its cover, the same can be said about the impression that a front door and entryway can create, regardless of how accurate that impression is.

Making certain changes to an entryway can go a long way toward improving curb appeal. Entryways also can set the scene for a home's interior. Whether one chooses to be classic or bold, modern or traditional, there are various ways to quickly transform a home's entryway.

- **Bold front door color:** Color can dramatically enhance an entryway. Painting an existing door or replacing it with a more vivid option can do the trick. The DIY Network says certain colors stand out as favorites. These include turquoise, yellow, red, indigo, orange, and black. The door color should complement the other shades of the home, such as those on siding and trim.

- **Custom walkway:** Guide guests right to the front door with an attractive (and safe) walkway. Stamped concrete or decorative paver blocks may fit the bill. This walkway can extend to the street or to the driveway.

- **Contain plants.** Landscaping around the

entryway should be neat and well-tended. Overgrown plants or shrubbery may give off an air of neglect. Container plants and carefully curated shrubs can create a neat and inviting aura.

- **Highlight the address.** Make sure the home can be found easily with bold and decorative house numbers. Consider two different address signs: one illuminated and easily viewed from the curb, and another closer to the front door.

- **Utilize high-end materials.** The relatively small area of real estate by the front door enables homeowners to splurge on more opulent materials that can really add a feeling of luxury. These can include colorful tiles, ornate planters, decorative wooden doors, or elaborate knobs and lighting fixtures.

- **Add architectural details.** Find out which architectural elements will meld with the style of the home and then incorporate them. Moldings, columns, shutters, and trim are areas to consider.

The entryway to a home garners a lot of attention. Homeowners can enhance their spaces with entryways that really make a statement.



THE
 "THIS'LL MAKE THE
NEIGHBORS
 LOOK TWICE!"
LOAN

Let Our Lenders Help You
 With Your Home Improvement Dreams!

LEGENDS
 BANK

legendsbk.com MEMBER FDIC

PROTECT
 THE ROOF OVER
 YOUR HEAD

Protect your investment and your family with quality roof maintenance services from the professionals.

Complete Removal and Reroofing
New Construction
Fully Insured
Labor Warranted for life

Call for your **FREE ESTIMATE** today.

573-619-2471

WIEBERG
ROOFING LLC

Joe Wieberg, Owner

DIY Laundry Room: Upgrading Your Space

Is the laundry room your favorite space in the house?

If you answered no, then your laundry room is probably no more than an overcrowded closet with an outdated washer and dryer. But your laundry room doesn't have to be a dark space where socks go to disappear. Transform your laundry room into a bright, modern and inviting area that you will actually enjoy spending time in.

Start planning your laundry room makeover and tackle the project during winter, so it's an efficient and well-designed space in time to handle summer fun.

DESIGNING A LAUNDRY ROOM:

WHAT TO CONSIDER

FUNCTIONAL STORAGE AND SHELVING

An organized space depends upon smart storage. Cabinets with doors or cubbies with baskets give homeowners a place to hide bottles of detergent, cleaning supplies, dirty laundry and other items you may not want visible. A few open shelves are a great way to display a few knick-knacks.

Jim Kabel | Case Design/Remodeling

SPACE TO FOLD AND SORT

If you don't want to dump your laundry pile onto the living room sofa to sort and fold, put a usable countertop or workspace into your design plan during a laundry room remodel. Install a piece on top of a front load washer and dryer, or next to stacked or top loading units, to make sure you have a space to get the work done.

DIY LAUNDRY ROOM DÉCOR

Find or create decorations that speak to your style, this is the place to let your personality shine. Look for pieces that will add something fun and fresh to your laundry room, but be careful not to overdo it, you don't want to clutter countertops and shelves with unnecessary items.

UPGRADE TO A NEW WASHER AND DRYER

Make laundry less of a chore by upgrading to a new washer and dryer. Be sure to consider if a top load or front load works best for your space before deciding. If your laundry room is narrow and you don't plan on taking down a wall or two, choose a top-loading machine. Either way, look to make an energy efficient change and make the machines work for you.

CHANGE UP THE FLOORS

If flooring is warped or in disrepair, it probably doesn't make you excited to start a new load of laundry, and should be replaced during your laundry room remodel. Replace it with something durable that also matches the aesthetics of the room.

Tile is the flooring material we recommend most often. It is durable, easy to clean and will not warp when exposed to

standing water.

Jim Kabel | Case Design/Remodeling

ADD A FRESH COAT OF PAINT

Nothing gives a room a different feel than a splash of color on the walls. Choose a calming color like a light blue or grey to give your laundry room a refreshed look while staying on trend.

SELECT NEW LIGHT FIXTURES

Finding the right lighting can brighten and warm up your space. Don't settle for harsh fluorescent bulbs. Choose LED lights and a simple decorative fixture to liven things up, especially if your laundry room isn't lucky enough to have a window.

START YOUR LAUNDRY ROOM REMODEL

With these ideas, you're well on your way to creating the DIY laundry room of your dreams. If you are looking to move your laundry room to a new location, or take out a wall to make it a little more spacious, read our Exceedingly Comprehensive Guide to DIY Home Improvement before you start, and consider renting a dumpster for all that construction debris.



Tree Solutions, LLC
All Your Tree Needs.
 Tree Trimming • Removal • Stump Grinding
 Office: **573-395-3270**
Joe Abbott **Kyle Jorgensen**
573-462-6214 **573-230-9061**

Buy. Build. Refinance.

**Great Rates.
Great Team.
Great Service.**

Call or Visit us!



*"A Bank That's Good for You
and Your Community Too!"*



573-897-2211 • midambk.com



GEO SMART
ENERGY

Environmentally friendly comfort and savings at home. GeoSmart Energy's variety of attractive and stylish residential systems provide the perfect fit for your family. With GeoSmart Energy system you'll not only conserve energy, but you'll experience enhanced comfort and safe, quiet operation with a system that's environmentally responsible.

Take advantage of the
30% Federal Tax Credit
before it is to late!



BRANDT

HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & FIREPLACES

Sales * Service * Installation

573-301-1388

brandhvac@outlook.com • www.brandthvac.com

Ask us about our Maintenance Agreements



turn to the experts



\$75
Preventative
Maintenance Checks

BRANDT

HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & FIREPLACES

Sales * Service * Installation

573-301-1388

brandhvac@outlook.com • www.brandthvac.com

Come by our office and look through our many designs of interior fireplaces for your home!

Dimplex

INNOVATIVE HEATING AND COOLING



EMPIRE

COMFORT SYSTEMS



BRANDT

HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & FIREPLACES

Sales * Service * Installation

573-301-1388

brandhvac@outlook.com • www.brandthvac.com

How to Landscape a Small Front Yard on a Budget



MAINTENANCE PATHWAY

A gravel pathway is a super budget-friendly front yard idea, especially if you have some high-traffic areas with very little vegetation. According to DIY or Not, the average cost of a 100-foot-long gravel path is roughly \$650, though the DIY route will cost you nearly half that amount. You will need to break out the shovels for this one, but the end result will be entirely worth it.

PLANT A YOUNG TREE IN YOUR FRONT YARD

A lone tree is a great focal point for a small front yard. And if you buy a sapling instead of an older tree, you can easily save anywhere from \$100 to \$2,000 according to HowMuch.net. Plus, once it's fully grown it will give your home some much needed shade – potentially enough to lower your heating and cooling costs by 30 percent.

Take some time to consider these front yard landscaping ideas before you break out the wheelbarrow. Once you know which direction you want to take your landscaping, you'll be well on your way to creating a beautiful front yard on a small budget.

While we would all like a bold and beautiful front yard bursting with Peruvian lilies and peonies, sometimes we have to start a bit smaller and work our way up. But you don't have to settle for mediocrity when landscaping your front yard. There are plenty of ways to create a stunning display, even if you're working with a tight space, and budget.

Here are six inexpensive ways to landscape your front yard:

PERENNIALS ARE EASY ON THE EYES – AND YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT

Perennials last a solid two years before taking their dirt nap, which means you won't have to replace them every year – saving you a nice bundle of money. Some perennials to consider planting in your front yard include:

Daisies: These hardy flowers are bright and cheerful, a perfect fit for any garden.

Lavender: These purple perennials are known for their beauty and aroma.

Catmint: Not to be confused with catnip, these purple-flowered plants complement a wide variety of flowers.

INSTALL A STEPPING STONE WALKWAY

This classic front yard landscaping idea is surprisingly cheap but does require a little more work. You can install stepping stones in a variety of ways, including digging holes and filling with cement or purchasing stones separately from a landscaping supply store. These generally run in the neighborhood of \$15 to \$35 per stone according to HomeWyse, with both the cut and quality determining the total cost.

REPLACE YOUR LAWN WITH ROCKS AND PEBBLES

Another rocky idea for your front yard is to replace your entire front lawn

with a combination of pebbles, rocks and shrubs. You'll save on all kinds of maintenance costs during the year, such as watering and sodding. And with less

grass to cut every week, you'll have plenty of free time to work on those backyard landscaping projects.

USE GRAVEL FOR A LOW-

FUN • FLOWERS FRIENDSHIP
www.longfellowsgarden.com




Longfellow's
 Garden Center Inc. **Gardening that's Out of the Ordinary!**

12007 Lookout Trail, Centertown, MO **573.584.9611**

Select the right fertilizer for your needs

For plants to truly flourish, the right growing conditions and soil that offers the right nutrients is of paramount importance. Fertilizer enhances soil so that plants and flowers can thrive. However, fertilizer is not a one-size-fits-all mix.

Choosing fertilizer can be a little overwhelming thanks to the variety of formulations available at neighborhood lawn and garden centers. Shelves contain all-purpose products, such as those billed as vegetable fertilizer, and even formulations geared toward specific flower varieties. Others may feature buzz words like “all-natural” or “organic,” and consumers may not be sure just what they need to keep plants healthy. The following guidelines can help any would-be gardener or landscaper grow more vibrant plants.

START WITH A SOIL TEST

It’s difficult to determine what plants need without an accurate picture of what’s going on in the ground. A soil test can paint a picture of what’s going on and indicate if any nutrients are lacking. A common misconception is that gardeners fertilize plants. But

fertilizer amends the soil that feeds plants, according to the soil-testing lab professionals at Virginia Tech. Soil types vary by region, and conditions may even vary between spots on a landscape. Testing where the plants will be placed can yield the most accurate results. Soil tests are available at gardening centers and online. Otherwise, landscaping professionals can conduct tests.

KNOW THE N-P-K RATIO

Most fertilizers will come with information concerning the nutrients within. Most notably it will have a breakdown of how much nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) is in the mix. Judging by the soil test, gardeners can choose a product that will give them the right ratio to amend the soil for the type of plant they are hoping to grow. Complete fertilizers often have NPK in the formulation. Incomplete fertilizers may have only one or two nutrients. This allows a person to customize fertilizer even more without overdoing it with a particular nutrient.

GROW PLANT KNOWLEDGE

A cursory knowledge of the plants being planted in the garden also can be helpful. Gardeners must recognize that some plants will not tolerate excess amounts of a particular fertilizer component, while some may need more. Checking books out of the library,

seeking information online and consulting with landscaping experts will help expand homeowners’ knowledge about plant types and the needs of each particular plant they hope to grow.

SOLID AND LIQUID FERTILIZER

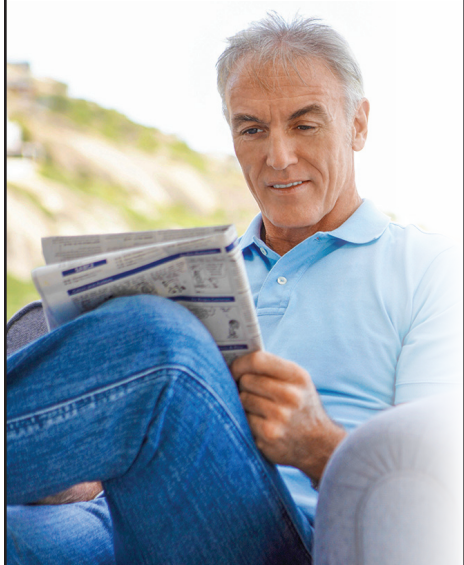
Fertilizers are generally sold in pellets, spikes and liquid forms. Pellets or granules are dispersed over large areas and will gradually offer nutrients when the soil is watered.

Liquid fertilizer is concentrated and fast-acting. These may be used for container plants or smaller areas. Spikes usually are placed in houseplants or to feed individual trees or shrubs. Depending on the formulation, fertilizer may need to be reapplied once a month or more. Consult the product packaging for the correct application advice.

Fertilizer amends soil to grow stronger, more resilient plants.

Your Local
News
Just the
Way You
Like It

Unterrified
Democrat
573-897-3150
udnewslinn@gmail.com
udnalinn@gmail.com



S&D Septic Tank Service

- Septic Pumping
- Grease Drain Pumping
- Bobcat and Excavating
- Prompt Service
- Locally Owned
- Free Estimates



573-496-3915

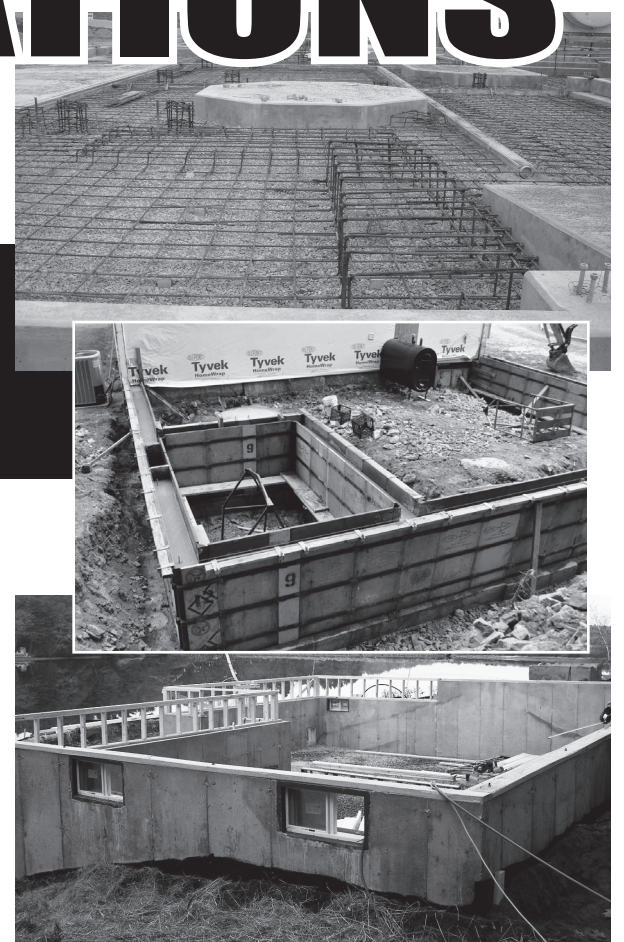
MILLER FOUNDATIONS

Residential, Commercial
& Agricultural

*Level, Square and
Straight is top priority*

Footings
• Walls • Flatwork

573-645-6542



Transform bathrooms with technology

Technology is infiltrating every room of the house. Many new home buyers are millennials, and this tech-savvy demographic covets technological innovations.

A recent survey by Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate indicates 77 percent of Generation X and Y home buyers want their homes equipped with the tech capabilities they have grown accustomed to. Many of these involve smart innovations, including those that can transform one of the most private rooms in the house—the bathroom.

Automated home theater rooms and Wi-Fi-enabled home security systems have become the norm, but what tech improvements are available to make the powder room more in touch with today's digital lifestyle? According to the home improvement resource The Spruce, bathrooms have the most potential of any rooms to be improved with technology. The following are just some of the bathroom gadgets and gizmos no one should resist before giving a try.

• **Automatic faucets:** Infrared sensors have been helping keep public restrooms more hygienic for years. The same technology can be used in home bathrooms to curtail water waste and keep faucets and sinks from becoming infested with germs. In addition, faucets with built-in timers can be programmed to set tasks for brushing teeth or washing your face.

• **Musical shower:** Instead of having to blast the volume on the portable speaker you use in the bathroom, a wireless speaker is built into some showerheads. This enables those who like to sing in the shower or listen to podcasts while washing up to enjoy this luxury effortlessly.

• **Smarter weight management:** Bathroom scales have gone high-tech as well, with various options enabling users to measure weight, BMI and body fat percentage before sending the data wirelessly to a phone, tablet or computer. This can put you in greater control of fitness goals.

• **High-tech toilets:** Borrowing ideas from bidets and trends around the world, modern toilets do not require hands or paper. These toilets have temperature-controlled water, spritzing wands and air dryers to clean and sanitize. Self-cleaning toilets help busy professionals save time and are ideal for those who always want their bowls as clean as possible. And if you desire extra comfort, toilet seat warmers are available, while LED lights can make nighttime restroom visits easier.

• **Soaking tubs:** As fast as stand-alone showers were introduced to the modern bathroom, tubless designs have been replaced with streamlined soaking tubs. Tubs come with different features, including chromatherapy, which employs colored lights to

enhance mood. Air baths are controlled electronically and provide different levels of sensation for those who are skipping the hot tub.

Round out these innovations with automated lights, chilled medicine cabinets and aromatherapy, and your bathroom will indeed become a technological spa.



PROTECTION FOR WHAT'S NOW, AND WHAT'S NEXT.

With our innovative and customizable coverage options, we're here to protect your home—and your growing dreams.

Let's talk about your home insurance today.

BUNDLE AND SAVE!



Carla McDaniel, Customer Service Representative
Mike McDaniel Agency Inc
204 E Main St
Bus: (573) 897-3142
cmcdanie@amfam.com



Michael McDaniel, Agent
Mike McDaniel Agency Inc
204 E Main St, Linn
Bus: (573) 897-3142
mcdaniel@amfam.com



Stephanie Coret, Sales Specialist - All Lines
Mike McDaniel Agency Inc
204 E Main St, Linn
Bus: (573) 897-3142
scret@amfam.com



American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & Its Operating Companies, American Family Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2019 015971 - 2/19 - 9963596



JACQUIN EXCAVATING

BASEMENTS, PONDS, LAKES AND CLEARING

573-897-0564
(Phone)
573-694-6102
(Cell)

FREE ESTIMATES



PAUL JACQUIN • 879 COUNTY ROAD 302 • LINN, MO 65051

How to conserve energy throughout summer

Energy bills tend to be high in summertime, when many people crank up their air conditioners in an attempt to combat the heat. For some households, higher energy bills might be stretching their budgets, while others might be looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprints.

Conserving energy can help homeowners save money and help the planet at the same time. And reducing energy consumption in the summer does not require men and women to sacrifice comfort in the name of conservation. In fact, various strategies can help homeowners and apartment dwellers reduce their summertime energy consumption.

- Stop cooling an empty home. A cool home might be the ultimate necessity during summer heat waves, but there's no reason to cool a residence when no one is home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, operating thermostats more efficiently can help homeowners trim their cooling costs by as much as 10 percent. One way to be more efficient with thermostats

is to keep the house warmer than normal when no one is home. Programmable thermostats can be set so air conditioning units turn on shortly before residents arrive home, ensuring the house is comfortable and no energy is wasted.

- Narrow the gap between indoor and outdoor temperatures. The DOE notes that the smaller the difference between the temperature indoors and outside the lower cooling costs will be. While it may be tempting to set thermostats to room temperature (68 F) on days when temperatures reach 90 F or above, that's an enormous temperature gap that will result in a high energy bill. Instead, the DOE recommends setting thermostats to 78 F whenever possible.

- Open the windows at night. Daytime temperatures, particularly during the dog days of summer, may necessitate the use of air conditioners. But men and women who live in climates where temperatures drop considerably at night can sleep with their windows open. This reduces energy

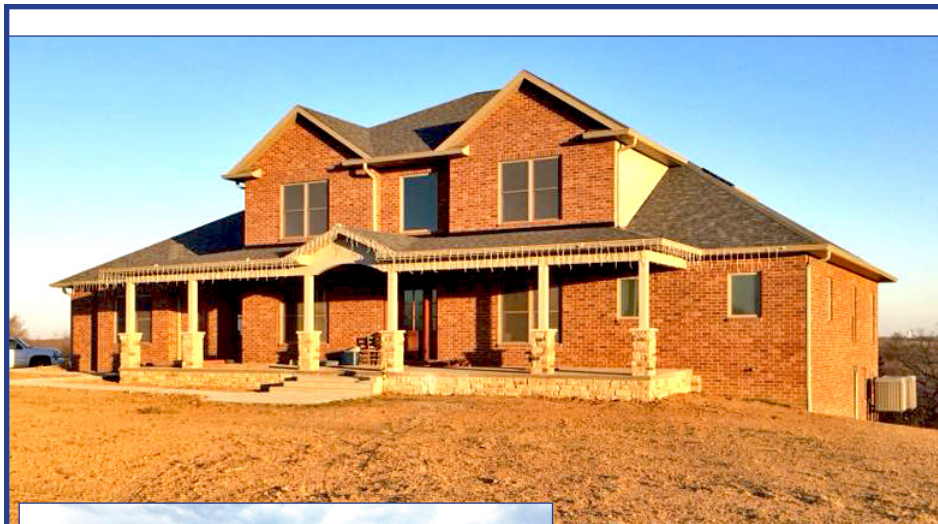
consumption and saves money, and can be a great way to introduce fresh air into a home during a time of year when air can become stagnant.

- Do not set air conditioner thermostats at lower than normal temperatures when turning them on. The DOE notes that setting thermostats at lower than normal temperatures when turning air conditioners on will not cool homes any faster than setting them at typical temperatures. Such a strategy will only lead to excessive energy consumption and higher energy bills.

- Install ceiling fans. Ceiling fans can improve cooling efficiency in a home. According to the DOE, ceiling fans allow men and women who use air conditioners to raise the thermostats on their AC units about 4 F without adversely affecting comfort levels. Men and women who live in temperate climates may find that ceiling fans are enough to keep rooms cool without the need for air conditioners.

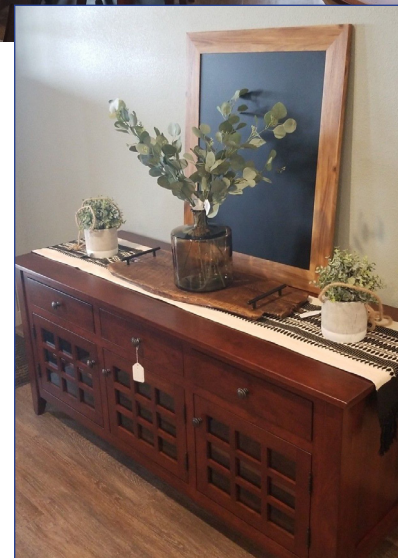
Homeowners can combat high utility bills and excessive energy consumption

during the summer with various eco- and budget-friendly strategies.



Hardwood, Handcrafted, Quality

Deutsches Heim has access to a line of solid, hardwood furniture. All of our furniture is designed and constructed by skilled Amish craftsmen who take great satisfaction in producing distinctive and superior products. When products are made "close to home" and the craftsmen's personal reputation is at stake with each piece, attention to detail is a consistent natural consequence. Our furniture is quality, function and style converging to form a piece of furniture that you can be assured will provide service and pleasure for generations.



Deutsches Heim



Poly or Wood Outdoor Furniture!
From Chairs, Gliders, Swings, Tables and More!



573-897-9942

101 Hwy. CC • Just East of Linn on Hwy. CC
deutschesheim.com

HOURS:
Mon. through Thurs. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri. 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hostetler & Sons, LLC

Custom Homes, Light Commercial and Agricultural Building Construction

573-694-5018

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Follow us on Facebook

How to control common spring pests

Just when winter thaws out and people are anxious to enjoy the blooming flowers and luscious lawns of spring, pesky pests can appear and impact comfort levels and safety.

Many pests resume their levels of activity as spring draws closer and temperatures warm up. The presence of these insects and rodents may cause problems in and around a home, which makes it essential to recognize them and avoid issues. The following are some of the more common spring pests and how to remedy infestations.

PAVEMENT ANTS

Pavement ants are some of the most common pests residents encounter inside and outside of their homes. These ants are light brown to black with appendages that are lighter than the rest of their bodies. Small in stature, pavement ants have parallel lines on their heads and thorax, according to pest extermination company Orkin.

Although pavement ants nest outdoors, they can enter homes through small crevices in search of food scraps. Their large colonies may not disappear until treatment is introduced. Keep foods in tightly sealed containers, clear counters and floors of crumbs, and address water sources, such as leaks. Pesticides may be needed in extreme conditions.

FLEAS

Fleas are tiny, jumping, biting pests that must find a host upon which to live. As ecto-

parasites, they feed on blood while living on the body of living hosts. Pets can bring fleas inside the yard and home in warm weather. According to the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, flea larvae develop more quickly at higher temperatures. At normal room temperatures, the entire life cycle of a flea is about 18 days.

Several flea control products are available to control fleas on cats and dogs. There also may be powders and sprays to alleviate flea infestations in the home. Vacuuming is also very effective in killing larvae in the carpet and at picking up adults.

WASPS

An errant wasp, hornet or yellow jacket may have survived winter and ridden out the colder temperatures within a home. Once the weather warms, queens will begin to look for places to lay eggs and establish colonies. Treating areas where wasps are seen entering and leaving the home is key. Seal holes as soon as possible.

Although wasps help control other insect populations, their painful stings and potentially aggressive nature can make them challenging to have around a home. If a nest is found, hire a professional to remove it.

SPIDERS

Many spiders are not harmful enough to humans and pets to be much of a problem. In fact, spiders can be helpful to have around to control the populations of other insects.

Still, many homeowners would prefer these web-slinging friends remain outdoors. Therefore, sealing cracks in a home's foundation and repairing small openings around windows and doors can help keep spiders out. Also, allevi-

ating moisture issues in basements, garages or attics may keep out other bugs that would be prey to spiders.

Homeowners can take the steps necessary to cut down on pests in and around their homes.



DRY FORK STEEL & SUPPLY, LLC

1360 Hwy. CC • Bland, MO 65014

BUSINESS HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8 to 5; Sat. 8 to Noon

All your steel needs for residential, agricultural and commercial

FOR HOME

- Porch &
- Deck Railing
- Hand Rails
- Ornamental Entry Gates
- Fencing
- Custom Deer Stands



NOW AVAILABLE: General Auto Repair

FOR FARM

- Gates
- Panels
- Corral & Fencing Materials
- Bale Unrollers
- Bale Spears
- And More



www.dryforksteel.com

email: info@dryforksteel.com

573-417-0511

Spring is in Bloom!

Bedding Plants
Vegetables
Hanging Baskets

Our Grandma has the Best Flowers!

Perennials
Mulch

Countryside Garden & Nursery LLC

Open Daily 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Our prices are worth the drive!

Hwy. C - 11 miles from Linn in Frankenstein, MO **897-0600**

How to choose the right window treatments for your home

Plantation shutters? Mini-blinds? Cafe curtains? Formal draperies? Homeowners' options in regard to window treatments for their homes are extensive, which can make outfitting home interiors challenging for novice decorators.

Some people do not pay a lot of attention to window treatments, failing to realize just how great an impact the right window treatments can have on a space. According to the design experts at Hunter Douglas, window treatments are often an afterthought because residents may not consider them necessities. As a result, homeowners may install whatever is on hand or accept window treatments that came with a house or apartment. But ignoring window treatments, especially when they can fulfill certain needs,

is a missed design opportunity.

One of the first steps to choosing window treatments is determining your end goal. Is privacy your main goal? Are you seeking more natural light in a room? Is there too much light and you need to darken the room? Window treatments can serve multiple functions, and some treatments may make better fits depending on homeowners' ultimate goals.

SEMI-SHEER WINDOW TREATMENTS

Semi-sheer window treatments are often fabric and can help brighten rooms with natural light but offer little privacy. They're usually appropriate for spaces where people gather, such as living rooms, dens or dining rooms. Semi-sheer curtains may be paired

with another complementary window treatment so privacy can be customized as needed. For example, sheer curtains let light into a bedroom, but shades can be drawn at night.

MAXIMUM PRIVACY

Bedrooms, work spaces or bathrooms can benefit from extra privacy. While some people may think that privacy comes at the cost of light, that's not always the case.

Functional curtain panels can be drawn closed when privacy is desired and then opened to let in light. The thickness of the fabric will also dictate the amount of privacy the panels create.

Tiers are hung on a short rod-pocket panel and usually cover the lower one-third of a window. They're popular choices to let light in from the top, but obscure views from the bottom portion of the window.

Cellular shades are another option that provide privacy but still let light in. Cellular shades come in hard and fabric varieties and their use depends on the room. Many cellular shades are constructed with a honeycomb design, offers the design resource Houzz, so they can insulate as well as decorate windows.

BLACKOUT SHADES/SHUTTERS

Perfect for rooms where babies nap, shift workers rest during daylight hours or external lights, such as that from a street lamp, need to be blocked out, blackout shades do just what their name implies. A dense fabric

lining helps keep light out entirely.

Shutters also can block out light but add to the character of the room. They can be painted a bright color to make a statement or match wall colors to blend in seamlessly.

When selecting window treatments, shoppers can choose retail options or custom treatments. Many designers recommend custom window treatments because they are measured, manufactured and installed specifically for homeowners' windows. However, there are many DIY options available at budget-friendly retailers.



B&H

Thanks

to all the local farmers who have given so much support to our business over the past 30+ years!

- Complete Water Well Installation
- Repair On Existing Equipment
- Geo Thermal Wells & Looping
- Cobett Waterers and Water Lines Installed

We Hope We Can Help In The Future!

Serving all of Mid Missouri

FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW WELLS

455-9111 • 897-3793
bhwelldrilling.com



Over 36 Yrs. Of Sales & Service For Overhead Doors & Electric Operators



LiftMaster

Clopay

C.H.I. OVERHEAD DOORS

Wayne Dalton



We Service All Brands of Overhead Doors and Operators



Jefferson City
573-893-2575

Osage Beach
573-348-4399

California
573-796-4949

*Build it better with concrete!
Our families way of life!*



From new home construction to a new patio or driveway we are here for all of your concrete needs. We carry a wide range of colored and decorative concrete products for customizing your every need.

Give us a call today!!



Wieberg



Meta Plant
573-229-4886

Vichy Plant
573-299-4222

Red-E-Mix, Inc.