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CRAZY DIY
DISASTERS
P. 89

This Old House

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

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Cover design by Laura Niles
Style by Greg Leno



And a design of life, with a 14-foot, 1800-watt Edison light bulb in a ballroom—and the onlookers to enjoy them—are being viewed by a rooftop crowd.



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letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

My DIY Disasters

WROGASTH IS THE JANUARY ISSUE of *The Old House*, and whereas January is a time for fresh starts, I barely avoid it, for the sake of special harmony, to take not more than six months to finish any weekend home-improvement project.

I further resolve never to dig a 30-foot long, 3-foot deep trench with an even deeper dry well at its end and because I find a contractor's estimate to be pricey. And certainly I resolve not to buy equal chocolate cake at Sweet's Deli as a treat for completing such work, because a fat belly only compounds the pain of a sore back.

While we're on the subject of what's good for me, from now on I'll also go on my way from axes and other implements of destruction, including but not limited to nails, picks, sledge, and big hammers. They can be dangerous. Take, for example, the sledge hammer, which has an axe blade instead of a claw. I once walked under a scaffold post as a guy on top tried to open one around his finger and instead hit a gong. Thing is, the guy was more Barney Fife than Spud. Keep outside hammers whined downward, to handle bouncing off my head, as he slid down into my foot. Fortunately, the boots were steel-toed, so I escaped bodily injury.

No such luck: The last time my head was involved in a mishap, I'd just finished building our backyard deck, and, for reasons that defy common sense (but perhaps because I am a jackass), instead of climbing the stairs I walked to the side to lean myself onto the newly laid boards. I put my hands on the deck, pushed myself off and swung my leg up, and then, with the grace of a lumbering, glass-jawed boxer, I reversed direction and fell straight backward, whacking my skull on a stair nosing. I had a headache for three days and the taste of pennies in my mouth for a week.

Truth be told, I've had enough mishaps to fill a book. Or a magazine. Or at least a magazine story—like the one on page 38, the *The Old House* Black-and-Blue Thumb Awards. Technically, they're not awards, just prizes recognition for a handful of folks who know firsthand how absurd, frustrating, humiliating, and hilarious (to us, anyway) home improvement and home ownership can be. You'd do well to leave a little something from these mistakes. And then realize for yourself not to appear in the sequel. As for the chocolate cake, we'll let that one be between you and your conscience.

Scott O'Malley

SCOTT O'MALLEY
EDITOR



I've had enough goofy mishaps to fill a book. Or at least a magazine article, like our "Black-and-Blue Thumb Awards," on page 39.

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{ GOOD TO KNOW }

This statue in 1995 the first solar heated and radiant cooled house built by Raymond W. Ellis in Tucson, Arizona.

Restorers of Hope

A decorative-arts studio mends architecture and lives

ALPHA WORKSHOPS is a nonprofit company of 33 craftspeople that restored many precious New York sites, including the palace in the city's municipal auditorium, Grace Mansion, and the Bronx Arts building in the landmark Prince George Hotel. They're known to apply the same care to restoring a fan coat as an apartment. But their most key reason for restoration has been to restore the disappearing art of fine finishes, masonry, and wallpaper—all modeled after techniques of the Arts and Crafts movement—the group also trains and employs AIDS/HIV positive adults in the decorative arts. Good deeds as well as great work.

Since its founding by executive director Kenneth Whipple in 1993, "the studio has been known for high quality," says Kelly Castagnaro, spokesperson for Common Ground Community, a nonprofit that owns the Prince George. "Everyone who sees the building is in awe."

Now, they've moved from Manhattan, going as far as Connecticut and New Jersey to handle building restoration. For closer (and more) work, the studio has opened its doors to other fine-arts workshops. The program is as much about the craft's well-being as it is about craftsmanship. "Keeping alive helps you stay well," Whipple says.

Some workshoped plastering and masonry skills when they joined. Others have spent a year-two-year-and-a-half months honing their skills. Perfecting a piece of the mosaic. As Whipple puts it, "Everybody here has an dream. But they're also particularly good at the work that they do."

For more on Alpha Workshops, visit alphaworkshops.org —ARTS.400000002



It took 100,000 hours of work to create this sculpture. The artist, Kenneth Whipple, is a member of Alpha Workshops, a nonprofit organization that restores historic buildings in New York City's Prince George Hotel.

SPEAKING OF DECORATIVE ARTS...



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WASHINGTON'S MOVEMENT

President George Washington, the first president of the United States, was the first to use the word "Washington" in his name.



TOPLEFT The Deliaquer Building features Joseph Fourier's hallmark oval windows. **MIDDLE** The State Capital Company Building houses a painting museum. **LEFT** The Sefton Building displays Richardsonian Romanesque influences.

【关键词】 中国 新加坡 中国城 城市空间 中国城

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA,
GUTHRIE HISTORIC DISTRICT

As Oshkosh begins its year-long statewide centennial celebration, 1875 Culture has emerged as one of its most interesting destinations. After all, it's home to the largest commercial district listed on the National Register, 33 Victorian hotels and breakfasts, and the famous Blue Cell Saloon, a 123-year-old watering hole where legendary country singer Tom Mix hung out, and cowboy life has been rolled into its silver-screen shadow.

The town's population grew from less than 10,000 in just six months after Jan. 22, 1895. That year, the President Benjamin Harrison signed the Oklahoma Territory to argue why to state its claim in the same restricted land. The speculation rushed in. So did wagon-borne seed sower Joseph Forester who is credited with turning the land dry into an ever-arching clutch of seed sower and soil (oil) business that often was called "oil fever." Queen Anne's Inn, built in 1896, is one of the town's oldest buildings. The town's name was chosen by the State Capitol Publishing Building is known for its twisted embrace and distinctive balconies. Other famous features are shops and old windows and old furniture, which give the town the look of an old-fashioned town. The town's name was chosen by the State Capitol Publishing Building is known for its twisted embrace and distinctive balconies. Other famous features are shops and old windows and old furniture, which give the town the look of an old-fashioned town. The town's name was chosen by the State Capitol Publishing Building is known for its twisted embrace and distinctive balconies. Other famous features are shops and old windows and old furniture, which give the town the look of an old-fashioned town.

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【 必考 100 题】

3. 1944 Ironically, Black and Decker's first generation of pliers—called a cross between a machine gun and a miniature jackhammer—was so heavy that controlling them required you use two hands. The aluminum body, though, was light enough for some working with the drills in WWII defense factories to consider them not *that* heavy. (And here he was at home.)

Room for One More?

**COOL TOOL GRAMS
14 FUNCTIONS INTO A
SINGLE HANDLE**

This isn't the most useful tool to pass through the office recently, but it's certainly the most fun. The 14-in-1 Deluxe Hammer Multi-tool has a head that splits into pliers, which in turn reveal a wire cutter in their crotch. Leatherman's website can't claim that

Of course, you can't frame a house with this thing—head to heel, it's barely 6 inches long, and the backs of three blades folded away in the handle tend to dig into your palm. But it will pound a picture hanger the same way a maul drives a nail. Plus, the faux wood handle does conceal a slightly more useful car opener, three sawtooths, and a knife the manufacturer touts as "cooler sharp." If all that doesn't hook you, the vinyl holster and red foil-lined storage case will.

Feed your tool fetish for \$40 at heritage-tools.com

—Luisa María



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^aTriple-blind study comparing 10 mg/kg/day rifampin (Rif) against placebo (Pbo). Rifampin improved lung function and adverse symptom scores, and a reduction in fast-acting inhaler use, compared with placebo during the first 6 weeks post-onset (18 vs 24 mg/kg/day rifampin; 10 mg/kg/day rifampin or 20 mg/kg/day rifampin powder were also evaluated).

Please see broadcast information about **8PM ET** on the next page.

Results: very strong



PROBLEM:

The master bath was a tight squeeze

SOLUTION:

Relocate it to a roomy garage office area. Here's how >>

BY CAITLIN BROSAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY RAY KACHATORMAN

UNFORTUNATELY FOR HER homeowners, not all mid-century ranches have roomier than terrible. Merging traffic jams in the 3-by-6-foot master bath at John and Lucy Musick's 1961 ranch offered proof of that. Tired of jockeying for space at the sink and waiting for a turn in the shower, the Encinitas, California, couple decided it was time for a spacious update—especially now that a toddler and an infant had entered the bath-time rotation. John finally had good reason to build the bath he'd dreamed of while handling tilework for adobe people, first in college and now as executive vice president for Oceanic-Glassco.

His vision included curved glass-tile walls that would reflect daylight and glimmer beneath water streaming down the shower enclosure. He also wanted to work with a graduated color scheme and mosaic fixtures. Lucy's aspiration was a soaking tub where she could lounge and occasionally bathe both kids at once.

As part of a whole-house redo with San Diego-based Dwell Designs, the couple unseated the space occupied by the garage-turned home-office for the new 13-by-17-foot bath. They carved one exterior wall and rounded the corners of interior walls to give the space a spacious flow. But it's the shower, with four watery blue shades of tile cascading down the walls, that's his favorite feature, says John. "Now my morning shower is a really welcoming part of my day."



ABOVE: The garage had 12 inches to a car in some places—it served as a home office and storage area. **LEFT:** An indoor-outdoor bronze finish on the glass tile wall behind the sink coordinates more light to the space. The flooring doubles vanity with hanging at a height convenient for the wife, who is 5 feet 2 inches tall.

COURTESY OF DWELL DESIGNS



LEFT: The glass-lined shower's existing tile is being removed and replaced with a new tile. It is set off by a wall of dark bronze glass-tile block. The new tile is set off by a wall of dark bronze glass-tile block. The new tile is set off by a wall of dark bronze glass-tile block.



ABOVE: To get the outdoor effect on the shower walls, the shower enclosure was designed to be 12 inches above the floor. The wall is set off by a wall of dark bronze glass-tile block. The new tile is set off by a wall of dark bronze glass-tile block.



The Plan

>> Reshape the new space and place the fixtures so there's room to move

What They Did

- 1 DEMOLISHED THE GARAGE AND ADDED A CURVE TO THE FOOTPRINT.** The former garage was leveled and new exterior walls built. One corner of the previously busy footprint was clipped to create a curved front wall.
- 2 ADDED CURVES INSIDE, TOO.** Walls with rounded edges embrace the shower and the toilet, enhancing the effect of the glossy glass mosaic tile that covers them.
- 3 LET IN LIGHT WHILE PRESERVING PRIVACY.** Two foot-square cement windows installed about 7 feet high along the top of the wall above the tub and shower brighten the room without providing a view to what's inside.
- 4 RAN OUT FIXTURES.** Maintaining empty space between the clamp-up shower makes the room very spacious. The shower and toilet, either own enclosures, are screened from the tub, ensuring the double vanity as the living well-enhanced the open feel. Recessed heating keeps the marble tile floor comfortable.

- BEFORE:** The 20-by-20 foot former garage formed a perfect square.
AFTER: A shower enclosure reshaped the layout. The new walls were constructed slightly higher for the adjacent bedroom and about a foot wider.



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RIGHT: Carpeted steps lead to the drywalled and floored lower-level family room, which has a built-in just around the corner. **BELOW:** The old basement, which housed the washer and dryer, had a concrete floor, exposed plumbing, and stone foundation walls.



PROBLEM: The house had no family room

SOLUTION:
Finish the raw
basement space.
Here's how >>

BY JUL CONNORS
PHOTOGRAPHY: SYBEN BAIK

IN THE QUEST FOR EXTRA SQUARE FOOTAGE, a dry, unfinished basement was a holy grail. For the cost of some finish work and much-needed upgrades, you can get a whole new room, sometimes two or three.

For the last 20 years, kitchen designer Karen Berkemeyer didn't think much about her own below-grade space: it's a 1920s rowhouse in Rossmore, New York. "I used it for the washer and dryer, but other than that, I ignored it," she says. But with the upper floors put to full use—the first has a formal living room, dining room, and kitchen; the second and third, a total of three bedrooms and two baths—Berkemeyer and her husband were hankering for a casual TV room. "We never had one space where we could all gather and watch a movie," says the designer, who started putting a television in the living room when her two kids were younger, preferring to keep it a quiet place for reading.

While most of the basement space would become a family room, she also wanted to put in a full bath so it could double as a guest suite. A proper laundry room and a storage closet were also on the agenda. Since dampness was not an issue, the job or hurdle was excavating below the concrete slab to achieve the 7-foot finished ceiling height needed to meet code. Berkemeyer designed the layout of the rooms, furnished granite built-ins, and plenty of recessed lighting to brighten the rooms, making a pale neutral palette to enhance the feeling of light and air. Limestone tiles prevent dampness from wicking up through the concrete sub-floors, and hardwood floors and air-conditioning keep the space cozy in winter and cool and dry when the weather warms. "We knew it would be a great hangout, but we didn't realize how nice it is to have totally private guest quarters," says Berkemeyer. "What our kids can't figure out is what took us so long."



The Plan

>> Carve out space for a family room with a full bath, plus a storage closet and laundry

What They Did

1. **REMOVED A WALL** to dig out under-porch crawl space and make a part of the new family room. A steel beam provides support in its place.
2. **DUG OUT THE EXISTING FLOOR** (except in the machine area) to achieve a 7-foot finished ceiling height.
3. **KEPT THE ORIGINAL LOCATIONS** for the water heater and boiler, shifting them away behind doors.
4. **CREATED A STORAGE CLOSET** to hold extra household goods from closets above to bulk size paper towels.
5. **SQUEEZED IN A FULL BATH** measuring 5 by 5 feet.
6. **MOVED THE LAUNDRY** to the far end of the space, tucking the washer and dryer under a counter, adding a sink and replacing a space-saving in-wall bathtub with a sink and replacing a space-saving in-wall bathtub with a sink.
7. **BUILT IN CHERRY CABINETS** by Wood Made to maximize storage for the TV, games, DVDs, CDs, and books.

1. In the bath, bowed black granite tops an antique dresser easily.
2. Though only one was required to meet code, two apron-sink tubs were added in the family room. Their top halves fit above granite. Custom Redstone window wells (available in the book) dress up the view.
3. The limestone backsplash behind the kitchen laundry sink and faucet provides a final paint-color visual from the main-living area.
4. The whole of the bathroom is wrapped in limestone, including the ceiling. In the laundry, the Miele washer and dryer are tucked under a custom counter.
5. The water heater in the mechanical closet still stands as the original concept. But 5 inches higher than the previous entry of the space.



Get used to basement? In some basements, the water heater and boiler are moved away from the main-living area.



BEFORE: An exterior wall divided the basement from crawl space under a porch, a full bath—70 square feet of extra room. **AFTER:** Two small bedrooms were closed and one larger one added. Bed of the 42 by 64-inch window in the family room slide open for emergency egress.



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Chill Chasers

» Towel warmers toast your berry and give you a better-looking bath

BY MATHIE RODRIGUEZ PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID PRINCE

NOTHING TAKES THE CHILL OFF your early-morning shower like a warm, fluffy towel. On the cozy embrace of a heated robe. You need to have to be a guest at a five-star hotel to experience such indulgence. But these days, it's easy to recreate the spa experience in your very own home, with a classic or hi-tech towel warmer.

Modern-day interpretations of the old-fashioned radiator that our grandparents dried wet clothes on, today's towel warmers come in a variety of styles for any bath, from small shelf units that double as storage to floor-to-ceiling heated racks. Placed in or simply plugged in, they're easy to install. And they do more than just warm your towel. They also help control mold in damp environments, provide a gentle heat source in cold climates, and are great for drying, unseasoned linens. Now if you could just get room service to deliver breakfast, your morning would be perfect.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID PRINCE



RACKET CASE
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Use it to hang towels, dry wet clothes, even warm up a robe quickly. Because it's freestanding, you can leave it to help you need it most. This plug-in unit has an internal heating element and doesn't contribute to fire or a fire hazard of leaks. 19 by 24 1/2 by 13 1/2 in. \$200. www.bhco.com

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Read the Patient Information that comes with AMANDA before you start taking the medicine and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your condition or treatment. If you have any questions about AMANDA, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What is AMANDA?

AMANDA is a prescription medicine used with diet and exercise to treat type 2 diabetes in "non-insulin-dependent" diabetes mellitus (Type 2 diabetes). AMANDA may be used alone or with other anti-diabetic medicines. AMANDA will help your body respond better to insulin made in your body. AMANDA does not cause you to become insulin dependent.

Before you take AMANDA, you should discuss with your doctor the diet, weight loss, and exercise to expect for AMANDA to work best. Get your blood pressure, blood counts, weight and blood sugar checked successfully for your diabetes by your doctor.

The safety and efficacy of AMANDA have not been established in children under 18 years of age.

What is Type 2 Diabetes?

Type 2 diabetes happens when a person does not make enough insulin or does not respond normally to the insulin their body makes. When this happens, sugar (glucose) builds up in the blood. This can lead to serious health problems including kidney failure, heart disease, blindness, nerve damage, and foot problems. For many, good blood sugar control is the only way to avoid long-term complications of diabetes such as heart disease, kidney disease, or blindness. Type 2 diabetes usually develops over time and is usually managed with diet, exercise, and blood sugar control by your doctor.

Who should not take AMANDA?

Do not take AMANDA if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in AMANDA. The active ingredient is maleic acid. Avoid the use of this product if you are of the following backgrounds:

Before taking AMANDA, tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have liver problems or have had AMANDA can cause your body to keep more fluid that increases which leads to swelling and weight gain. Get a body fluid test before taking AMANDA. Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:
- have Type 1 (Type 1) diabetes or have diabetes before, these medicines should be used with caution
- have a type of diabetes eye disease called diabetic retinopathy (swelling of the back of the eye)
- have liver problems. Your doctor should be informed to check your liver before you start taking AMANDA including liver enzymes or alcohol
- had liver problems while taking NIDDM drugs, including, certain medicines for diabetes

If you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant, it is not known if AMANDA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your doctor about this about the first visit to start your first blood sugar levels pregnancy.

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What are possible side effects of AMANDA?

- You should know AMANDA can cause your body to keep more fluid that increases which leads to swelling and weight gain. Get a body fluid test before taking AMANDA. Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:
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exclusively on PBS presented by **WGBH**

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Sundays 7:00AM
DRY- This Old House
Weeknights 7:00PM & 7:30PM
Ask This Old House
Saturdays & Sundays 9:00AM starting Feb. 17
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A TASTE FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY



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SALVAGE



TIP
To replace a plate, measure register with a square and square dimensions. Measure the existing vent in your floor or wall. The width and height of the opening should match the inside dimensions of the register.

Recycling Vintage Registers

Put decorative relics of turn-of-the-century central heating to reuse in your house

BY AMY D. WOODS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KRISTINE LARSEN

"MAN'S OWN BREAKTHROUGH GREATEST ENEMY" predicted engineers and self-willed health expert Louis W. Leake in his landmark 1866 book, *Lessons on Ventilation*. It sounds lovely, but his solemn decree, coupled with the tools of the Industrial Revolution, helped spawn unpleasant 19th-century conveniences in home heating and ventilation. "Victorians (Americans thought that) exhale so-called miasmas," says historian Dan Halabian. "So those who could afford it heated their homes with a constant supply of soot, steam, fresh air." Air was drawn in from the outdoors through ducts into basement basins or furnaces, where it was heated, and then carried through more ducts into rooms through beautiful brass registers mounted on walls and floors.

Like soldiers of the era, these ornate cast-iron, brass, or brass-plated were part of a row in a room and were therefore designed with architectural flourishes like scrollwork and floral or geometric patterns in their designs. "The average Victorian house had only fireplace for warmth, and then all of a sudden you have the central heat, and that's something you really wanted to show off," says Halabian. Old registers had levers attached to the back to control airflow. These worked

SALVAGE YOURSELF
with registers with ornate levers, located on the back to control air coming into the room, as well as ones without levers, called grilles.

Ready for a low carbon makeover?

Everyone's home could use a little more green. The first step is to understand your carbon footprint. That's the amount of carbon dioxide emitted due to our daily activities. BP's carbon calculator is a simple tool that can help you estimate your household CO₂ emissions and show you how different lifestyle choices can affect the size of your footprint. Learn more at bp.com/carbon/footprint. It's a start.



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Green Resolutions

➤ Giving up carbs and quitting smoking are hard. Saving money, conserving energy, and making the world a better place are easy. Here are 7 ways how

BY KEITH HANBOLD ILLUSTRATIONS BY YVETTA FEDOROVA



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS used to be goals like getting smoking, running, some knee-crushing exercises, or writing that long-delayed memoir or mystery novel, all noble if daunting propositions. But resolutions don't have to be just about you, pal. How about making 2007 the year you start thinking about doing good for others, namely this pretty blue planet you've been spazzing off of for so long? To inspire you, we've asked a few of our favorite eco-experts and past contributors to the Green House column to suggest some easy ways you can lessen your household's impact on the environment over the next 12 months.

1 *Throw in the towel.* You're already buying paper towels made from recycled material, aren't you? That's a good first step. But once you are there, it's hard to fill 'em. Americans go through about 2.5 million tons of paper towels every year. So, this 2007 is the perfect time to break their habit and start using one of the towels around the house. "They're great for cleaning. They don't scratch, they grip onto dirt and dust, and they're washable and reusable," he says. Super-obvious, the cloth can hold up to six times their weight in water. Our manufacturer, Method, offers towels formulated specifically for wood, granite, stainless steel, and glass (methodhome.com).

2 *Go on an energy diet.* Four Gang, energy-efficiency expert and principal of Creative Sense Design in Petaluma, California, has a simple way to get started. "In the cold months, turn down the thermostat and put on a sweater. In the hot months, turn off the A/C and open the windows." Reducing your desired comfort

"If every U.S. household replaced one 50-ounce box of petroleum-based laundry detergent, we'd save enough oil to heat and cool 7,500 homes for a year."

level can have a bigger impact on energy use than installing solar panels or other eco-friendly measures. According to Pacific Gas & Electric, for every degree you lower your thermostat (in the 60- to 70-degree range), you can save up to 5 percent on heating costs. If you don't have one already, install a programmable thermostat so you can automatically set back the temp while you're at work. (For more ways to save on heat, visit thinkgreen.com/thinkgreen.)

3) Decrease natural selection. Cleaning products are supposed to make things clean, right? But after they've done the dirty, many of them are making things uglier. A 2002 U.S. Geological Survey study of contaminants in stream water found that 65

percent of streams sampled contained disinfectants, and 69 percent contained "disinfection byproducts"—compounds shown to be safe for reproduction and cause breast-cancer cells to proliferate in test tubes. Instead, try using natural cleaners with simple ingredients like soap, water, baking soda, lemon, and lemon juice, says Serena Serb, host of *The Haggler News* on a web-caster.com. "If every U.S. household replaced one 30-ounce box of petroleum-based powder laundry detergent with a vegetable-based product," she says, "we'd save enough of it to heat and cool 7,900 homes for one year." (For a review of natural cleaning products, visit thinkgreen.com/thinkgreen.)

4) Fill in the gaps in your life. "The trend of leaving 'cracks' in people should add solar panels or ground-source heat pumps to homes that already are twice the energy they should require and cost," says Andrew Padua, director of multifamily services for Stevens Winter Associates, a building-systems consulting firm. Most homes have so many holes, says Padua, "if you put them all in one place, you could drive a truck through them." That's because when plumbers, HVAC installers, and electricians make something through your walls, they tend to cut an opening bigger than it needs to be. "The 2-inch hole just has a 4-inch hole, the 1/2-inch wiring hole is half-inch hole. These houses are so inefficient and up driving much of the best out of the house," Padua says. A good first step is a blower-door test, which uses pressurization to pinpoint the spots where air is leaking. Then you can seal them with caulking, caulk or foam. Blower-door tests cost from \$100 to \$150, depending on the size of your house. (For a step-by-step guide to sealing air leaks, go to thinkgreen.com/thinkgreen.)

5) Sil your vampires. Padua has another good bit of advice: "Look when the cat sleeps. It's annap of your cable or satellite box, it's yours, which means it's using energy." So called "vampire" devices, including TVs, DVD players, and cable boxes, can use

almost as much energy when they're off as when they're on. "Plug them into a power strip that can be turned off when you're asleep or away," he says. Just make sure you keep plenty of blockers around for your sleeping fitler. (Learn more about "phantom" appliances at thinkgreen.com/thinkgreen.)

6) Give more 'tilde more. Consider how much you throw away each year, says Kim Nadel, principal of design and planning with Brooklyn-based sustainable design firm Niche. Instead of throwing it, the eco-minded making a concerted effort to give it to someone who can use it. Freecycle Network is a clearinghouse for "all the stuff you just want to give away," Nadel says, from old toms and windows to that vintage Casio watch you never found time to get fixed. The nonprofit site has about 1 million members worldwide, divided up by groups according to region. Each group is organized by a local volunteer, and there's no cost to join (freecycle.org).

7) Hit the books. No matter how you decide to green up your act in 2007, commit yourself to learning which products or practices are right for you. "Make sure you do the research," says Mary Saland, of San Francisco green-design retailer Eco-Terra. For example, Saland advises, learn the difference between "natural" and "organic." "Just as an 'all-natural' food product cannot contain pesticides, 'natural' fibers can also be environmentally detrimental," she says. Case in point: Cotton production is responsible for 10 percent of all pesticides used around the world. "These chemical pesticides have a huge impact on soil, water, and air quality, as well as on agricultural workers' conditions for people around the globe." Saland recommends organic cotton, which is grown without chemicals, as well as fibers such as hemp and linen, which don't require chemical insecticides to grow (just some care). ■

Great products help preserve your home. thinkgreen.com/thinkgreen

Frustrated by frequent urges in your internal plumbing? Annoyed you can't always do things spur of the moment?

There's a treatment you can discuss with your doctor.

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- Information about overactive bladder
- \$10 savings check*
- Talk to your doctor guide

Important Safety Information

VESicare is for urgency, frequency, and leakage (overactive bladder). VESicare is not for everyone. If you have certain types of stomach, urinary, or glaucoma problems do not take VESicare. While taking VESicare, if you experience a serious allergic reaction, severe abdominal pain, or become constipated for three or more days, tell your doctor right away. In studies, common side effects were dry mouth, constipation, blurred vision, and indigestion.

Please see important product information on the following page.

*Subject to eligibility. Restrictions may apply.

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(solifenacin succinate)
tablets



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\$5 a month

The extra money you pay to power "vampire" devices, like TVs and cable boxes, which suck electricity even when they aren't turned on.



WIRE-POWER TO YOU
These three designers from Detroit pack a punch on par with their corded cousins, thanks to a 20-volt lithium-ion battery that puts twice as long between charges as an 18-volt NiCd. More volts means the drill makes holes 22 percent faster than an 8-amp plug-in and also weighs 25 percent more. Bottom line: Perfect for pros who don't mind the extra weight, and for the DIY who just has to have the lightest, smallest battery in town. \$200 street cost.

WHAT YOU GET:
1. Flashlight has a flexible neck and bright xenon bulb.
2. Hand saw cuts both soft and hard.
3. Drills with three speeds, 22 track settings, and hammer action.
4. Recip saw with 4-position top-edge blade clamp.
5. 10-tooth circular saw spins a full-size 7 1/4-inch blade instead of the 6 1/2 inches found on most cordless saws.

See more cordless choices at toolsfrom.com/batteries

Charging It

Aluminum that gets too hot, whether from baking in the sun or simply from heavy use, is a smart-limed battery. Charging also generates heat, which is why the state-of-the-art "smart" chargers in these kits have temperature-sensing circuitry and fans to cool things down, as well as computer chips programmed to precisely meter the recharge rate.



Bosch's two-bay charger will bring both new 18-volt and older 9-Volt battery packs back from the dead in just half an hour.



Like another hot DeWalt's charger keeps constant track of a battery's status; you can see just how much energy is in the cells and how far it is from full recovery.



Hitachi's lithium-ion charger monitors each cell in the pack individually so none are ever overcharged. It can also juice some of Hitachi's newer NiCd batteries.



SEEK FOR A BOND
Lithium-ion batteries get all the hype, but manufacturers are still producing seriously capable nickel-cadmium tools, like this 18-volt reciprocating saw from Bosch. It's not just free tools and a flashlight for just \$200. It's a tool compared with the \$1,000 you spend if you bought each tool individually. Bottom line: A handful of quality tools at a bargain price. boschtools.com

WHAT YOU GET:
1. 6.7-second drill with an optional hammer setting and 120 inch-pounds of torque.
2. Jigsaw with tool-free blade release to quickly change out hot or broken blades.
3. Recip saw with a 16-inch blade length that allows for a continuous 1/4-inch to an aggressive 1 1/4 inches.
4. Circular saw has 6 1/2-inch blade and weighs 8.8 pounds.
5. Flasher with double-lens light.

600
The number of times a nickel-cadmium battery can be recharged

2,000
The number of recharge cycles before a lithium-ion battery dies



Crushed

one hundred feet of sidewalk
with a 20-lb. sledgehammer.

Needed something bigger than a
wheelbarrow to clean it up.



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Titan™ 5.4-liter engine.

Go for it.

F-150

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*When properly equipped. Check the load capacity before loading. See owner's manual.



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An ideal solution for new homes or remodeling projects, it's compact design allows you to install closer to the where hot water is required, reducing the need for long plumbing runs, resulting in water savings. The Rinnai can save up to 50% on your water heating energy bills and possibly earn a \$300 Federal Tax Credit.

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SAVING ENERGY



FROM THE TOY TV JOB-SITE

Warming Up the Room

» How to add insulation when what's in the walls isn't up to par

BY JEANNE HUBER PHOTOGRAPHY BY RUSSELL HAYE

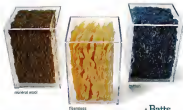


IN A ROOM WHERE JANUARY TEMPERATURES consistently hover below freezing, you really don't want to be living in a house with no insulation. But Christine Flynn and Lori Bagley, aunt-and-niece owners of the 1914 two-family house that is the current *The Old House TV* project, were facing just that—until TCM general contractor Tom Sales came along. “People in homes like before WWI think there’s nothing they can do to protect against the cold,” says Tom. “Or they just don’t realize how much more comfortable their home can be.”

If a house’s attic (or roof) is already fully insulated, adding insulation to the walls may be the single best way to reduce heating and cooling costs. As in the case with most remodeling projects, many of this house’s walls were going to remain intact, so Tom had to consider how best to retrofit the empty space without gutting the entire building—a job that would have blown the \$250,000 renovation budget. Where the walls were open—in the revamped kitchen and bedrooms, for example, and in the attic stairways that had never been covered—he went with his top insulation choice: polyisocyanurate, a super-insulated rigid polystyrene that floats up and adheres after you spray it in place. However, insulating the fully built-in behind-the-wall staircases required a slow pour version of the foam, which goes in through holes drilled in to the walls and takes longer to expand, mimicking the effect of cracking the existing plaster.

A homeowner looking to similarly take advantage of a renovation to retrofit new or additional insulation has many choices—plastics, fiberglass, shredded paper, even blown scraps and wool—in several forms. Of course, the cost, efficiency (expressed as an R-value that measures resistance to heat transfer), and skill level needed for installation of each type varies. So which is best? “That’s two-mails away every day, and there’s no simple answer,” says Andre Desjardis, director of agricultural and dairy research at the University of Tennessee that focuses on how to build better buildings. But factoring in site conditions and budget, one kind of insulation will work better or may be easier to install. To understand which material would best suit your renovation, read on.

one of the best places to retrofit insulation is in an old house, according to TCM general contractor Tom Sales. In the attic spaces, around windows and door framing, where drafts can easily sneak through. Here, Tom says, you should always be using an attic grade cellulose using a mix of spray foam insulation as a supplement to the professionally installed polyurethane foam that went into the walls.



mineral wool

fiberglass

cellulose

Expanding Foam

What it is: Made of either open- or closed-cell polyurethane (a plastic), or a special cement, this insulator gives air a soft foam or foaming liquid. Filling all spaces and then solidifying in place. Applied only by professionals, it's more costly than other options but is the best at plugging air leaks.

Open-cell polyurethane or polyurethane, to a few density/polymer foam. It is sprayed between insulated studs and expands to 100 times its volume between studs. On fresh studs, installers pour a batter version two or three times. It expands and re-expands to 50 times its volume. Closed-cell polyurethane foams to 30 times its volume and shrinks a very slight.

Conventional foam, which gets on like shaving cream, can take an hour to dry and a minimum consistency requires much across the studs to hold it.

Performance: Polyurethane gives about R-3.6 per inch of thickness. Closed-cell polyurethane, between R-6 and R-7, and cementitious foam, R-3.9.

End use: When you can't beat beyond initial cost, it's long-term comfort.

Issues: Polyurethane may crack and shrink with or without moisture. A foam Polyurethane is well suited when exposed to UV rays. Both closed-cell polyurethane and cementitious foam are a "leaky" as its state depends on whether gaps may open.

Cost: Polyurethane and polyurethane are about \$1.50 per square foot, including labor if the wall is open. \$2.25 per square foot for installing walls. For closed-cell foam, installers can also spray other layer of foam to seal leaks, then fill in between expensive insulation.

* Half all prices are approximate for 1 square foot in a 2x4 wall.

Batts

What they are: Fluffy blankets that come in long rolls or pre-cut pads to fit between studs. These are made of either wool or fiberglass, but you can also find ones made from cotton (initially the so-called denim wool), mineral wool or by melting slag from blast furnaces or rocks (such as basalt) and extruding it into wool.

Performance: Fiberglass batts can vary from R-13 to R-4.3 per inch of thickness; mineral wool delivers about R-3 per inch; cotton R-3.4 per inch, and wool R-3.5 per inch.

End use: It's pulled down to the studs on one side if you want it.

Issues: The healthiest multiple is at all left, not compressed. Guttering insulation around pipes or leaving pipes and ducts exposed will make it less effective. Also, sheep from the fiberglass and mineral wool can irritate skin—as you can from long gloves, gloves, and goggles when handling it—and some brands are made with a flame-retardant additive which can irritate over time. Cellulose wool is a natural product with out these chemicals, but they're more expensive and harder to find—especially wool, which is only available via the Western Canadian distribution.

Cost: Basic fiberglass batts cost about 40 cents per square foot installed, while extra dense ones can be about \$1. Mineral wool is about 40 cents, cotton costs about 60 cents, and wool has the shirt at \$2.75.



IT'S YOUR WALL.

For tips on how to install it, visit www.energystar.gov. For more information, visit www.energystar.gov.

Loose Fill

What it is: Dry bits of insulation that just blown into wall cavities through holes 1 to 2 1/2 inches wide. In other cases, it's from the interior walls, which may be patching holes, or from the exterior, which requires drying, grinding, and filling through the sheathing, adding to the cost of professional installation. There are three subtypes: fiberglass, either treated with formaldehyde (made in a by-product of steel manufacturing) or untreated cellulose, which is about 80 percent ground-up newspaper and 20 percent barks; a mineral added as a fire retardant; and mineral wool.

Performance: Fiberglass allows for density fill the only can give as much as R-4 per inch of cellulose, between of 3.5 and R-3.8 per inch, and mineral wool R-2.7 per inch.

End use: It's best applied to floor cavities or inside existing walls when the budget is tight. Issues: Cellulose uses less energy to manufacture and costs less and is a better environmental choice in many cases. But fiberglass is a better choice in wet, windy areas, particularly in houses retrofitted because, unlike cellulose, they don't absorb moisture.

Cost: Cellulose and fiberglass are about \$1.20 per square foot installed when blown in from the outside. Limited the prices are about one third the cost of a professional doing a 2x4 installation cannot a blower for about \$75 daily.

Sprayed-on Fiber

What it is: A mixture of loose fill that's suitable only for stud walls that haven't yet been drywalled. It's a mixture of mineral wool or fiberglass and a water-based adhesive that enters and adheres to the same basic insulation materials and uses a hose to spray the mixture between studs which helps insure full coverage. Plus, the adhesive makes it less likely to settle.

Performance: Sprayed-on cellulose and fiberglass work about as well as loose fill, but sprayed-on mineral wool performs better than loose fill at R-4.5 per inch. Any spray-on insulation will seal air leaks better than loose fill.

End use: On open walls where you can see a tight budget but you want a contractor to handle the installation.

Issues: To avoid mold, the insulation needs to dry for at least two days before it is covered with drywall.

Cost: About 50 percent more than loose fill.



mineral wool

closed-cell fiberglass

expanded fiberglass

cellulose

Rigid Panels

What they are: Boards made from extruded polystyrene (XPS) or polyisocyanurate (iso-board). These panels can go in the exterior of a house over the studs (typically a week spot in an insulation system) or under the siding. A technique that works well in hot, humid climates, as the boards become an effective vapor barrier. In colder climates, the boards can go inside the walls, where you want the moisture barrier to keep water on their exterior. Before switching to spray foam insulation, you need to use polyisocyanurate panels that way—the would hold a 2x4 wall inside between the studs with batts (paper face removed). Then cover the whole thing with a foil-faced panel and use them with foil tape before putting on wall boards. The combined R value of the batts and board on the 2x4 wall was more than R-10 batts alone on a 2x4 wall and the result gave a little extra space in the room.

Performance: Extruded polystyrene provides about R-5 per inch. Foil-faced polyisocyanurate delivers from R-7.2 to R-9 per inch.

End use: During siding replacement or an exterior job, rigid insulation on a 2x4 wall. Issues: To meet fire rules, you must cover exterior boards with drywall at least 1/2 inch thick. Polyisocyanurate will break down if exposed to sunlight, so it can't be left uncovered for long.

Cost: One 4-by-8-foot sheet of Iso-board (extruded polystyrene) costs about \$10. A 2-inch thick panel of foil-faced polyisocyanurate costs a little under \$20.



polyisocyanurate

polystyrene



Tom Silva's Advice on HANDLING HALF-INSULATED WALLS

"If your house has some insulation in the finished walls but not enough to keep out the cold, you'll need to remove it before you can add more, because the extra'll catch in the way and make the effectiveness of new insulation. Figure out where you need to be best spray foam energy auditor with an infrared camera or by peeling in around which wall outlets or telephones prove that you need to remove it. If you have some insulation, cut out a 12- to 15-inch horizontal band of drywall or plaster midway up the wall. Then just pull out the old insulation. If you choose loose fill or expanding foam, it can go in through the same hole. Through it, I need to make more holes along the top of the wall to complete the job."

Read more about insulation products and installation: doityourself.com/energy

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TOOLS FOR THIS PROJECT

DRILL/DRIVER
with 1/4" inch spade bit
and countersink bit
CIRCULAR SAW
CLAMPS
JIGSAW



METER BOX and HANDSAW
TWO-SIDE
STAPLER/GUN

SCREW TO secure box
to stud (not shown)

FOR COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS,
TURN THE PAGE AND UNFOLD



Building a Radiator Cover

BY KAREY SANVIERE PHOTOGRAPHS BY KOLIN SMITH

COST:
\$50 to \$100

TIME:
4 hours

DIFFICULTY:
Fairly easy. You need to
be able to measure, cut,
saw, and sand with the
aid of a power tool.

FRESH OFF THE FACTORY FLOOR, with orange construction film ready to take their first hit of steam, the radiator was the darling of American plumbing. But that was a long time ago, and 90 years and 10 coats of paint haven't tamed the old girl well. Even if you could climb up the cobwebs, creep out the debris beneath, and grind off the flaky lead-based paint, a bank of cast-iron radiators over a warped floor still doesn't look pretty.

Radiator just war your house and cover it up. As *The Old House* technical editor Mark Powers demonstrates on the following pages, with a little weekend carpentry and about thirty bucks' worth of MDF and molding, you could transform a radiator on both the outside and reduce some wasted space. You'll still have to let steam hydrostatic heat, but it'll come from here: a streamlined shell that's suited to your room's style. Add a touch coat of paint and a glancing metal screen, and the venerable radiator, a living legend, will once again look as hot as a fire.

Answer these quick questions, E2P for a 3-hour inquiry sheet, available at HomeDepot.com. Free 3-inch advice, 45 each, from *Architect Woodworking and Hardware*.

young

fresh

kitchen

dream

realized

2007 is a "Work Cation" in South America Chocolate Shop
Interior Appliances
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For more information on this kitchen visit www.homedepot.com/yourkitchen

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overview

A RADIATOR COVER IS basically a three-sided box with feet on the bottom and a lid on top. The one I have here is made from MDF (medium-density fiber board), an inexpensive and stable choice for a painted cover. Each side of the box allows heat to radiate outward through a large opening covered by a decorative metal screen. Behind the radiator, a piece of sheet metal helps reflect heat into the room. You can also add a tie strip across the open back for stability if it will fit between the radiator and the wall. Note: MDF emits a lot of dust as it's cut, so plan to work over drop cloth, preferably out of the house.

That same wall behind the cover also offers some stability, especially if you scab the cover's sides to fit against the baseboard. In these circumstances, two feet in the front will hold the cover as it sits on the wall and baseboard for rear support. Otherwise, use four feet. Adjustable feet can be a big help when leveling the cover, as years of dripping water have often warped the floor beneath the radiator.

Finding the right feel also offers you the best of several design choices: Screening comes in myriad designs, from austere to ornate (see "Buying Guide" far right). Cove molding on the inner edge of the screen openings gives the cover a more finished appearance. And though we chose to leave the top unadorned for a streamlined modern look, you could edge it with base cap (turned upside down) for a finer, bullnosed profile.

shopping list

1/4-INCH MDF Measure the front, side and top of your radiator to determine how much you need. A smaller radiator with feet less than 2 feet high can probably be constructed from 2 by 4 feet boards. Anything larger will require at least 4 by 8 feet sheet.

2 SCREENS Covers in 3 by 3 foot sheets, as well as smaller dimensions, but enough to cover the front opening and two side corners.

3 SHEET METAL Stakes behind the radiator to reflect heat inward.

4 1/2-INCH MOLDEDING Cove, or another profile of your choice, to give a finished appearance to the screen openings.

5 1/4-INCH COARSE GRIT WALL SCREENS In finished corners, sides and front. Covers bleeding is essential when caulking MDF.

6 1/2-INCH STAPLES To attach the screens to the cover.

7 WOOD GLUE To attach the screens.

8 4d FINISH NAILS For corners and the walling.

9 SCRAP To make shims that hold the cover's top in place.

10 FEET Woodworking clamps offer function but be metal or wood. Adjustable ones are best if your floor is not level.

11 1/2-INCH NAIL For the corner cap. The cap is not needed with the feet in order to lock them through the thick MDF.

Start with a standard 2x4. (Photo courtesy of Peter Kuhn)

ILLUSTRATION BY
GREGORY NEMEC

step by step

Cut the cover pieces

Measure the width and height of your radiator, including the shut-off valve and steam vent (if applicable). Measure the height only from the bottom of the first up. Add 4 inches to the width and 2 inches to the height. Using a circular saw, cut a piece of MDF to these dimensions. This will be the front-of-you cover.

To make the sides, measure the radiator's depth from the wall to the face of the fins. Add 1 inch to this measurement and cut two pieces of MDF the width and the same height as the front piece. For the top, cut a piece of MDF 1/2 inch wider than the sides and 1 inch longer than the width of the front.

On both side pieces and the front piece, mark for the screen openings. Draw lines 3 inches from the top and sides and 4 inches up from the bottom. (A marker run on the bottom looks more pleasing to the eye.)

Using a drill bit or a file with a 1/2-inch upgrade, make two holes inside opposite corners of the cut piece. Use these holes as starting points for a saw to cut out the screen openings. (SEE IT)

Take up the waste piece for the screen opening from fitting as you cut. Leave it for cutting two opposite sides with a piece of scrap wood clamped across the underside.



TIP

Trim out the screen openings

Using a miter box and hand saw, cut a 45-degree inside miter on a length of cove molding. For the cut end of the molding into one corner of a screen opening, bevel it at right angles to the opening's edge. Mark the molding where it reaches the next corner. Cut another 45-degree miter at this mark, leaving the other direction. Continue cutting molding in this manner until you have four pieces to fit the inner edge of the opening. (SEE IT)

Fasten each piece of molding with wood glue and 4d finish nails (SEE IT). Repeat the process on the other screen openings.

TIP

To get the molding to fit snugly, measure out each section with an adjacent piece of block, then cut everything and a fair finishing.



TIP

To get the molding to fit snugly, measure out each section with an adjacent piece of block, then cut everything and a fair finishing.

Cut the screening

Measure and cut the screening to fit under each corner. (This is easier to do before the cover is assembled.) Place the front of the cover back on a flat surface. Lay pieces of screening over the central opening. Using nail caps, cut the screen so it overlaps the opening by 2 inches all around. (SEE IT)

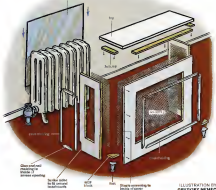
Put screen pieces to fit the cover's sides in the same manner. Set all three screens aside.



BUILD YOUR SKILL
How to make a deep, beveled, rounded square cover (plus more). (SEE IT)

TIP

Use about 1/2 inch of beveled molding on each corner.



Glue and nail corners to the wall. (SEE IT)

Glue and nail corners to the wall. (SEE IT)

Glue and nail corners to the wall. (SEE IT)

Glue and nail corners to the wall. (SEE IT)

Glue and nail corners to the wall. (SEE IT)

Glue and nail corners to the wall. (SEE IT)



4

4 Assemble the cover

Hold a long board of MDF on edge against the face of the front piece. Push to one side. Draw a light pencil line along the side of the strip on the front piece. This will be your guide for drilling pilot holes.

Assemble the front piece and one side, held together flush at 90 degrees. Using a countersink bit drill four evenly spaced pilot holes through the face panel—dead center between your panel and end panel—and into the side panel board. Glue the two pieces together; then drive drywall screws into the holes, spacing them 16 inches just below the surface (S&P). Attach the other side in the same manner.

Attach the feet

Cut angled-shaped MDF blocks for attaching the feet. The blocks should be big enough to fit the hardware, but small enough to clear the radiator.

Measure up from the floor to the bottom of the radiator fins. Measure the height of your feet. Subtract the first measurement from the second. The remainder is the distance from the bottom of the cover to the underside of the blocks.

Place the blocks inside the front corners of the cover at the appropriate height. Drill pilot holes, then glue and tighten the blocks through the cover sides and feet with drywall screws.

Screw the feet to the blocks (R&H).

Place the cover over the radiator, push right against the leveler. Adjust the feet to level. Use a scribe to transfer the contour of the wall's baseboard profile to the cover's sides. Cut using a hand saw with raspers to create a tight fit over the baseboard.



5

6 Finish the cover's top

Place the cover's top piece upside down on a table. Trim the assembled front and sides over onto it. Center the cover on the top with the back edges flush; there should be a 1/2-inch overhang around the sides and the front. Mark the width perpendicular to the cover onto the top.

Cut these 16 strips to fit a square U shape inside the lines (pointed to bottom to length). Glue and screw the pieces in the underside of the top. The pieces fit inside the cover and hold the top tightly in place (S&P).

Caulk all seams. Fill the nail and screw holes with wood putty sand and paint the cover's exterior. Once it dries, install a top glue to attach the screening to the back of the cover.

Cut a piece of sheet metal to fit behind the radiator. Sink it in place (attach it with staples if necessary). Staple the cover and top over the radiator.



6

buying guide

Cover patterns come in many styles—modern, traditional, classic, classical, decorative, floral, etc.—any of which you can find in aluminum, chrome, copper or brass. Most of these pieces usually cut the grille to fit your cover, and some will even custom-perforate a pattern that you specify. Here are a few of our favorites.

A. 1/2-INCH SQUARES About \$120 (for pieces cut to order to fit a standard-size cover), from Barker Metalcraft, radiatorcover.com

B. CLASSICAL LEAF \$29 (3-by-3 foot sheet), from The Home Depot, thehome depot.com

C. CLASSIC LINE About \$100 (for pieces cut to order to fit a standard-size cover), from Barker Metalcraft, radiatorcover.com

D. MODERN About \$120 (for pieces cut to order to fit a standard-size cover), from Barker Metalcraft, radiatorcover.com

E. 1/2-INCH BRASS CIRCLE \$29 (3-by-3 foot sheet), from Barker Metalcraft, radiatorcover.com

F. MODERN SLOTTED About \$120 (for pieces cut to order to fit a standard-size cover), from Barker Metalcraft, radiatorcover.com

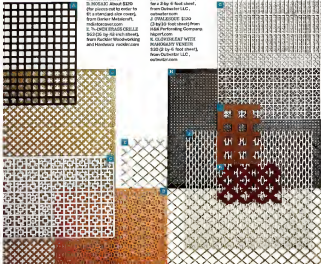
G. 1/2-INCH SQUARE \$100 (3-by-3 foot sheet) from H&B Perforating Company, hbpert.com

H. LUSCIOUS \$29 (3-by-3 foot sheet) from The Home Depot, thehome depot.com

I. FACET GRADE MDF \$28 (for a 3-by-6 foot sheet), from Dulco Inc. LLC, dulcoinc.com

J. ORNATE \$100 (3-by-3 foot sheet) from H&B Perforating Company, hbpert.com

K. CLASSIC LEAF WITH MODERNITY VENEER \$29 (3-by-6 foot sheet), from Dulco Inc. LLC, dulcoinc.com



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HOUSE**

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NEW SEASON
COMING IN MARCH

family-friendly kitchens



basic kitchens



30-minute kitchens



two-cook kitchens

MORE THAN ANY OTHER ROOM IN THE HOUSE, THE KITCHEN SHOULD BE A reflection of our personal preferences—not just of the way we cook but also of the way we live. For some, it's the hub for the family. For others, it's all about no-fuss efficiency. Either way, chances are that the kitchen you have, with its awkward layout, tired appliances, and outdated style, isn't the one you dream about. Remodeling offers a chance to rid yourself of those wrongs and get the kitchen that's truly meant for you.

But with so many options out there, how do you sort through all the choices? Turns out it's not as hard as you might think. After talking with architects, designers, and kitchen and bath pros, we've boiled down most people's dream kitchen into four basic types: the 30-Minute Kitchen, for those who are short on time but insist on eating well; the Family-Friendly Kitchen, for young cooks as well as grown-ups; the Host Kitchen, for people who love to cook for a crowd; and the Two-Cook Kitchen, for couples with a culinary bent. In each type, we offer a selection of the appliances, cabinets, counter materials, and other tools that best serve its needs and cooking style. "The kitchen has to be a pleasant space as well as productive, and that's why it's so important to align the design with the people who are going to use it," says Sara Ann Tashley, senior designer and president of the National Kitchen and Bath Association. You might see yourself in one of these setups, or pick ingredients from several. Either way, we've got the recipe for your ideal kitchen.

the Right Kitchen for you

by Joe Carter
photographs by Yurhen Kim
styling by Molly Fitzsimmons



- 1- Single and double, the California-based house high ends and just down middle income ranges (\$200-\$500 versus conventional ovens).
- 2- A specially treated area, the 1,700-watt Whetzel Pro concentrates heat into one dimension and makes a technique of baking, roasting, broiling, and microwave cooking (1,000 watts) in fact 2,000.
- 3- Skin resistant, you're inhibited and easy to repair. Shaped with various appliances (from the Whetzel Pro) over like just about anything you do it on (\$40-\$70 per sq ft, including installation).
- 4- Endophthalma optic and eye

- 5- A special area, the 1,700-watt Whetzel Pro concentrates heat into one dimension and makes a technique of baking, roasting, broiling, and microwave cooking (1,000 watts) in fact 2,000.
- 6- Skin resistant, you're inhibited and easy to repair. Shaped with various appliances (from the Whetzel Pro) over like just about anything you do it on (\$40-\$70 per sq ft, including installation).
- 7- The kitchen's quick-cooking

- 8- The kitchen's quick-cooking
- 9- A high efficiency induction cooking
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- 100- A high efficiency induction cooking

No.1

30-minute

<< kitchen

What You Want: You may not spend hours here, but that doesn't mean you just shuffle products from the freezer to the microwave. For cooking that's nutritious but not fat, you want a kitchen that's efficient to work in, easy to keep clean, and stylishly minimalist.

How to Get It: Thanks to advances in cooking technology, a need for speed is well supported. Start with a trvection oven, which combines three cooking methods—conventional thermal heat, convection, and microwave—used can roast a chicken in half as long. For the cooktop, there's induction, which uses magnetic energy to heat food and is about twice as fast as gas.

Keytool appliances, the key features are lots of easy-to-use, easy-to-access food storage, such as pull-out pantry cabinets that roll on heavy-duty glides, and at-year-long racks for expeditions and cooking utensils. When efficiency is paramount, every bit of space has to serve a useful function. A chopping block used as the range, for example, means veggies

IN A KITCHEN BUILT FOR SPEED, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS MUST SUPPORT THE FAST-PACED PROGRAM

cut up for stir-frying can go straight into the pan with no wasted steps. Or so for a pull-out quick bar within arm's reach, so you don't have to walk across the kitchen to change things. You don't need a lot of square footage if what you have is severely planned. "A 30-minute kitchen can be compact," says designer Iren Busby. "Cooking goes faster, faster, faster, and every little minute counts."



No.2

family-friendly kitchen >>

What You Need: An eating space that caters to cooks of all ages. A combination of counter, island and nook, the household hub needs to work as well for the life that goes on before and after meals as it does for the actual cooking and eating.

THE FAMILY THAT COOKS TOGETHER NEEDS A KITCHEN THAT'S RUGGED, EASY TO CLEAN, AND SIMPLE TO USE.

How to Get It: Given the lively world of kids racing going on in and around this kitchen—snacking, reading, doing homework, playing computer games—the plan should favor easy-to-use options over space-dividing partitions. That will keep lines of sight and communication open. But even within this multipurpose space, you can carve out different areas, each as a separate island for kids' meals, or built-in benches with under-seat storage for school and grocery supplies.

When it comes to food, youngsters need access to appliances and snack bins at their level. "When there are kids using the kitchen, there should be an under-counter microwave, refrigerator, and beverage cooler," says Kiley. An area where the counter is dropped lower than the usual 36 inches would give them a place to make their own meals. The counter material needs to be durable without being expensive glass or lacquer. For instance, it's easy to replace if it gets damaged.

When it comes to cabinets, Kiley opts for stained wood over painted as a kid-friendly space. "Chipped paint requires repainting, an extra dose of paint, but with natural wood, you can a make spot repair."



2- With cups, a bulletin board often helps hold kids' messages and kids' masterpieces on the kitchen's corked wall (see page 10) (see bulletin board, 1000 HomeGoods.com).

3- A pull-out microwave drawer means cooking on a campfire isn't just a game without having to stand on top of a stove (1500 HomeGoods.com).

4- With four independently adjustable food storage bins, the QuercusCraft counter-top refrigerator means that your vegetables and your laptop have just as much space as their eggs (1500 HomeGoods.com).

5- An under-counter beverage center puts drinks and snacks where they're easy to grab (1500 HomeGoods.com).

6- Blum's new bearing is built together like a puzzle or wall, and holds hundreds of pounds of weight (see 1000 HomeGoods.com).

7- Blum's new counter-top microwave is built into a wall, and holds hundreds of pounds of weight (see 1000 HomeGoods.com).

8- The new microwave is built into a wall, and holds hundreds of pounds of weight (see 1000 HomeGoods.com).

9- The new microwave is built into a wall, and holds hundreds of pounds of weight (see 1000 HomeGoods.com).

10- When it's time to eat, all it takes is a quick trip to the kitchen. It's built into the wall, and holds hundreds of pounds of weight (see 1000 HomeGoods.com).

No.3

host kitchen >>

What You Want: A show-and-tell space for entertaining, whether it's a sit-down dinner for 12, a cocktail party for 20, or a party gathering for the neighbors.

How to Get It: Cooking big calls for sturdy, upscale equipment, lots of storage and, to us, per se, a generous dollop of style.

"For most kinds of hosting, a big, multifunction island with a bar or buffet on a separate level makes a lot of sense," says Busby. "There should also be two cleanup areas with sinks, and two dishwashers, so the mess stays picked up." As for other appliances, more doubling up can't hurt. If there's enough space, two ovens and two warming drawers to keep the parade of courses from getting cold.

Since many guests need fancy plates and glasses, cabinets filled out for specific storage functions are a must. "You need specialty cab-

FREQUENT, BIG MEALS WITH LOTS OF GUESTS IN AND AROUND THE KITCHEN MEANS PLENTY OF SPACE AND MAXIMUM EQUIPMENT.

inets for dishes, barware, glassware, cookware, and serving pieces," says Busby, noting that this is an ideal scenario for a butler's pantry. If you don't have one, a shelf-lined nook off the kitchen or even a hallway makes for a convenient storage spot.

Even with it as serve-the-menus business, the space still has to be comfortable where the party's over and it's just family around the table. "For that Saturday lunch for three, there need to be smaller work areas so you're not walking 24 feet to the side-by-side fridge," says Busby. "Put a refrigerator drawer close to the cooking, and always store things near the point of use."

1- 36-in. double glass filler at 4 by 6 in. rectangles, sold double and designed to fit backpouch (\$14.95 per sq. ft., amazon.com).

2- Large sink and stainless steel that can accommodate three. No problem for the 36-inch stainless steel sink in stainless steel with a 20 by 20 by 20 in. main bowl (\$1,640, freemove.com).

3- Painted panel cabinet doors, like the Lululemi from Modern Classics have the right interior a traditional space (modernclassics.com).

4- Stainless steel with the industrial style. Provenance based, with built-in pull-down sprayer (Prove \$1,297, freemove.com).

5- For those who don't want to be remote in the kitchen, a stainless steel. Cooks (Cook's Choice) "is a must-have for the kitchen" and is a must-have for the kitchen.

6- For the party, a stainless steel sink, which is a must-have for the kitchen. It's a must-have for the kitchen.

7- Signs or letters, a must-have for the kitchen. It's a must-have for the kitchen.

8- A stainless steel sink, which is a must-have for the kitchen. It's a must-have for the kitchen.

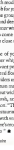
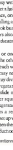
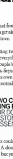
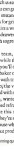
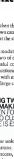
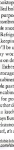
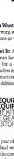
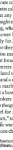
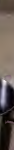
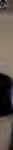
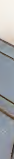
9- For the party, a stainless steel sink, which is a must-have for the kitchen. It's a must-have for the kitchen.

10- For the party, a stainless steel sink, which is a must-have for the kitchen. It's a must-have for the kitchen.

11- For the party, a stainless steel sink, which is a must-have for the kitchen. It's a must-have for the kitchen.

12- For the party, a stainless steel sink, which is a must-have for the kitchen. It's a must-have for the kitchen.





No.4 two-cook « kitchen

What You Want: A kitchen that functions in shared territory, where two can get along without colliding or warring at the stove.

How to Get It: Access to making two cooks doesn't mean having two of everything, but the recipe for a successful couple's kitchen goes beyond the obvious. Separate prep areas, for starters, each with its own essential tools. In addition to a large central sink for

**EQUIPPING TWO COOKS
REQUIRES MAKING ROOM
IN THE KITCHEN FOR DOUBT
THE GEAR, SO CUSTOMIZED
STORAGE IS ESSENTIAL.**

cleanup, a pair of smaller sinks could anchor the individual workspaces. A double wall oven provides common access, but you'll need separate cooktops, which occupy such modular units called bays. You can get them for just about any purpose, for instance, one grouping might combine units for grilling and deep-frying, while another gets a work burner with a warmer. Refrigerator drawers also come in handy for keeping fresh ingredients close to where they'll be used.

Too many work as a team, or one of you might focus on dinner while the other whips up entrees. Either way, you'll need your own storage. The baker may need flour bins and a cabinet fitted with tray dividers under a marble pastry slab; the vegetable may want a base cabinet fitted with slide-out vegetable bins for potatoes, winter squash, and other things that don't need refrigeration. "The model for a kitchen like this is a restaurant kitchen," says Butley. "They're so aware of every specific workstation because when there's more than one chef, it's all about production." ■

For a double-duty kitchen during quarantine, visit thehouse.com/butley.

Wine barrels lose relevance when their wood becomes too cracked to give flavor and aroma to their contents. That's when the cedar, eucalyptus, ginkgo, black locust, and other barrels ripe for redistribution. The hue of the salvaged wood ranges, in the type of green, gray, charcoal, the barrels as well as the amount of time the liquid has had to penetrate it, and more and being repurposed in a deeper aesthetic.



steeped

Retired barrels built to age wine, cure olives, or pickle cucumbers yield high-grade wood for new flooring, paneling, and trim

in character

BY NATALIE RODRIGUEZ

His clients were pleased to introduce the library's custom redwood paneling. Indeed, the owner of this house—the setting of the 2005 *Twilight* films—reproduces architectural, light- and posture-related details from San Mateo, a California expanse that grew much salvaged from dismantled buildings, bridges, and other particular imperious, olive-oiling, redwood, a variety of woods.



They're so deceiving. It's a stretch to imagine these tin-bellied wine barrels, mired by the cabernet or cabernet that was aged inside them, as having any potential as kitchen flooring material or living-room paneling. Their staves, curved staves don't offer the kind of almost-ready-to-install ease that timbers salvaged from a historic home or waterfront outbuilding do. Yet the quality and age of the former gives them coopers used to build these casks—oak, oak, mature Douglas fir, and increasingly rare redwood—makes the seemingly humble vessels far too valuable to waste.

In fact, old barrels and tanks offer some of the highest-grade lumber commonly available. Each stave is five or six feet long, because two are knee would have been too long. And the strong, quarter-sawn boards have the tight, moisture-resistant grain of slow-growing oaks harvested between 90 and 120 years of age—placing them in a league above the 45- to 60-year-olds typically called for building lumber today. Long used to make barrels, casks, and floor-to-ceiling tanks designed to cure olives, sheep pickles, age whiskey, acid, kumquat, import flavor and refuse to take water, the reclaimed boards maintain the subtle mottled and uneven of the former cargo.

In California alone last year, more than 200,000 of the unique oak barrel staves and the region's celebrated vines were reeled from duty. Most of them were either halved to become planks at the end of a subbarrel saw or, worse, turned into kindling. But not every arched oak barrel or cut-off wine redwood wine tank is doomed to an unglorified end. Recognizing their value as high-grade raw materials, lumber reclamation companies have begun to seek out, dismantle, dry, mill, and use old barrels, casks, tanks, and vats for use as one-of-a-kind flooring, cladding, architectural moldings, and any number of wine-cellar accommodations. "The right grain of the wood, the pattern created during the aging process, and the copper stamps on the boards have all left a legacy revealing where this wood has been," says Rick McLean, president of Pomery, a wood-reclamation company based in California's Napa Valley region. It's the sort of history that appeals not only to wine connoisseurs but to everyone who appreciates the kind of character that can only come with age. ■

1 Turning barrels into usable construction nearly always starts with dismantling the vessel into its three basic components: hoops (usually preserved already, shown here), heads (that form the barrel sides) and staves (the tops and bottoms). Using a chisel and being it over, Mike Driscoll, production manager of Pomery, a California wood-reclamation company, calls about removing the glued-on staves that anchor this American white oak into barrel. He'll be left with the hoops some off-axis with a crack, ultimately the metal wires sent out to be recycled.

2 Casked tops yield the quarter-sawn head and crown of the wine cask, which have been sun-dried for about a decade. Sometimes, accumulated clear varnish, because of its weight, must be manually rubbed off the wood with wire brush. During barrel aging, wine naturally absorbs materials, and the caplets remain as the liquid evaporates.

3 After deconstruction, the head and staves are worked. Typically, wine barrels have been sealed in a temperature-controlled environment with a humidity level of about 60, so the boards must be dried to make sure that the reclaimed wood won't warp or expand unduly once it's added. Pomery air-dries its staves for about 50 days and the flatter crown surfaces for weeks for up to two months. Companies sometimes dry the wood in a convection against potential infestation by insects attracted to sugars in the wine.

4 After drying, the thick staves are cut into three sections. The widest sections are used for furniture projects that take advantage of their curvature. The flatter and segments are dried or sealed with clear and ready to be installed and finished by a craftsman or contractor in the same manner as any reclaimed wood.



new furniture from vintage wood

Storage benches and coffee tables. Folding chairs and kitchen islands, beds and more frames. If it can be made from wood, it can be made from reclaimed barrel wood. In business in Northern California, furnituremaker Walt McLean designs and produces a line of Arts and Crafts-inspired pieces using salvaged oak wine casks. "The old quarter-sawn oak has a beautiful hearted look and has been dried for up to a year—sometimes more—which makes it less prone to shrinkage and a lot more stable for furniture construction than most new lumber on the market," says McLean, who had select and remanufactured reclaimed wood for decades. The results—a collection of handmade dining tables, armchairs, and a full range of seating, including, since you asked, toilet seats—are one of kind. And because no new trees can be cut down to build them, they are easy on the earth. —KATHERINE STAPLES

Reclaimed benches
Reclaimed wine barrel staves give these rustic-style benches a curved, weathered look. \$225 each, or \$250 for the pale, shiplap style.



Table talk
With staves for legs, pottery plants—scruffy pots of olive—this simple barrel-style console table is made from reclaimed wood. \$425, pomery.com



Craftsman style
Made from oak for seat, sides, and back, this leather-upholstered bench is made from a hand-cut oak shiplap. \$425, pomery.com



For more on using reclaimed lumber, visit www.woodrecycling.com



Source: Almost every inch of this, all the kitchen cabinetry was custom built on-site including the 6'3" by 4'3" breakfast bar. The new eating area joins the two rooms of the old kitchen. Kitchen is lit by the built-in five-hour. Within perimeter floods and enhanced more the original 19th-century style Georgian style

*by Joseph D'Agostino
photographs by Lauren Mann
styled by Susan Lee*

The 242-year-old Georgian had seen some updates over the years. But the latest one layered on even more period charm and rejiggered the floor plan to make the house livable for generations to come

FIT FOR ANOTHER

century



EVERY OLD HOUSE TELLS A STORY. It is written in wood or stone by one family, revised by the next, and reworked again by those who follow later. When the current homeowners bought this Georgian-style house in 2001, they could see that the previous owners had not finished the tale.

The Fairfield, Connecticut, house was built in 1763 by a local entrepreneur, James Hobbs, and had changes made to it here and there over more than 200 years. In 1890, a two-story service wing was added directly behind the original box-shaped structure. Around the 1940s or '50s, the kitchen on the ground floor of that wing was updated, and a bathroom extension was added on one side. "You could tell it was a well-loved house," says one of the homeowners today. "The changes had been carefully done."

Well, when the 21st-century family took possession six years ago, there was more work crying out to be tackled. From the moment they turned on the taps, it took 10 minutes to get hot water in the kitchen and showers. Insulation was nonexistent. Many of the windows had been jammed shut. The kitchen was



LEFT The dining room showcases period-appropriate moldings and wainscoting, even by new and by hand, the 6-foot ceiling height says it higher. Carpenters added Rayson's drop-down and a built-in rug to the furniture-grade substrate in a room. The living room molding and built-in shelves were required to be level from floor to the dining room, previously, oblique angles were for remodel. **OPPOSITE** The chair captured in the dining room is the only example of the original furniture's handwork, dating back to the 18th century.



dark and cramped, the appliances shudder. Upstairs, the old service wing was a subtle warning of attic man's garden. "When we bought the house, we knew we were going to do a complete renovation," says the wife. "We just didn't know when or how."

Today the house is a masterpiece of mid-week. The dining room alone—with its painted wainscoting, intricate three-tiered crown molding, and elegant ceiling medallion—transport visitors to the 18th century. The remodeled kitchen looks to tradition with white-painted flat-panel cabinets and marble countertops, though the pre-grade remodeled appliances are marks of its modernity. From the start, you can barely tell the extent of the metamorphosis; the house looks very much the way it did two-and-a-half centuries ago, when British troops marched through Fairfield, burning the homes of station and sparing those of loyalists to the king.

Even before they bought the place, the homeowners visited David Raymond, whose design-build firm is known in the area for its historically correct millwork, to advise them on possible renovations. One walk through the three U-shaped structure, and he was struck by

the home's biggest flaw: its lack of flow. If you wandered from one room to the next—the kitchen or dining room to living room and staircase—you were obliged to surmount your steps right back to the kitchen. It would be five years before the couple launched a major renovation to address that big, picture problem.

In the meantime, the family got to know the

quirks of the house and their petries living in it. They hired Raymond to restore just the two front porches, which the husband and wife use as offices. During that process, Raymond searched the house for hints of its original authentic character. Glass was sparse, since much of the house lacked ornamentation. "Houses of the period could be really plain or

floor plans

On the first floor, the kitchen, a back door was moved to become a secondary walk-in refrigerator and a new doorway opened inside. The new kitchen eating area, the porch brought the family U-shaped plan fully into the house. Also, the back and middle rooms were built into the main house, the remaining bedrooms were one and a half beds.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS





LEFT The salvaged back door is now a side entry that leads to the new mudroom, where the salvaged door and window provide a place for coats, boots—and messages. When not hung to handily keep messages organized, the new Japanese-style screen features a red mudroom overhang, but curves under the glass front door across the entrance from view. Its high glass blue paint was inspired by the homeowners' Japanese tape to Dais.



very minor, depending on the wealth of the homeowners," he explained. "This one wasn't an elegant house when it was built."

Still, there was touch of elegance in the few formal rooms. The dining room, for instance, still held a built-in corner built with an arched door and curved interior. According to local historians, it was the only example of the first owner's handiwork. A nearby street and some windowing were believed to have been added during the 1890s renovation. Raymond noted that these few elements could set the case for the rest of the house, but the homeowners had a decision to make first: What direction did they want to go—restore or create? Their answer is recalled on the wall today.

Raymond pulled together designs based on his knowledge of historic homes in the area. As his employees renovated the front rooms, they'd select what they typically do or job calling for abundant artwork. They started great work from lumberyards, then mixed and matched them to realize Raymond's designs. When they needed to replace existing patterns, they custom-ordered them on-site. Later, after the mudroom was finished, they were

printed white, which was the mark of a first home in colonial times when white was the most expensive paint one could buy.

Enriched by these few lessons, the homeowners started thinking about other parts of the house. Having both grown up in homes with strong sitting porches, they craved one for their young family. They also longed to have a contemporary-style kitchen where two cooks could work easily without grating to each other's way. They desperately wanted better flow downstairs and a proper master suite. But they were not enough to know that they didn't have a large project until they had a master plan for the entire house. "We didn't want to go down the wrong path historically," says the wife.

Working with Raymond and a local architectural designer and historical consultant, Wilfred Trisler, the couple settled on a concept design that would be acceptable to the town's historical commission. Central to the plan was the idea raised out by Raymond nearly five years before: Link the kitchen to the mudroom in concept, by adding an entry.

Next to the kitchen, they would transform their U-shaped structure into an O, allowing the family to move easily across the ground floor without having to retrace their steps. And they would turn their blind view into a Japanese courtyard garden. But first the service wing would be joined from basement to others, making ample room for a modern kitchen, a powder room, and a mudroom area, with an upstairs master suite. (The three children's bedrooms and guest room would remain largely untouched.) All the below the house would be updated or redesigned. And along the outside of the kitchen wing area and mudroom would go the first's dream porch.

Proches and Zengs don't resemble typical of Georgian style, but the couple's design had one thing in common. "Nearly all the big changes they wanted to make were at the rear of the house," says Trisler. "They weren't touching the front." Raymond used Trisler's plan as a jumping-off point and began sketching designs for the interior look. Since the family attended to live on-site during the year-long renovation, he crew set up a temporary kitchen in the mudroom and removed the space for bath for them to use during the construction.



ABOVE A wall of windows shows the kitchen's vibrant and white color palette. Light is provided by short pendant lamps over the island and two longer fluorescent lights above the island. Made-to-measure glass blocks cover the wall and provide privacy. The kitchen's lighting and bright blue color palette are inspired by the Japanese style. The blue is a nod to the Japanese style. The blue is a nod to the Japanese style. The blue is a nod to the Japanese style.



ABOVE The nineteenth-century design is the central focus of the house, which was built in 1863. The central focus of the house is the central focus of the house, which was built in 1863. The central focus of the house is the central focus of the house, which was built in 1863.

Almost immediately, the house revealed that it was not just a house. The crew would rip up the floorboards and discover the 250-year-old oak floors, some with oak nail clings to show surfaces. "Construction like that is tough," says Raymond. "It takes some time and effort to work with those kinds of materials." In the kitchen, remnants of a chimney that had been discontinued long ago had to be chiseled out, one laborious chunk at a time. Under the floorboards, they also unearthed a few treasures, such as a brass handle with a wooden knob that might have been used by the original owner or his apprentices.

The ghosts of those original craftsmen must have watched over the crew as they worked, appreciating the pains the latter-day craftsmen took to fill the house with authentic touches. Raymond's crew took European-grade corners for every cabinet in the house; in the dining room, they added two drawers to the corner in which the family could store silverware, then topped it off with a marble slab.

They were in equally great lengths in the kitchen—which Raymond subcontracted to Ursula Corbett, another craftsman specialist with whom he often collaborates, to design. Even in custom kitchen jobs, the cabinets are usually fashioned off-site, shipped to the residence in boxes, then assembled and topped with counters. Raymond's carpenters built the cabinets in the very room where they would ultimately be installed. "If you look at the finished cabinets," says Raymond, "they have a certain warmth to them. There are no seams. They look like a single piece of furniture. The kitchen island is one unit. It was built in that room because there was no way it could be brought in the door."

Upstairs, the master bedroom was also designed special attention. When the crew gained the rear of the house, they revealed a beautifully low-slung parlor in the space intended to be the master bedroom. "I was thinking, 'My children are going to have bedrooms with fireplaces and beautiful windows,'"

says the wife, "and my husband and I are going to be stuck with the worst room in the house." Raymond studied the problem and developed a plan for a hard-wood ceiling. His crew removed some of the ceiling timber, which allowed the center portion of the room to rise to 9½ feet at its highest point. "It was a wonderful solution," says the wife. "It's unique, and it's a great room to sleep in." He repeated the theme in the bathroom.

Raymond and the homeowners allowed themselves numerous liberties, like installing Victorian-styled headboard on the master bath ceiling and oak planks on the kitchen ceiling. On a trip to France, the couple fell in love with a particular shade of blue, which they used to paint the pantry doors. The color isn't

strictly authentic to the period, but neither are modern elements like the oak's look in the bedrooms, the 3-foot-long pine forest and warming drawers in the kitchen, and the high-velocity air-conditioning installed throughout. At the heart of it, they were building a home that handily borrowed elements from the colonial era but didn't slavishly imitate it.

"We weren't going back to 1763," says Raymond. "Somebody people will say, 'In 2006, they did a major renovation of the house and it was in character.' We've just one chapter of the house. A hundred years from now, they will appreciate that."

Thinking about adding new space to an old house? Get inspiration from the subject of this house. thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts



ABOVE The master bath, the master bedroom gained a certain amount of the house from a central focus of the house—how it makes it's best in the house, though a great, the impression of being a great

By THOMASLA PERA, *Homeowner*
Photographs by ABIGAIL HERRING
Styled by GONNADOLA PERA

RAISING THE BAR

It dispensed drinks back in the 1890s, even survived as a speakeasy into the 1930s. But the barroom was gutted by the time this couple bought the house it was attached to. Here's how they made it the life of the party once more



TRANSFORMATIONS

Original barstool
with paneling and a
painted bar back are
vintage counterpoints
to the modern-looking
cabinet in back. In
this renovated 1890s
barroom in the home
of Thomas La Pera
and Gonadola Perera
(2010)



WE HAD IMAGINED THE OLD MANHATTAN BROWN BRICK HOUSE FIRST saw our 1890 farmhouse during a mid-estate open house. Attached to the wall on the ground floor of a two-story oil derrick, it was a restaurant house when the room served as a turn-of-the-century gas joint. But when we moved into the house eight months later, in February 2000, the bar was gone. Sold off, just as the front counter had been years before. All that was left was a door leading to a half bath that used "Coke" and showers on the wall where the bar back had been posted around once Victorian times. Determined to occupy the space in its intended use, my wife, Collette, and I spent hours online and at local libraries researching the history of the barroom, which we learned was not one of many in people's houses around town. Rosendale, New York, where we live, was a construction of cement mine financing in the country—cement from here was used to build the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. So the cottage industry sprang up in the little rural town to provide steel workers with places to get lower. Even with the cement in slurry in derrick during the 1930s and '40s, there was 10 bars along a quarter-mile strip of Main Street.

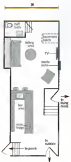
The woman who sold us our three-bedroom house is



ABOVE: Found under
bar floorboards,
these bars of the
bar's history
confirm the room's
history as a local
watering hole.
RIGHT: With a new
bar and bar stools,
the bar is now
the bar's new
bar.

WHAT WE DID

Restored a former barroom
as a modern, eco-friendly
entertainment space.
Rebuilding cost: \$30,000
Time frame: 3 years
When we started, we salvaged
everything, including the
bar for the ceiling, and saving
everywhere. We're not of replacing
the rotting planks with new ones
where we salvaged. On a hot-rod
TV, we salvaged the bar.
What we would do differently: We
were instead of an acrylic wall to
protect the concrete floor. The
acrylic didn't hold well, and it
peeling off in places. The wall
for the bar was in the bar
prop counter, however, works great.
Biggest challenge: Finding the
concrete floor and making the
stairs for the concrete counter.
How we solved it: Called in heavy
work from friends, who also happened
to be skilled carpenters.



descended from the 1940s family, who first opened the bar in
the 1940s, and the shared work on her grandfather's rock
leaves of growing up here while the business was still
running. From neighbors, we learned that the adjacent
glassed-in porch had been used as a dance floor. Later, when
I was removing the rotting floorboards, I found a leather-
bound roll of money for wine and Cuban cigars. It seems
the bar run over during Prohibition in its heyday, though
I don't know anyone else had to whisper any passwords to get in.

We didn't get to reconstructing the space for six years. Re-
pairing the house's leaky roof took precedence. We also had
to fix up an apartment above the bar—where we suspect
patrons may have slept at night after having too many
—to generate some rental income to fund the work. By Feb-
ruary 2006, we finally had the cash and the time—business
at my bike shop is slow in winter—so got going on the bar.

After my wife and I made some repairs to the stone facade,
dirties, a contractor friend, Henry Collins, helped me put
in a new, solid-core concrete floor. Then with pro-
fessional help, pouring that concrete was a real pain in the
butt. The concrete truck didn't arrive until 2 p.m., and since
it was such a cold day in peak winter to get the perfect con-
sistency for the mix. It wasn't ready to be troweled until
3 a.m., and we weren't finished for another two hours after
that. But notwithstanding, the day worked as our favor because

the concrete cured really slowly, making it set better.

All told, that's 1.5 yards of concrete in the barroom,
which, besides being an homage to our town's legacy, helps
create the industrial feel that we wanted. We also brought
in eco-friendly materials such as cork tiles for the bathroom
floor and bamboo boards for the stair treads. It was Col-
leen's idea to use cheap vinyl on the landing and stair treads.
It looks great against the stark white beadboard walls.

For the crawl space where guests would be
served, I wanted to use a black walnut tree from our yard,
but just getting it to the mill would have been really ex-
pensive. So my carpenter asked a friend of theirs who works
as a carpenter to tell us when some local walnut passed
through. I got my two 2-by-12-foot slabs that fall and set
them right down on top of the original concrete prep
concrete and backslabs that my buddy Todd Probstman
helped me build. For the bar back, Collins and I agreed
to use oak and we found an original from the 19th century that
made a reproduction. A local antique dealer had just what
we needed. Salvaged from the old soda fountain in
Waggoner Pharmacy on Main, the bar even has a vintage
"Emery Co. Cola" sticker with stick to the masonry.

This renovation has been rough going, but aside from
some new size savings that we'll still be using, the bar
is pretty close to the picture I had in my mind at the start.
We've hosted a few dinner parties and my dear 7th-
grade son. We already noticed that guests no longer
complain about the bar. And next evening, I'll be there
watching cycling races on the flat-screen, sharing a cold
one with my wife, or sitting under that treacherous to make
it an even better entertainment space. Next up: getting the
adjacent porch dance-party ready. ■



1. I had seven TV flat-screeners, and a small space in the bar gets crowded. These saving the bar gets crowded.
2. I salvaged the bar from the bar, but they're really polycarbonate tops with the barroom glass on and then spray painted silver.
3. A green bar back is a classic, but I wanted to use the bar's original prep concrete and backslabs as well as the original wall material.
4. I replaced the original bar back with a new one, but I wanted to use the bar's original prep concrete and backslabs as well as the original wall material.
5. A vintage looking bar keeps the bar's history alive.
6. A green bar back is a classic, but I wanted to use the bar's original prep concrete and backslabs as well as the original wall material.
7. The barroom's original bar back was salvaged from the bar's original prep concrete and backslabs as well as the original wall material.

The next step.

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by January
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We've all had our little homeowner snafus: our first gaffer—you know, the time you splattered paint on the floor, or maybe short-circuited the house when all you wanted to do was change a light bulb. But even we didn't believe the dubious achievements of the "31" handy folk gathered here. Take the guy who confused dog food with cement, or the fellow who nailed some very special equipment to the roof. To those in need of our services, we give the 2007 Backyard Blue Thumb Awards. To you, we offer the comfort of knowing that however bad your blunders, someone else has screwed up worse.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN

1 Award for "Best Stupid Human Trick"

Reider Steve Mirra was sick of the big hole left in his lawn by a plumber who replaced a toilet in a second year. The landlord was in a hurry to get the yard back to normal, so he decided to plant the crater himself. He threw a full bag of 60-pound bags of dry dog food left over when he moved out, and two months prior, "I poured it in the hole then tapped it off with concrete," Mirra said. "Problem solved." Problem solved? A year later the cat in the apartment below was splitting the place with 120 pounds of "rusty-looking brown stuff." Nobody got the landlord's attention.

2 "Shallowest Thinker With the Deapest Conviction" Award

Henry Mirra convinced by a man at a detector that there was a cache of gold buried in his yard. Mirra dug, and dug, and dug. By the time alarmed neighbors alerted authorities, Mirra was 60 feet in and had a pair of helpers hoisting buckets of dirt out at the "overlook of dirt." "We told him 'You're done,' " Montclair, California, fire Capt. Rich Baldwin told the Associated Press. "It seems like he was just kidding." Mirra's last warning that would fill his yard.



3 Award for "Worst Use of a Power Tool"

Some misadventures make humming your thumb seem like a good idea. Take 59-year-old August "Boog" while working stop a house, stepped in and shot a 4-inch spike from an air compressor and put through his pants and into the roof—yet his left testicle fortunately the pneumatics were able to pry him loose and he left him to help him where he recovered. Forgive Mr. Boog in addition to the Black and Blue Thumb recognition, we have two words of advice: athletic cup.

4 Award for "Worst Use of a Blood Test"

Association with The Old House didn't exempt you from a full day of framing walls. FWH contributing editor Mark Tover settled into his five-to-five job with no side and a call of electrical help to replace a splinter on the handle. He wrapped a few turns of tape around

and stretched it tight until the tape snapped. No close call here, ever scared me so much as the completely unexpected feel of a framing hammer drive sink deep into the bridge of my nose," says Finner. On the bright side, it's at least it wasn't a hatchet.

5 "Snake Eyes: Not As Good in Idaho As in Las Vegas" Award

Lynan and Joanne Hapworth were perfectly happy with the cozy and warm Idaho home they just purchased. That is, until the weather turned cold and a shivering or so snakes moved in. The Hapworths came to the realization that they weren't alone after a furniture mover's note when a snake fell on Lynan's head as he opened the door to the nearby pump house. Two when Lynan and Joanne walked out side one morning and noticed that the whole yard moved, and when Lynan reached to turn on a light only to discover that the pull

cord wasn't a cord at all. Reportedly, the Hapworths have asked ADO's Dianne McKee Home Edition to consider the house for an upcoming episode. Better their TV show than ours.

6 "When the Vow Breaks" Award

Next time you're forced to live in a sanctuary antebellum for a night, think of Gypsyheart Parole, who's been talking in a bee house edge cut to his wife's shame since he had an argument with her—50 years ago. Neither remembers what he said, the promised not to live with me and return home. [And] his death." Parole seems like a bit of a hothead. He has no second-order house, having built it after the first was destroyed in a storm.

7 "The Duct and Cover" Award

Adam Katz of Gardner Hardware in Minneapolis was working the

counter when a customer came in wanting a metal detector. (What a twist with these guys and metal detectors?) Katz was inquired as to what kind of humans the man was looking for. "Detective," the 50-year-old replied. "He and a friend had walked in a ditch in his new master bedroom. broke for a couple hours, then decided to move on to the next step, hanging the drywall. Problem was, the wall didn't go and the wall didn't go. They decided to mark where the cutouts for the vents should go before building the room up. They paid the ultimate punishment for it. It came, having to confess their sin to the local hardware store guy."

of the guy. He made a mess of it, the basement for the men cut. Anyway, matter when he remembered the little story on the shelves. Katz took a dump roll that ended at the new job. "You can imagine the mess but I had a lot of fun and it did the way to the bottom," he says.

9 "If These Walls Could Talk" Award

When your 4-year-old daughter asks, "Daddy, why are you walking up?" it can mean only one of two things. Either she's tired or she's a poltergeist, or your cell phone's somewhere inside. Fortunately the ghosts were it. Jody Hyfler had been hanging drywall that very morning with a hole down on some blocking. It took several hours to get the hole to get out of the kitchen, a very excited (and very angry) little incident on getting started on their next project, installing new cabinets. But before laying the cabinet doors down to drill holes for the handles, he decided to something to protect the floor. He chose a new solid piece of

of Colton's fourth floor apartment. Each thinking the other had a term, they dropped it out the window where it landed in the middle of a pickup trucked game on the court below. He was laughing they pointed out to a group of young men standing around the fallen unit. The women didn't like until they heard one of the players declared "What's Cool?"

12 The "When to Call It a Night" Award

"I've attended King several times that when he gets beat, he should just quit," says John Bridges of her husband's round the clock monitoring schedule. After a long day laying down some way-out budget, Mumford from in the kitchen, a very excited (and very angry) little incident on getting started on their next project, installing new cabinets. But before laying the cabinet doors down to drill holes for the handles, he decided to something to protect the floor. He chose a new solid piece of

and said, "I heard some loud during," recalls Lums, who ran in the kitchen to find a hole in what he'd been free to go to the floor. "I said, 'What were you thinking, Eric?' Our bet is tonight."

13 The "Don't Be a Pile-It-Up" Award

There's nothing wrong with picking up a pile or two after some backtracking, just work. No deserve it. Just don't get washed first up the John Deere and go riding off for more. Don't know was arrested back in May when police found him riding his 20 horsepower lawnmower on the sidewalk a mile from his home. When questioned, Gowan spoke about weekly his decision. "I don't know why I got a DUI and lost money," he said. "I'll know that, I would have walked." ■

ONLINE BONUS
For more readers' DIY disasters, visit www.thesmart.com/diydisasters



10 The "Mr. Bubble Bursts" Award

After installing a new tub in his master bathroom, Steve Fisk decided to celebrate the occasion with some champagne with a long hot soak. Just as he slid into the tub, he heard his wife, Denise, screaming from the floor below. "I tore down the tubs wearing nothing but a towel and a look on my face," says Fisk. What he found: His equal in proclivities watching near of water gush through a light fixture that hung from the beam now cooling in the freshly wallpapered bathroom. Cursing, Denise headed for a neighbor. Steve returned upstairs where he discovered that his wife had torn the tub's overflow pipe.

8 "Dude Descending a Staircase" Award

While waiting for chemical paint stripper to work its magic on his staircase, 70th photographer Russell Kays decided to do a little multitasking and install a new faucet on his five-foot tub. "I turned off the water supply," Kays says, "but I removed the faucet, the valve didn't close all the way, and water started pouring out onto the floor." He frantically tried to shut the valve, but the handle wrapped



11 Award for "Worst Free Throw Attempt"

There's only one rule for handing a window air conditioner: Hold an eight-foot Petty Collins and be sure to get sight of this as they ball around the end and on the window ledge.



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PHOTOGRAPH BY
MIGUEL LÓPEZ



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Rocking Toilet

The 5-year-old toilet in our master bathroom rocks back and forth. How can we fix it?

MRS. M. H. CURRAN, HOUSTON, TEX.

Richard Tetherow replies: Sometimes old don't need to be replaced. In this case, the rocking is caused by the mounting bolts. A Don't crank them down too tight, because you could crack the ceramic. If it's possible to eliminate rocking by adjusting the bolts, that's the best approach. If it's not, then you'll need to replace the toilet. To remove the toilet, disconnect the water supply line, then flush away the water. Now disconnect the bowl from the toilet, remove the nuts from the mounting bolts, and lift off the toilet. The old water ring, which could be stuck to the toilet to the mounting flange, the ring on the waste pipe where the mounting bolts are attached. Inspect the flange for cracks—that could also be causing the rocking. A broken flange can be replaced with a flange repair kit available at most centers and plumbing suppliers. Also, make sure the exposed subfloor with a screwdriver. If you find any soft spots, cut them out and patch them.

Richard Tetherow is a professional plumber and a member of the National Association of Professional Plumber. He has been in the plumbing business for over 20 years. He is a frequent contributor to Ask This Old House.

Notching a Joist

I'm remodeling a bathroom and would like to relocate the existing tub drain. But to do that, I have to notch cut and through the 2x8 floor joists. Is that okay?

FRANCIS BURNS, BALTIMORE, MD

Kevin O'Connell replies: It often has similar spots where I'm working on any one house, but I can usually find the right answer in the most recent edition of the International



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Substitutes for Drilling and Notching Joists



Horizontal Code book, which is probably as a reference shall or your local public library. It shows exactly what you can do in a seven-lumber joist without weakening it.

Here's what it says about notching: No notches in the center third of a joist; and in the ends where you can cut notches, they can't be any deeper than one-sixth the actual depth of the joist or any wider than one-third its depth.

In your 7½-inch-deep joist, that means the notch can't be any deeper than 1½ inches or any wider than 2½ inches on either side of the pipe.

The code is more forgiving about drilled holes. They can't be any deeper than 2 inches from the edges of the joist, and their maximum diameter is one-third the joist's depth. In other words, you're allowed to drill a 2½-inch hole, which should be just enough to accommodate your pipe.

Installing Cedar Closet Liner

ed the towel my clothes closets with cedar. What's the best way to attach the cedar to the wall studs or studfish?

DAVID HUNDMAN, NEVADA CITY, CALIF.

Two films explain this. I usually install liner depends on how the boards are nailed. If they're square and square, I place them horizontally and blind-nailed them in an angle through the tongue, the same way I lay a floor. The groove of the next board covers the nailhead.

When you blind nail, the nails have to go into the studs, so find and mark their locations before you start. And because these boards are so thin, always drill pilot holes first to prevent splitting. I also find that a dab of construction adhesive on the back of the boards is helpful in tight corners.

Adhesive might be your only option if the boards have square edges or if you want them to run vertically. Just lay a zigzag bead on the back of each board and sink them up like tiles.

Whether you glue or nail, make sure you're installing a moisture and odor-resistant barrier and cedar—which smells like the shavings in a hamster cage. That's the stuff that's supposed to repel moths. Worms and cedar do not.

Adding Insulation

When I moved into my house, the fiberglass batt insulation in the attic was covered with a layer of wet earth, blown in insulation. So I had another 6 inches blown in on top of it three years ago. Now that trouble has settled, too. Should I keep adding insulation or what's already there is enough? I remove the compacted material first?

TIM BULLMAN, CHAPIN, ILL.

Tim's dilemma: Removing insulation from an attic is a messy job, but even savings in taxes, blown-in insulation tends to settle over time, so compression may not be a concern. What you need to do sometimes isn't how much insulation you have and compare that with how much you need in your climate.

To do that, just slip a yardstick down along the side of a rafter just until it hits the ceiling, then record the depth of your existing insulation. Now multiply that number by the insulation's R-value per inch. Both fiberglass batts and blown-in cellulose are about

R-3.6 per inch. Attic ceilings in Illinois are supposed to be insulated to R-49, so if what's in your attic measures less than 14 inches deep, you'll need to add more.

You can make up the difference by blowing in either fiberglass or cellulose. Just keep these things in mind: 1) Make sure the insulation covers every inch the number of bags specified by the manufacturer to reach your goal. 2) Don't block the soffits—if air can't circulate under the roof, you'll end up with ice dams and rot. 3) Maintain a 3-inch space around chimneys and any unvented forced-air heaters to guard against fire.

To settle a question in Ask This Old House, go to www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/askthetoh or write to:

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Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions will be edited for clarity and length and may be used in other media. We regret that due to the volume of questions received we cannot reply to every question.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 104

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Square Corners Made Easy

After nailing clamping blocks, simplifies cabinet construction

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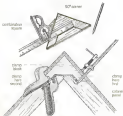
It's not easy to hold two sides of a cabinet (or a box or a drawer) flush and perpendicular as you fasten them together. That's where clamping blocks come in. By clamping a couple of these rugged triangular blocks into position where the joints meet, you guarantee that the corners will stay straight and square as you drive screws and wait for the glue to set. Dan Gertner, you can make your own set of blocks for next-to-nothing from scrap pieces of MDF, plywood, or 2x lumber.

To make a block:

1. Cut a 45-degree diagonal on the scrap, either on or from a 90-degree factory cut corner.
2. Mark and seal out a triangular notch in the block's diagonal side with left and right sides are about one inch from and parallel to the scrap's factory cut edges. These edges make a convenient way for the clamp to grip the block. Appropriate sandpaper on both good tools for making these notches.

To use the blocks:

Clamp them to the edges of a panel, with each block's 90-degree corner flush with the panel's end and one side lined up with the panel edge. Line up the adjacent panel and clamp to the other side of the block, as shown below. No matter how you're screwing, nothing will shift. —*Walter Sawicki*



Tips for Spraying Foam

How to get the most out of insulation in a can

RELATED STORY: FILL "NO MAN'S LAND OF THE HOUSE"

A foamer can lose 30 to 50 percent of its heat through pipes, around doors and windows, as well as pipes and ducts in the foundation. The quickest and easiest way to permanently plug those leaks is with foam. But which spray is worth a spot of foam insulation? There are two main types: polyurethane foam and polystyrene foam. Polyurethane foam can expand as much as three times its initial size—how much depends on the type you choose and atmospheric conditions—and fills every crack before it hardens into a solid and water-tight seal. Here are some tips on how to get the best results with the least mess.

1. **Use the right stuff.** Before you pull the trigger, make sure you have the proper foam for your application. Triple-expanding polyurethane foam for insulation, which can withstand the pressure the foam exerts as it cures. For doors and windows, however, always use a flexible, minimally-expanding foam which won't bow joints out of shape.
2. **Wet the surface.** Dust and grit might interfere with the foam's bond.
3. **Caution against edges.** Fresh foam is extremely sticky and will adhere to various. Wear gloves, long sleeves, and safety goggles; protect floors with drop cloths.
4. **Shake it up.** Agitate the can for 30 seconds before starting and agitate every few minutes during application. Foam will come out regardless of the can's position, but holding it upside down will help to force out the last bit of liquid.
5. **Spray in layers.** Fill the space more than halfway on the first pass. Wait 15 minutes for foam for the foam to expand, then add a second layer if necessary. Two passes will fill the amount of foam that bubbles out of the gap which might cause an unsafe and messy job.
6. **Spread the foam.** Foam cures by reacting with moisture in the air. To accelerate the cure, apply some household humidity with a spritz of water from a spray bottle. Don't touch it, however—the bubbles in the foam will collapse and leave a drippy liquid.
7. **Wait 24 hours** for the foam to harden then trim away any excess with a hand saw or reciprocating saw with a long blade. Clean hands and any spills.
8. **Cover up.** Sunlight degrades many polyurethanes, so hide any exposed foam under paint, tape or a plastic patch. —*DAVID L. COHEN*

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► MASTER CARPENTER NORM ABRAM'S TECHNIQUES FOR USING MOW, FEATURED IN HOMEOWNER'S HANDBOOK, P. 58

Ten years ago, most saw British carpenter as using medium-density fibreboard—MDF—for outdoor furniture and exterior doors.

That is, the correlation with

particleboarded. Now I use MDF all the time. These sheets of rigid foam (polyurethane) board flexibly bonded with resin and glue are great for pouring because they're smooth and dimensionally stable. With particleboard, the wood chips are visible and the surfaces are anything but perfect. MDF also cuts without chipping, and it chips—without a flatter piece of plywood. They still are dense, about 50 percent heavier than plywood, but it's necessary to use a structural material. When strength is important, let the well-seasoned wood hold down the



Without a coat of paint, MDF looks about as bland as a bowl of oatmeal. But you can still dress it up, as I did with this painted panel by finishing it Craftsman style, with subtle stripes of quarter-rounds on

Before driving a screw in MDF, always drill a pilot hole $\frac{1}{16}$ inch narrower than the screw's shank. Pilot holes prevent the material from cracking and allow the screwhead to sink below the surface.

MDF produces its own enzyme that when its cut and the formaldehyde-based glue that typically holds it together isn't something you want to breathe. That's why when I work with MDF in my shop I keep a dust collector system going both on a respirator and goggles on my face. On job sites, I'll get a helper to hold the nozzle of an exhaust near the worksite blade or bits to capture the dust.

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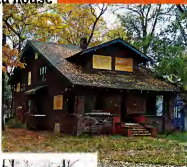
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[illegible]

SEEKING THE PROBLEM'S ROOT



ABOVE: The hoisted-up house, set on a pettenico-reinforced, saw-rump pile of the slabs of the block. **LEFT:** Its potential beauty is illustrated in this photograph taken in 1943, when the widowed Beniamino Kusano still lived there. **BELLO LEFT:** The house still retains many of its original features, such as pettenico-reinforced floors, French doors, and solid oak built-ins. **BELLOPPA:** A dark, lacquered wall (note square window).

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