

This Old House

JULY/AUGUST 2008

How to
Paint Your
Kitchen
Cabinets
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UPGRADES WITH IMPACT

4 Great DIY Projects

- Built-in Barbecue
- Front Door Face-Lift
- Budget Bath Redo
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After



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How to:

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Plant a low-upkeep landscape (P. 104)

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Cover photo by

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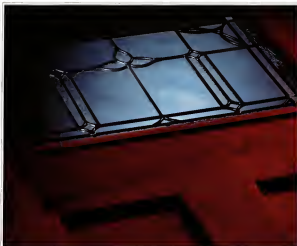
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letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

Feeling the Heat

I DON'T WANT TO BREAK LIAR! But my pants are so on fire I can't even talk about it.

I was standing in the window beams when our noisy neighbor came out. After the good-morning she cut to the quick: "I haven't seen the contractor lately. It must be going well with your remodel!" Stunned at first, but I knew his game, and I wasn't playing. "Yep," I said, "things have pretty much wound down."

What I didn't say was, wound down like a train with both hands showing a constant no-machete. In October, in 1929, right before the Great Depression. Truth be told, things are not at all well back at the ranch. Been over three months since we've seen the crew. In dark moments, I imagine the older guys had been at our place so long they let retirement on happy days. I dream the younger ones are just on spring break. I can only hope they come back from Cancun soon because we've got a few more weeks of work before I can say things are truly well without city workers bursting into flames.

There's one exception to the no-shows, though, and that's our colormeister Bob Wilson. Bob makes me smile. He'll shuffle up with his cackled dog, Ranger, and, in well-considered words, suggest a change to a part of the job that isn't even his—the stain color for the floor, a hallway light fixture, an alternative to the work we'll be on in six months—and right away you know you must take his advice. After showing a sample of the finish for the cabinet that we'll spread with beautiful, he quietly went back to his shop to create a dozen more samples. Bob can't settle for good when you can have great, which is what our cabinet have turned out to be. It's a rare and wonderful man, dedicated to a craft in a fashion you rarely see anymore.

I hope when you tickle a big project you'll be lucky enough to have someone like Bob help you out. In the meantime, we at *This Old House* will fill in for a bit. This month, that means our best advice on five projects that'll boost your quality of life without breaking your budget: a top-shelf paint job for kitchen cabinets, awesome counter tops you can put in yourself, a new bath vanity and medicine cabinet, a more welcoming front entry, and, my favorite, a built-in bar/lounge. Try one out, or do them all. They might challenge your DIY skills, but you won't regret the finished products—and about that, I can't lie! Don't even smell smoke.

Scott Emmons
SCOTT EMMONS
EDITOR



The author, with colormeister Bob Wilson, plans to be finishing the second kitchen, put in a new light fixture.

Upgrading your house can challenge your patience—and your DIY skills—but you won't regret the finished product.

COOKIE CUTTERS ARE FINE IF YOU'RE MAKING COOKIES.



JULIO M. SIERRA

You won't find one speck of generic on the GMC Sierra. Go ahead and look. Its payload is extraordinary. Its towing capacity, phenomenal. And if that wasn't enough, it's got the most fuel-efficient available V8 in a full-size truck.* The Sierra is a lot of things; boring isn't one of them. Just because it hasn't been done, doesn't mean it can't be done.

*1994 estimated egg sale reported 2.34, vs average 2000 1.5 reported here. Excludes other lot releases, mostly 2000-02. All sales, except for 2000-02, were based on 100% participation. Source: www.fishbase.org

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mail

Blast From the Path

I enjoyed "Laying a Back Path" (Step-by-Step, May). At age 15 I laid such a walk at my parents' house in Wilmington, Delaware, using an almost identical technique. Now, almost 30 years later, I drove by our old home on a recent visit to my parents' current place. The path is still there, much as we left it, but with a new family walking on it. Weekend projects may take just two days, but the results and the pride you take in them can last a lifetime.

TOM TURK, OAK PARK, ILL.

Half Bath, All Done

What a coincidence you featured a half bath near the stairs at May's House Call! My husband and I had just finished that very project. After gutting and remodeling our kitchen we relocated the powder room down under the stairs, just closed. Here it is. We are very proud of it! As we did almost all the work ourselves.

REBECCA MOORE, MARYHURST, WVA.



States Lax on Con Men

I read with interest "You're a Con?" (April). While it is true that many states try to protect consumers from shady contractors, it's been my experience that these professional thieves know how to work the system. One example I saw: A couple paid a contractor \$200,000 to build a new house. He took their money and at last dug out holes and threw away the money. The couple did not sue. In a \$3,500 lawsuit suspension of license, but the contractor had already obtained several licenses.

from the same agency and simply moved on conducting business under another name.

We need a national database of license violators and states need to levy substantial fines and enforce codes more strictly.

DAVID SHUBA, FROLAND, MO.

Medical Advice

"911 or Out?" (Around the House, May) you omitted some important information in "You were saving lumber...and you found your hand!" After you stop the bleeding, see if you can move all your fingers properly. If there is any question about not being able to flex or extend a finger, go to the nearest emergency room immediately, as you may have cut a tendon. That can lead to a permanent problem if not addressed right away. Do not wait. It can mean the difference between easily working your hand and one that can no longer be bent.

ANDREA CERNIERA, M.D., BETH MAE.

Minor Omission

In April you featured a handful of "green" lawn mowers. How could you neglect the only truly portable, low-harm powered tool in power? For most of my childhood I mowed my parents' lawn with one of these. They are also emissions-free, quiet, and relatively easy to use. And they're still available. Some people think mowing like this is a waste of time. Well, to these people I say: If you mow a weed patch with a tool slower than you could use the weed whacker.

They're not easy to state if they're not there, neither is cutting grass. Imagine if you could pedal your lawnmower down a hill—same idea.

In the future, I hope to see a rather grand new feature in wheelbarrows.

KEVIN McFARLAN, ROCKINGHAM, CALIF.



The editors reply: We've written about realtors who had wanted before-views less later, unwise options. We find your folks, we hope! Thanks for showing them "real" green machines.

A Longtime Fan

I've been a fan of TGH since I was a child. I used to ask contractors when I could go to college to get a job in construction. Many of them scoffed but one suggested Auburn University in Alabama. I graduated from Auburn's building science program in 2004 and Auburn was a great manager for a large construction company. Thank you to The Old House for instilling in me the desire for a career in building.

BRIGHAM, ALABAMA

corrections

"On the Couch With This Old House" (June 04) John Deere's 440-2000 Heavy 4x4 tractor illustration was wrong.

How to reach us

THE EDITOR
The Old House Magazine
220 West 10th Street, New York, NY 10011
Email: editor@theoldhouse.com
For more ideas, projects, and advice, visit our website at www.theoldhouse.com or contact us by email at info@theoldhouse.com or by phone at 1-800-451-2000.

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around the HOUSE

EDITED BY WENDY KROGUS

HOW TO HANG A HAMMOCK

Tips on installation—and picks for summer relaxation

- A little care is needed to make sure hammocks don't hurt your trees, says Thomas Anderson, an arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association. Here are her tips for achieving maximum comfort with minimum pain:
- Look for heavily hardwood trees at least 30 inches in circumference.
- The trees should be spaced so the hammock is fast when you hang it—a distance one foot longer than your hammock should suffice.
- Install eye-bolts at least 2 inches into the tree. They should be 7 to 8 feet apart in diameter. Place them 6 to 8 feet high so you won't bottom out.
- Finally, pick your hammock! Our favorites offer more than just their classic, shaped covers, featuring extra wide designs and luxurious fabrics. They're perfect for taking a load off after a long, hard day.

—NATALIE KROGUS

1. Scott Niles Hammock, \$320, justseniorhammocks.com
2. Twinkle Single Layer Hammock, \$299, twinklehammocks.com
3. Rialto 2 Point Hammock, \$100, alpsnord.com
4. Large Quilted Fabric Hammock, \$200, jewelrycenter@seniorhammocks.com

PRO ADVICE

"Cut off dead branches from trees that are near or around your hammock, so there's no danger they'll fall off without warning."

—THOMAS ANDERSON, ARBORIST
TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



MAINTENANCE

FIVE TIPS TO KEEP YOUR FOUNTAIN RUNNING

Whisper regular care: a bubbling fountain can quickly go from lovely to grumpy. Follow these steps to make sure it flows. —JENNIFER HENRIK



GET RID OF THE GRIME. Dirt and debris wear on the fountain's surface. Once a month, haul off gritty water (or siphon it off with a wet-dry vac), then wipe the interior with a soft cloth or sponge. Scrub off buildup with vinegar and a soft-bristled nylon brush. Repeat when needed.

PUT ON SOCKS. Slip on old nylon stocking over the pump and insert the legs as if you'd strap it.

FRONT BALLOON: Each time you refresh the water supply, add a cluster to deter algae growth and scum and discourage snails. Following the label directions on dosage (it depends on your fountain's capacity). Double the normal amount if you notice algae or scum that persists in warmer months when algae grows more readily, add a firm-release algaecide in tablet form about once every three weeks.

DON'T LET IT RUN DRY. Your pump could overheat if it bores too dry. It's best to keep an eye on it, or possibly if you've had a string of hot, dry days.

USE CHLORINE ONLY IF NEEDED. Fountain pumps aren't designed to work with concentrated levels of chlorine, but *shock* (high doses) won't do them. Add 1/2 cup of chlorine bleach for every 10 gallons of water. Maintain the pump overnight so it circulates long enough to disinfect the water system.



INSTALL A FLAGPOLE

INSTALL A FLAGPOLE

Hanging the Stars and Stripes will give your house a nice seasonal touch of classic Americana. Though banneters and brackets are easy to find at home stores, proper directions to pull them up are not—so use ours for best results. —S.A. KATZ (CA)



3-Position the bracket against the hoarstand, mark the screw holes with a pencil. Then, unscrew the



2. Place a dab of caulking



coming with the breakfast if they're fast-diner). If your house is broke, insert

1. Slide the Pippole
female into the bracket.

Did You Know? You can use long-tail keywords—terms on the upper left-hand corner (and even on the bottom) of a page. You can use long-tail keywords to find the right keywords for your site. For more on long-tail keywords, visit the National Flag Foundation's www.usflag.org.

How Long Will Your House Last?



Journal of Interpersonal Violence 26(1) 10-27
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- When you step out of the shower you'll be able to see your reflection without having to wipe away condensation first.

[illegible]

Where Break-Ins Happen

...and how to prevent them for less than \$250

9%

Garage

A basic-infrared sensor lock may be a first investment, but better yet, consider a laser burglar alarm system. It's a laser beam that triggers your alarm system when it's broken. **Safe Choice:** \$450 (per sensor).

2%

Second Floor

It's easy to overlook, since that's high off the ground. Make sure all your windows have anti-loose, which are in many different styles. **Good Choice:** Window Lock, \$10, www.windowlock.com.

22%

Side Entry

If you have sliding glass doors, consider a dual sensor system that both senses movement and detects glass breaking. **Good Choice:** \$100, www.dualsensor.com.

23%

First-Floor Windows

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Front Door

Most people don't think about their front door lock (and remember to lock it). An added step: Keep your outdoor entry light on a timer so it illuminates your house at night. **Good Choice:** \$10, www.dualsensor.com.

4%

Basement

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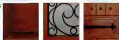
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Problem:
The master bath had been badly remodeled — and the kids' bath was overcrowded.

Solution:
Reshuffle rooms to make a bigger master and more. Here's how >>

WHEN IT COMES to dressing a home, necessity is often the mother of reinvention. For Tim and Elizabeth Dugas of Kennebunk, Maine, the need to maximize their space grew out of the realization that their three boys (an 11-year-old and 8-year-old twins) had been bumping elbows in the full bathroom they shared. Just when the couple were drawing up plans to update their Prairie-style home's master bath—the victim of a botched 1980s-style redo—the project looked as if it would be trumped by the boys' needs. Then came architect, Clay Hickley, and a lightbulb moment and found a solution to make daily life a bit easier for the whole family.

The plan worked like a charm: pulling, starting with the dimensions of a seldom-used sitting room in the master suite. By shifting the master bedroom into that space, Hickley could move the master bath into the former bedroom and slip a new kids' bath in its place.

Now the Dugas have peace in the house, plus a master bath that gets great light (thanks to the former bedroom's multiple windows) and has a more user-friendly flow, with separate zones for the toilet, shower, and tub. And the turn-of-the-century home finally got the classic, period-style bath it had long deserved.

BY LINDA GALLANT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NATHAN KIRKMAN



BEFORE The misapplied bath remodel showed (left), it lacked both practicality and privacy with the toilet as display between the shower and the partially enclosed tub. **AFTER** A The mirrored space had now formerly the master bedroom makes a spacious location for this new vintage look remade double sink and wood-topped recessed medicine cabinets.

Decorative double sink. Specialty medicine cabinets. White-on-white. Shower Regeneration. David Lee/Chicago/Bravo.



The Plan

→ Make space for a larger, more efficient master bathroom (and a bonus bath) by sacrificing an unused sitting room.

What They Did

1. REASSIGNED ROOMS on the second floor. The master bathroom took the place of the master bedroom, which moved over, capitalizing on a rarely used sitting room space. The bathroom grew from 114 to nearly 257 square feet and poured lots of natural light. A second, smaller bathroom (serving one of the kids' bedrooms) was easy to add where the master bath had been.

2. LAID-OUT THE NEW MASTER BATH in line with the adjacent hallway, reclaiming a few extra feet for the bedroom. A new toilet room positioned the two sinks (one in close proximity and the other located off the new entrance for easy access). The shower sits opposite the toilet's entrance to keep its door swinging away from other fixtures in the shared space.

3. REVISED WINDOWS in the old bedroom so the tub could be tucked under three double-hung for a light-filled focal point opposite the vanity sinks. One of the two other windows went into the bedroom.

4. LIFTED STORAGE with built-in shelves, built-in cabinets that flank the bath's entryway. Shelves hold baskets for toiletries and other basics, plus lovely photos and artwork by the boys.

Bath's tub filler fits chosen tub, sturdy dependent shower. Materials: Reuter's—Chicago, Ill.



BEFORE: The bathroom was perched in the sitting room, making it prone to rising, hot air. **AFTER:** Positioning the master suite increased the size of the master bath to nearly 257 square feet. It has separate access for the toilet, shower, sink and tub. Bathing room also played an extra role: bath—which fits in the footprint of the old master bath—and a bigger bedroom.



ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The vintage look tub with its Swedish-style tub filler has pride of place beneath a large triple window that provides bright natural light. The tub's built-in showerhead is a bonus. One of the new windows is in the shower door, and interior tile details echo the bath's colors.

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KITCHEN & BATH REPORT



TOH editors roam the packed show floor at NABE/NECA 2008 in Chicago.

Singular Values

TOH hits the kitchen and bath industry's annual show and makes a major money-saving discovery: high-quality, reasonably priced items that can upgrade the look and feel of an entire room in one shot.

MULTIPURPOSE SINK MAT
Accessorizing your kitchen can be tricky. Multi-use products save the day! This sharp-looking stainless steel accessory converts the kitchen sink into a drainboard or shelf, and it's easy to trim and roll out of sight. \$400; trekinc.com



HIGH-END ACCENTS
Involving knobs and switch plates that make your mundane spots in an essential way to unify your kitchen's look. Caswell's quartz accents come in a natural look or solid colors. Available in fall 2008. \$25 to \$50 each; caswell.com



FORM AND FUNCTION have always been the two most important elements in home-product design. Well, we'd like to add a third: fireproof. A single appliance, for instance, can lead a sink full of any room without unduly displacing your savings. This year's kitchen and bath industry show—the unveiling of almost a new and, in many cases, extremely expensive—meant an unlikely place to find such one-for-all wonders. But we could the miles and came up with a long list of items that will be more convenient, comfort, and style you'd expect to find in products with much higher price tags. The five-star-rated bathroom fixture store directed you with thousands of dollars of water has gone for a luxurious \$3,000 when you finally find it online? We discovered one that does the trick for just \$225. So if you're not ready for a major renovation, don't sweat. Just check out these great deals and give yourself—and your bank account—a break.

EDITOR'S PICK



SHOWER LIKE A JET-SETTER

"For any money, this dual showerhead offers the same thrills as fancy jets that make you feel like you're going through a car wash. The 6 1/2-inch showerhead doubles as the mount for the handheld, so it looks streamlined. It doesn't exactly surround me with a wall of water, but it's relaxing to know I can enjoy it—and still pay my mortgage!" \$225; elmers.com

—BETHAN MASON, SENIOR EDITOR

V PIRE-EYE BATH-GLITTER

With the look, feel, and functionality of sleeker items existing hardware does, this brushed nickel shelf adds a convenient surface for getting everything from makeup to shaving licks off the sink's deck. Nickel shell \$279. 800-826-7058 for details.

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A STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

Solid-wood side cabinet doors make a major investment, featuring a Calicut-style effect (the look and finish in the cabinet line)—for much less. The sustainable rubberwood solid doors are available in Espresso, Chestnut, Espresso/Lesley, and White. See it all at www.sunnyside.com/cabinets



INCREASE YOUR REACH V

A pulled faucet for the lav might be just as indispensable as one for the kitchen sink. It not only makes cleaning easier, it offers a water-saving alternative to the shower for a quick shampoo. American Standard's Devon Two-Function converts from standard to columnar mode with a pull of its spout. \$459. americanstandard-usa.com

A PRETTY PERSISTENCE

Vessel sinks are all the rage and can be fabulously expensive. You can get a long-handled look, but the simple construction—exposed flared prisms—provides between layers of tempered glass—makes it affordable. \$255. vesselsinks.com



LOVE'S PICK



AFFORDABLE CHEF-STYLE STORAGE

"I want this open shelving for my own kitchen! (Under years ago, a few retail outlets now carry commercial-looking units for hanging pots, pans, and utensils. But this is the best deal I've seen—custom, wall-mounted configurations for half the price of pro setups. The secret: a satin nickel finish sells for price stainless steel." \$661 as shown; details at pegasus.com

—COLETTE SCAGGION DESIGN EDITOR



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TOUCH AND FLOW

Senior-delivered faucets have gone from merely being available to becoming a go-to—actually being affordable. This handsome pull-down version features a spout you flip to turn the water on and off. Available in fall 2008. Price: faucet, \$100. delfa.com



EDITOR'S PICK

TEAK SHOWER SEAT AND FLOOR

"I'd love to have a teak floor and bench in my shower. Because this bench folds up and the floor mat comes in 3/4" slats. I could install them—and get the feel of a spa—without the crazy-high cost of replacing the rest of the bathroom."
 Floors from \$354, benches from \$426; retailprice.com

—JENNIFER D. ASSOCIATE ONLINE EDITOR



A FINE FIT

Oil rubbed bronze hardware came commanded a premium price as a door sound. Then it settled nicely into the kitchen and is finally at home in the bath—right down to the last detail. Delta's Prime toilet tissue holder is beautiful too. \$45. deltahardware.com

Want more inside scoop on trends and products from this year's kitchen and bath industry show? Look for part two of our report in the September issue.



A BIG DEAL MICROWAVE

Durable, commercial grade appliances are finally trickling down to a more reasonable price. This stainless steel, built-in microwave from Electrolux's new collection offers 2 cubic foot capacity, 12 power settings, and an alarm. Receipts help you customize cooking settings. \$750. electrolux.com

There's relief for pain like this. Ask your doctor about Lyrica.



Do you feel shooting pain in your feet? Or tingling, numbness, stabbing or burning sensations? If so, you may have painful neuropathy, also known as nerve pain. This type of pain is different from musculoskeletal (muscle or joint) pain, and may need a different type of treatment. Only Lyrica (pregabalin LEGBALIN) is FDA approved to treat two of the most common types of nerve pain, Diabetic Nerve Pain and Pain after Shingles. Lyrica is specially designed to provide the relief you need. It works on the nerves that cause this pain. So you can start to think about other things besides your pain. Ask your doctor if Lyrica can help. Lyrica is one of several treatment options for you and your doctor to consider.

Prescription Lyrica is not for everyone. Tell your doctor right away about any serious allergic reaction that causes swelling of the face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue or neck or affects your breathing or your skin. Also tell your doctor about any changes in your vision, including blurry vision, muscle pain along with a fever or tired feeling, skin sores due to diabetes or if you are planning to deliver a child. Some of the most common side effects of Lyrica are dizziness and sleepiness. Others are weight gain, blurry vision, dry mouth, feeling "high," swelling of hands and feet and trouble concentrating. You may have a higher chance of swelling, dizziness or gaining weight if you are also taking certain diabetes or high blood pressure medicines. Do not drive or operate machinery until you know how Lyrica affects you. Do not drink alcohol while taking Lyrica. Be especially careful about medicines that make you sleepy. If you have had a drug or alcohol problem, you may be more likely to misuse Lyrica. Talk with your doctor before you stop taking Lyrica or any other prescription medicine.

Please see important product information on adjacent page.

To learn more visit www.lyrica.com or call toll-free 1-866-9-LYRICA (1-866-959-7422).

We are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.



IMPORTANT FACTS

LYRICA
PREGABALIN
LILLY

(LEER-i-kah)

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT LYRICA

- LYRICA may cause serious allergic reactions. Call your doctor right away if you think you have any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
 - Breathing difficulty, trouble swallowing, or hoarseness
 - Swelling of the face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue or nose
 - Have any trouble breathing
 - Other allergic reactions include rash, hives and blisters
- LYRICA may make you feel dizzy or sleepy.
 - Do not drive a car, work with machinery, or do other dangerous things until you are sure you will be alert. Ask your doctor when it is okay to do these things.
- LYRICA may cause problems with your eyesight, including blurry vision.
 - Call your doctor if you have any changes in your eyesight.

ABOUT LYRICA

- LYRICA is a prescription medicine used to treat:
 - Nerve pain from diabetic and nerve pain that continues after the nerve has healed
 - This pain can be sharp or burning. It can feel like tingling, shooting, or numbness
 - Postherpetic* a condition which includes widespread nerve pain and difficulty performing daily activities
- Some people taking LYRICA had less pain by the end of the first week. LYRICA may not work for everyone.

WHO IS LYRICA FOR?

- Who can take LYRICA:
 - Adults 18 years or older with Postherpetic pain, nerve pain from diabetes, or post shingles
- Who should NOT take LYRICA:
 - Anyone who is allergic to anything in LYRICA
- LYRICA has not been studied in children under 16 years of age.

BEFORE STARTING LYRICA

- Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions. Tell your doctor if you:
 - Have or had kidney problems or diabetes
 - Have heart problems, including heart failure
 - Have a bleeding problem or a low blood platelet count
 - Have alcohol abuse or alcohol. LYRICA may cause some people to feel "foggy"
 - Are or will be a parent or someone planning to have children or a woman who is breast-feeding, pregnant, or may become pregnant. It is not known if LYRICA may decrease milk supply, pass into breast milk, or if it can harm your unborn baby. You and your doctor should decide whether you should take LYRICA or breast-feed, but not both.
- Tell your doctor about all your medicines. Include over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell your doctor if you take:
 - Anybody "strong blood-thinner" or Aspirin* (prescription** for children)
 - Anybody for stomach (such as lansoprazole) You may have a higher chance for bleeding and ulcers if these medicines are taken with LYRICA.
 - Anybody containing enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
 - Anybody pain medicines (such as cyclosporine, triazepam or mefenamic acid) for stomach (such as lansoprazole) You may have a higher chance for bleeding and ulcers if these medicines are taken with LYRICA.
 - Any medicines that make you sleepy

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LYRICA

- LYRICA may cause serious side effects, including:
 - Serious allergic reactions. See "Important Safety Information About LYRICA" for a complete description of the symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.
 - Decreased red blood cells
 - Dizziness problems including blurry vision
 - Weight gain and swelling of hands and feet. Weight gain may affect control of diabetes. Weight gain and swelling can be serious for people with heart problems
 - Unexplained muscle pain, weakness, or weakness along with a fever or sore throat
 - Skin rashes. LYRICA caused skin rashes in animals. Although skin rashes may not turn out to be serious if you have diabetes, you should get extra attention to your skin while taking LYRICA and tell your doctor of any rashes or skin problems.
- If you have any of these symptoms, tell your doctor right away. The most common side effects of LYRICA are:
 - Dizziness
 - Sleepiness
 - Weight gain
 - Blurred vision
 - Dry mouth
 - Constipation
- You may have a higher chance of swelling, hives or getting weight if you are taking certain diabetes medicines or experience increasing enzyme (ACE) inhibitors with LYRICA. Medicines that already make you sleepy or dizzy may make you feel more sleepy or dizzy with LYRICA.

HOW TO TAKE LYRICA

- Do:
 - Take LYRICA exactly as your doctor tells you. Your doctor may tell you to take it 2 or 3 times a day.
 - Take LYRICA with or without food.
- Don't:
 - Do not drink a car or use machinery if you feel dizzy or sleepy while taking LYRICA.
 - Do not drink alcohol or use other medicines that make you sleepy while taking LYRICA.
 - Do not change the dose or stop LYRICA suddenly. You may have headaches, nausea, dizziness, or trouble sleeping if you stop taking LYRICA suddenly.
 - Do not start any new medicines without first talking to your doctor.

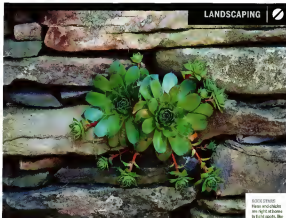
NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- Ask your doctor or pharmacist. This is only a brief summary of important information.
- Go to www.lyriconline.com or call:
 - For Name: 1-888-643-6262 (1-888-658-4222)
 - For Information: 1-888-5-ENRICA (1-888-559-6426)

Don't forget! Before taking the first dose, read the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with LYRICA. You may have a higher chance for bleeding and ulcers if these medicines are taken with LYRICA. You may have a higher chance for bleeding and ulcers if these medicines are taken with LYRICA.



LANDSCAPING



ROCK DWELLER
Here and there are right at home in tight spots, like the crevices of rocks in a desert wall. Their low-growing, rounded stems spread by sending out shoots with their offspring.

Meet the Survivors

Succulents thrive where most plants would shrivel. Here's how their ability to go days without water makes them ideal garden staples for the sweltering days of summer.

OF JENNIFER HARRIS
PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN DELUCE

WITH PLANTS AS WITH PEOPLE, there are survivors and there are spenders. While water is the currency of succulents, it's the show of their kind, their fleshy leaves hoarding water for times of drought. This built-in reservoir makes them a perfect choice for problem places in the yard: pots containers set in blazing sun, windy spots that make most of their rocky slopes when grass won't grow. Gardeners in the arid West have been using succulents to water-thrifty xeriscapes for years. Now more succulents across the country are carrying these intriguing plants, some of which grow well even in damp or cold climates.

John Span, a Connecticut-based gardening expert who pioneered ways of growing succulents outdoors in the Northeast, discovered their advantages years ago, when he often traveled for business. "The only places that survived without any care in my makeshift greenhouse were the succulents and cacti," he says. "I would leave for a month, and they'd be fine." That search for surviving plants led him to succulents. He found enough to fill a 10-foot-long lawn with a complete history of leaves in green, charcoal, rose, purple, and even acily black. Today he also stocks succulents among alpine plants in his 2,000-square-foot rock garden.

A SIZE AND SHAPE FOR EVERY SITUATION

At least 50 plant families have some succulent species. The adaptations that these plants have made to hold on to moisture make them especially interesting garden specimens. Ground hugging mosses grow water into thick, pointed leaves that





PERFECT IN POTS

TIP: Succulents 'Buddha's Hand', 'Panda's Hand', and 'Aloe Vera' make great gifts. They're easy to care for and can be used in a variety of ways, including as a centerpiece. **ABOVE:** Multiple-colored succulents in a shallow dish. **BELOW:** A variety of succulents in pots.

FIND ADVICE



"Even soft-skinned, fleshy succulents usually need watering only every 10 days. But if they start to wrinkle, make it sooner." —NANCY JENSEN, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

TIP:

Most succulents are drought-tolerant, but some are not. Check the label for more info.

STYLING COLORS: **ABOVE:** A potful of succulents shows off both its pale green succulents and its vibrant orange flower stems.



GALILEO BOTANICALS

For more information, visit www.galileobotanicals.com

convex of stone walls. Sempervivum's ground-hugging rosettes can be green, red, chartreuse, or purple to silvery blue in color. Echeverias come in rose, green, gray, and russet, often with contrasting edge color or a stripe. Both can multiply without much effort, sending out shoots with their progeny attached, that may root on their own if they are in contact with soil. Otherwise, they can easily be detached and rooted.

Doesn't loving pizzazz, agaves, and aloes, with their swordlike and straplike leaves with dusky tips, add a sculptural element to any garden. Though these large-scale specimens have long been associated with the dry Southwest, there are hardy varieties that withstand below-freezing temperatures.

True indoor plants, the rose-like jade plant (*Crassula ovata*), its scarlet-leaved cousin (*C. baccata*), and the



Inspiration comes from all sorts of places. We get ours from our backyard.



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Swamp Thing

» An unattended swimming pool can quickly turn foul—but proper maintenance will restore its sparkle

BY ARIANNE CORDE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN CUNEO



"Mom! Something's wrong with the pool!" screamed Dana Harrison's daughter. Very wrong, in fact: It was brimming with algae and muck.

A POOL IS THE PERFECT SUMMERTIME SPOT for refreshment, so you can imagine the dismay of a California family who arrived on a sunny afternoon at their new house to find a once pristine pool looking eerily like a set from *Crashers From the Black Lagoon*. It was a scary moment, but a sharp-eyed contractor fixed the problem and taught the owners how to prevent it from happening again.

THE CLIENT: Dana Harrison, an insurance broker, who enjoys her 8-by-30-foot pool with her three daughters in Folsom, California.

THE CRISIS: The pool was filled with black sludge. When Harrison first pulled up to the family's new home on a hot summer day, the three girls tumbled out of the car and made a beeline for the back yard. A minute later she heard "Mommmmm! Something's wrong with the pool!" Very wrong, in fact: It was brimming with algae and muck. "My daughters had wanted to move into the house primarily because of the pool," says Harrison. "When I saw it I was like, 'Oh, my God!'"

THE FIX STOPS BY: "The word we use is 'turnout,'" says pool-maintenance contractor Mike Stronzo, whom Harrison called that day. "The water in her pool had turned." Usually this results from long-term neglect, which causes the chlorine level to drop, but the same thing can happen if too much organic

Learn
how

For step-by-step
instructions
on maintaining
your pool, go to
rustoleumuniversal.com

matter gets into the water during a short time period. Simon quickly found the source of the problem: There was a garbage barrel, mostly empty except for a few shrimp remainings, lying on its side near the pool. He guessed that the trimmings spilled into the pool during the three weeks the house was unoccupied, before Harrison moved in. "Usually it's no big deal not to service a pool for a couple of weeks, but all that organic matter used the chlorine right up," he says. "With no chlorine to disinfect the pool, algae began thriving, turning from bright green to jet black."

Simon set to work. After he had to kill the algae, so he went to the filter room and added five times the normal amount of chlorine to the pump system, which "shocked" the pool to stop the algae's growth. He also included a dose of acid to lower the water's pH, which helps chlorine do its work more efficiently. Then he spent the afternoon skimming the depths of the pool with a big net. "There were leaves and twigs and worms and frogs in the water," he says, noting that the pool had not been serviced for weeks and that animals are attracted to water filled with organic matter. "In that case, there won't be any catfish here." He scrubbed the pool walls to remove a layer of slimy algae and then took a two-day break to let the chlorine work its magic.

When he returned, he added a chemical flocculant (or "flocc agent") to the water, which coagulates all the dead organic matter until it drops to the bottom of the pool. The process takes a few days, and the water must remain as still as possible during that time. "I told the girls, 'Your homework assignment is to do nothing. Don't disturb the pool at all or the water will get cloudy and gross again.'"

After the dead mud had settled, Simon hooked up a portable pump and vacuumed up the detritus from the pool's floor. Last came



The Bill

Filters \$325
Chemicals (chlorine and flocculant) \$75
Labor \$200
Total \$600

Questions to Ask Your Pool-Maintenance Contractor

In addition to handling emergencies, many pool contractors will take care of routine upkeep for a set fee.

When do I really need to call you? "If the pool water is cloudy, you've got a problem," says Simon. "Cloudiness can be a sign of bacterial growth, so stay out of the water. If it's solved,"

Can I monitor my pool by myself? "Absolutely," says Simon. "But you need to do it every week." If you don't keep it on a regular schedule, the pool's chemistry will fluctuate greatly between treatments, which makes it very hard to maintain the chemical levels required for proper disinfection. You can buy a kit to use as a monitoring kit of any pool store.

Is chlorine safe to use? This is a subject of much debate and study, but for right now chlorine is generally believed to be a safe and effective disinfectant that is used and handled properly. Typically it is added in the form of tablets or granules of sodium hypochlorite (bleach). Follow the label instructions closely and store the chemicals in a dry, secure location. Don't use household liquid bleach to disinfect your pool. For more information, read "Safe Storage and Handling of Swimming Pool Chemicals," available at epa.gov.

Are there alternatives to using chlorine tablets or granules? A salt-chlorine generator, which costs about \$1,200, exposes large pieces of salt to electrolysis to create chlorine right in your pump house, keeping the chemical level in your pool constant.

What is the most catastrophic mistake that pool owners make? Draining a swimming pool. "If your area has a high water table, the pressure from the groundwater can actually lift the pool (pop it out of the ground)," says Simon. "It's the scariest thing you've ever seen—unless it's your pool of course."

What happens if I stop taking care of my pool? It gets really bad. The health department could show up. Standing water breeds bacteria and attracts mosquitoes, which can be a public health risk. Sometimes the county health department will put fish in your pool to eat larvae (before disinfecting with chlorine), says Simon. "It's not uncommon for a new pool guy to show up and realize he knows there are fish in the pool."

replacing the pump system's algae-coated filters. [The pump filters were still washed just fine.] The next morning the pool was sparkling. The girls did cannonballs into the water.

THE CLIENT RESPONDS: "I thought this would cost thousands to fix, but within a week and a half the girls had all their friends over to go swimming," Harrison says. She took Simon up on his suggestion to hire some help to monitor the pool chemicals for six months while she learned how to do it. Now she checks the chemicals herself and tells her daughters when the pool frequently to keep out owls and lizards. ■

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The Best Places to Buy an Old House

» Presenting eight great neighborhoods where the historic homes (and the life-affirming DIY challenges they bring) are valued only by the community spirit that surrounds them

BY KEITH PANDOLF

FOR YEARS WE'VE BEEN THE GUILTY PARTIES of poor old-house decisions. We know that you're famous on the Internet for your taste, and that's why we, with some assistance from the historic-housing experts at PreservationDirectory.com, are still looking for the best old-house neighborhoods in America.

It will come as no surprise that my criteria for choosing our winners included architectural diversity, the craftsmanship of the homes, and the preservation movement in the area. But we were also interested in neighborhood amenities—walkability, safety, and community. What we found is that people who live in historic places aren't just lovers of golden-age architecture, but of old-fashioned neighborhood values as well. "I moved here because I wanted a house with character, but I was also looking for a community with actual adventures and neighbors who watch out for each other," says Elise Van Deyken, a resident of Albany, Oregon, one town on our list. While Albany has blocks after one-lined blocks of pristinely restored houses, other picks, like Old Louisville, Kentucky, are a little rougher around the edges—areas in which folks seeking the restoration red are working to revive long-neglected houses. In these pages, you'll see sights of our favorite towns, but we had a lot of 50 great spots—one in every state—along with more info on how we went about selecting our winners, head to theoldhouse.com. Happy old-house hunting!

Best Place for Fixer-Uppers

Centre Park Historic District
Reading, Pennsylvania

- » A state historic district with 840 houses
- » Five-bedroom townhouses for \$50K
- » 50-50 matching grants from the city for facade improvements

THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Various fixer-uppers you should restore Victorian-era homes in Centre Park, named for the green space at its core and teeming with old-house enthusiasts. "It's a tight community," resident Michael Lister says, adding that he can hardly walk the neighborhood's original brick sidewalks without stopping to chat with neighbors, raising or other chores or working in their yards. Homeowners help fund upgrades with funds for expenses offered by the city of Reading, which provides a 50-50 matching grant of up to \$5,000 for facade improvements.

THE HOUSES: Most homes here were built around the turn of the last century, when the city's elites turned Center

Park into one of Reading's first suburbs. The wealthy arrived in the 1870s to build massive country mansions overlooking the city, and in 1871 the mansion "muck-ups" (residing-owning houses) between 1900 and 1905, scores of tradesmen and laborers followed suit, erecting more modest, but equally crafted, Queen Anne and bungalow-style houses, which are two-and-a-half stories high with mansard roofs and large single dormers.

WHY BUY NOW? Hard to believe, but one of the Mid Atlantic's most prized properties is for sale for \$150,000. The house is a great find for something like three-story play. The main switch is a five-bedroom townhouse here for about \$150,000. Less than \$100,000, but for \$150,000 and a half-brother's mansion for less than \$200,000.

PERSEPOLIS PALACE

Homes are on parade every day in Centre Park where the courts are lined with Queen Anne (QAPC) and other styles including Georgian (GAPC) and Victorian (VAPC). The neighborhood's name is a nod to the city's history, but the actual name is Persopolis Palace.



Find your next house

Want to know the best old-house neighborhoods for restoration? Look no further than theoldhouse.com. How about the best place for beach bums, creative men and urban pioneers? You'll find out at theoldhouse.com as part of our comprehensive list of the 50 best places in America to buy an old house.

Best Place for Suburbanites

Pleasant Ridge, Michigan

- ▶ A 1920s time capsule of a neighborhood
- ▶ Many houses sit on treed lots atop small hills
- ▶ Starter homes to million-dollar mansions

THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Just a 30-minute drive from downtown Detroit, Pleasant Ridge isn't a suburb but it is one of Michigan's



RESTORED RIDE: Pleasant Ridge is a Detroit suburb known for its restoration, sturdy homes, and time styles including Tudor (BOTTOM LEFT) and Colonial Revival (LEFT).

swelled bourgeoisie colonies, with 2,500 residents. But the feel of the leafy Motor City suburb is upscale Midwestern suburbia: the new Redford Kate Redmond calls it "a time capsule from the 1920s," the golden days when Pleasant Ridge became a magnet for upper-middle-class suburbanite tycoons who wanted to build homes and raise families. "Most people move here because of the housing, the trees, and the strong community," says Redmond, adding that it's not uncommon for newbies to buy a starter home, trade up to a larger one when the kids arrive, then downsize in the next chapter, but never leave Pleasant Ridge.

THE HOUSES: Arts and Crafts, English Tudor, Prairie School, Georgian Revival, and Dutch Colonial. Prices range from the low \$400,000s for a modest bungalow to over a million for a big Colonial Revival or Tudor.

WHY BUY NOW? Pleasant Ridge is already home to two national historic districts, and plans are under way to list the only established in the 1930s on the National Register. As suburbs around Detroit continue to sprawl, Pleasant Ridge residents have remained steadfast in their opposition to new development—as well as efforts by Detroit to annex it. This small city stands to retain its historic feel long into the future.



Best Place for Cowboys and Cowgirls

Georgetown, Texas

- ▶ Small-town living just 90 miles from Austin
- ▶ On the eastern edge of the Texas Hill Country
- ▶ A historic and happening downtown

THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Georgetown once served as a staging area for cattle drives along the Chisholm Trail. The town's history is reflected in its architecture and restaurants, but somehow it still feels like a small town. John Wayne Westerns. Chas. Thorne couldn't resist Georgetown's charm when he stopped here to have a look around while driving from Dallas to Austin a few years ago. Two days later, he was the owner of a 100-year-old farmhouse with original pine floors and ceilings and wood plank walls. "I've lived here a lifetime of living in a house that could be on a Hollywood movie lot," she says, "and I know this would be the place to find it."



THE HOUSES: Late 19th-century Queen Anne and Greek Revival as well as beautiful 20th-century Arts and Crafts and Stick Victorian homes are scattered throughout the area. Price tags on four-apartment bungalows sometimes read as little as \$20,000, though grander homes can run in the millions.

WHY BUY NOW? Old homes with Western flair are hard to come by and those are close to Austin, the best life help in town, with music, food, and culture, some of which are getting better by the minute.

OWNERS AND CATTLE: Most of Georgetown's older homes (LEFT) are in what locals call "Old Town," which consists of three national historic districts among its neighborhoods. The town hosts annual cattle drive reenactments (RIGHT).



2 BALL IN THE SIDE POCKET... ...2-PART EPOXY ON THE GARAGE FLOOR.

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Washington, Georgia

- Antebellum mansions for as little as \$350,000
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- Athens and Augusta less than an hour away

THE NEIGHBORHOOD: It's been said before, but yes, when you walk through Washington, Georgia—not just a neighborhood but a proper town—you feel like you've stepped into a Civil War–era plantation. And like you're in one of the most sultry states in the South, yet it's less than an hour's drive from both Athens and Augusta. The town is home to about 5,000 residents, most living on the quiet streets that extend out from its historic public square (bordered by 19th-century commercial buildings). Anyone looking for a small town with excellent weather, a slow pace, and touches of Southern history will find it all here.

THE HOUSES: According to local real estate agent Deborah Roney, Washington has more antebellum mansions—great big plantation houses, the most coveted of which have massive

BEAUTIFUL: Washington's antebellum mansions run from \$400,000 to \$1.5 million. Rated columned on four sides—then any other town in Georgia. It's a market for more modest homes as well, including single, restored 19th-century Queen Anne for less than \$325,000 and dozens of large Victorian cottages for \$430,000.



Best Place for Families

Hampton Heights Historic District
Spartanburg, South Carolina

- A 10-minute walk to downtown Spartanburg
- Good public and private schools
- Parks, playgrounds, and bike lanes

THE NEIGHBORHOOD: If you're seeking a serene, close-knit urban enclave, where kids can knock on neighbors' doors in times of need, Hampton Heights might be your spot. So says resident Kim Webb, who lives here with her husband and 8-year-old son. "This is a tight community," she says. "Everyone knows our daughter where she lives and where she should be." Along with Hampton Heights' award-winning public high school and a PK-5 Montessori school, parents are also drawn by Spartanburg's family events, including a summer concert series. For grownups, there's quick access to a revitalized downtown packed with restaurants and shops. A system of white light in the 1970s, Hampton Heights is making a comeback, thanks in part to a neighborhood organization set on preserving the area's history and architecture.

THE HOUSES: Turn-of-the-century Queen Anne, Dutch Colonial, Colonial Revival, Greek Revival, Arts and Crafts—you name it, it's here. One-third of the neighborhood's 350 properties are on the National Register, and the entire area is part of a local historic district.

WHY BUY NOW? One word: "Gargantuan." You can find a sturdy Arts and Crafts here for \$500,000 or a fully restored Queen Anne for \$250,000. The Preservation Trust of Spartanburg offers qualified buyers assistance with down payments and closing costs, and mortgage rates are locked by the organization's savings warehouse, an affordable source for doors, windows, hardware, and other period-appropriate touches. The city's strong emergency response thanks to a savvy mayor who's recruiting and hiring business downtown, a booming health care industry provides plenty of jobs, and the County and Extended Stay Hotels, both of which are headquartered here.



and up. Most of these gems are nestled in quiet neighborhoods lined with matured oaks and just steps from the historic town square.

WHY BUY NOW? Roney points out that in the past five years, quite a few Washington homes that had been in the same families since the 1800s have popped up in the real estate ads. With generations long family traditions here "gradually fading out," the town has started to attract preservation-minded buyers looking to tackle some of the South's most impressive and hard-to-find architecture.



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Best Place for Gardeners

Old Louisville, Kentucky

- Borders a park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted
- 15 active neighborhood associations
- Third-largest national preservation district

THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Like the famed Garden District of New Orleans, Old Louisville is an urban oasis for the green thumbed. Slaty Kentucky homes face one another across quiet courtyards, and yards overflow with perennials, azaleas, peonies, and magnolia trees. Many houses have evanescent porches and residents revel in the abundance of tall, turning gardenias on a walkway of a competitive sport. Each summer, their efforts are celebrated during a garden tour that draws throngs of pot-piepers to a city better known for bourbon, tobacco, and, of course, horse racing. Old Louisville, developed in the 1870s, suffers from a few cracks and crumbles, but it has 13 neighborhood associations to keep things in order. "A lot of people who left Louisville a long time ago are moving back just because of this neighborhood," says resident Mary Martin, who owns an 1885 Victorian farmhouse. "They love the historic architecture and the diversity."

THE HOUSES: Old Louisville has 48 blocks' worth of Queen Anne, Second Empire, and Stick Victorian, many of which were built to



THIS BEAUTIFUL MANSION IN Old Louisville homes were constructed by local craftsmen, with some still in excellent condition.

impress in the 19th century by walling in tobacco barns and bourbon distilleries. Other styles include Italianate, Tudor and Georgian Revival and while many have been redone, others are climbing for work. Homes range from 2,500 to 7,000 square feet. An attached carriage might run you about \$275,000 and a two-story bungalow about \$400,000. **WHY BUY NOW?** People gobbling up homes in this neighborhood last night one day have the caveat of houses in Glasgow, Illinois and other comparable locations. "But the prices are a lot cheaper," says Martin. The neighborhood was largely forgotten in the mid-20th century as Louisville's affluent residents moved out and the houses here were turned up into apartments or abandoned altogether. Things have changed over the past decade, but the rebirth is ongoing.

Best Place for True Standouts

Albany, Oregon

- Every home is unique
- 12 miles from Oregon State University
- Historic downtown offers restaurants, theaters, and boutiques

THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Despite being in the country, the West Coast is home to great historic architecture, and Albany, Oregon, is proof. The town boasts 100 blocks and four distinct historic districts, worth of it. No two homes are identical. Resident David Overman says of the Victorian architecture lining streets here, "It's like the Williamsburg River town, but Albany is a smaller alternative to nearby Portland and Seaside and takes pride in being a city of attractions, including museums, theaters, waterparks, and job opportunities at area companies like Hewlett-Packard. Another cluster of wineries and organic farms gives it a local feel."

THE HOUSES: When architect George McMath visited Albany in 1907 to inventory historic homes, he found just about every housing style built between 1840 and 1920 represented, including Federal, Gothic Revival, American Foursquare, Second Empire, Eastlake, Italianate, and Colonial Revival. Home prices in Albany's historic districts range from \$100,000 for a run-down Italianate to \$400,000 for a fully redone one. **WHY BUY NOW?** Right now, you're not in it. \$50,000 less up here before it's too late. Despite slumping markets across the country, property values continue to rise here as people put off by growth in Portland and Seaside discover the place's charms. ■



DAVID OVERMAN
OF ALBANY, OREGON
SAYS OF THE VICTORIAN
ARCHITECTURE LINING
STREETS HERE, "IT'S LIKE
THE WILLIAMSBURG RIVER
TOWN, BUT ALBANY IS A
SMALLER ALTERNATIVE
TO NEARBY PORTLAND
AND SEASIDE AND TAKES
PRIDE IN BEING A CITY
OF ATTRactions."



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BY KYLE
MCCORMICK, BEHR

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I'd been putting it off, but when I found out BEHR had a paint and primer in one—it motivated me to get started. Every brush stroke did the work of two. And with NanoGuard technology, it protects your finish and keeps it looking like you just painted it. Now I couldn't be happier...and my neighbors keep piling on the compliments.



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THIS OLD HOUSE
FAMILY PROJECT



PROJECT > Building a Lemonade Stand

How to make a sturdy display table, with instructions for parents and kids

By Chrystle Fiedler Photographs by Wendell T. Webber

AGE RANGE > 5 and up

COST > \$40 to \$50

TIME > 3 hours

DIFFICULTY > Easy. With its straight cuts and slotted construction, this project comes together quickly.

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE ➔



WHEN THE SUN IS HOT and kids are bored, there's nothing better to get them motivated than a project that comes with a built-in reward. This old-fashioned lemonade stand is sure to spark some creative interest, along with a bit of entrepreneurial spirit. And with a few supplies from the home center and tools you already have on hand, you can make it in a few hours. It's easy to assemble—slotted construction means no nails or screws—it's

sturdy and colorful, and it comes apart quickly for storage. This versatile table is also good for indoor use, as a puppet show theater or a science fair display.

There's a lot to keep kids busy with this project: They can sand, paint, and make the sign. And once the table is all set up on a busy stretch of sidewalk, they can mix up a pitcher of ice-cold lemonade and prepare for the thirsty crowds to come running.

SAFETY FIRST

Teach kids good workshop habits from the start. Here are a few guidelines for the tools used in this project:



HAND TOOLS

Start your junior carpenter off right! Measuring and painting are great ways for kids of all ages to get involved.



POWER TOOLS

Jigsaws are better off in adult hands. Older kids can help use the drill or sander with adult supervision.



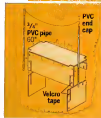
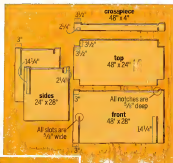
GEAR

Keep sleeves away from saw blades and spinning power tools. Whenever the jigsaw is on, safety glasses are a must.



Lay out the parts

> Using a tape measure and a straightedge, lay out the five individual pieces of the lemonade stand on a 4-by-8-foot sheet of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch birch plywood: the front, two sides, the back-support crosspiece, and the top.



HEY, KIDS!

You can help with measuring the parts so your parents can cut them out.



TOOLS YOU'LL NEED>

- Tape measure and straightedge
- Combination square or framing square
- Clamps
- Drill/driver fitted with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch bit
- Jigsaw
- Random-orbit sander
- Paintbrush and roller
- Safety glasses

MATERIALS TO BUY>

- 4-by-8-foot sheet of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch birch plywood
- Two 5-foot lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch PVC pipe
- Two $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch PVC end caps
- 120-grit sandpaper
- Latex primer
- Exterior paint
- Colored Sharpies
- Card stock
- Velcro tape
- String
- Clothesline clips



MAKE IT EASY Get expanded step-by-step instructions and download templates for this and other family projects at thisoldhouse.com/family



TO PARENTS: A jigsaw can send dust and splinters flying. Be sure everyone has on safety glasses.



Cut out the parts

- > Secure the plywood to the worktable with clamps before you cut. Using a jigsaw, cut out the five parts.
- > Mark slots 3 inches in from the edges on the front, side, and back pieces—down from the top on the sides and up from the bottom on the front and back (see illustration). Make the slots half as deep as the shorter piece in the connection.
- > Using a drill/driver, make $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch holes at the corners of the slots. Cut the slots with a jigsaw, using the holes to turn the blade. Also, cut the corner notches in the top piece.



Sand the wood

- > Using a random-orbit sander and 120-grit sandpaper, sand down all the pieces so they are free of splinters before you paint.

HEY, KIDS! You can help with sanding—just make sure a parent holds on to the sander, too, because it moves a lot when it vibrates.



ONLINE BONUS Watch a video of building this lemonade stand—as well as other family projects—at thisoldhouse.com/family

Think About It

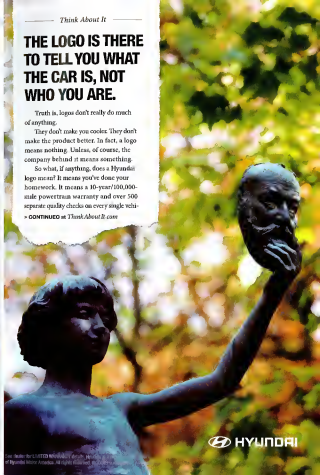
THE LOGO IS THERE TO TELL YOU WHAT THE CAR IS, NOT WHO YOU ARE.

Truth is, logos don't really do much of anything.

They don't make you cooler. They don't make the product better. In fact, a logo means nothing. Unless, of course, the company behind it means something.

So what, if anything, does a Hyundai logo mean? It means you've done your homework. It means a 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty and over 500 separate quality checks on every single vehicle.

> **CONTINUED** at Think About It, page



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TO PARENTS: Speed the drying process by laying the pieces on sawhorses in the sun or by setting up a drying station with fans in the garage.

4

Paint the parts and make the sign

- > Prime the wood with latex primer on all the sides and edges. Allow the primer to dry completely.
- > Using exterior paint, finish the stand in your favorite colors.

> While the paint dries, make a sign by drawing the letters L-E-M-O-N-A-D-E on individual cards with colorful markers.

5

Assemble the stand

- > Stand up the sides, slots facing up. Slide the front, slots facing down, onto the sides. Then slide the crosspiece onto the back.
 - > Cut eight 1-inch tabs of Velcro tape. Peel the paper back off one side of each, and stick them along the front corners of the stand. Peel off the other paper backing, and push a PVC pipe into each corner. Press hard so the Velcro sticks to the pipe.
 - > Cut a piece of string 1 foot longer than the distance between the pipes. Drop one end of the string 6 inches into the top of one pipe. Secure it with a pipe cap. Thread the other end of the string into the opposite pipe, and secure it the same way.
 - > Attach the sign to the string with clothespins.
- Then get ready for your thirsty customers!



TO PARENTS: Have kids hold the pieces steady while you put the slots together, but watch out for pinched fingers!

Lemonade Recipes

You'll draw the thirsty crowds better if you offer them some flavorful choices. Here are a few different lemonade recipes, courtesy of SunKist, for you to try out on the crowds that are sure to mob your stand on a hot day.

FRESH-FRUIT LEMONADE

- 1 cup fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup ripe strawberries, sliced, or whole raspberries or blueberries

4 cups cold water
ice cubes

1 lemon, unpeeled, cut into cartwheel slices
In blender or food processor, combine berries, lemon juice, and sugar, blend until smooth. Pour into large pitcher. Add cold water, lemon cartwheel slices, and ice; stir well. Garnish each serving with additional fruit or fresh mint leaves, if desired.

MAKES 4 SERVINGS



PASSIONATE LEMONADE

- 1 cup fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 3 cups water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 4 cups passion-fruit-flavored tea*
- 4 fresh lemon twists
- fresh mint sprigs

*If tea is presweetened, the amount of sugar may need to be decreased.

Combine lemon juice, water, and sugar, blend well to dissolve sugar. Add tea and mix well. Chill. Pour mix over ice cubes in tall glasses. Garnish with a lemon twist and a mint sprig.

MAKES 4 SERVINGS

TROPICAL LEMONADE

- 2 cups fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 6 cups water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 16 1-inch pieces of fresh pineapple

Combine lemon juice, water, sugar, and ginger, blend well. Chill. Place ice cubes and four pineapple pieces in a tall glass and add chilled lemonade.

MAKES 4 SERVINGS



REAL OLD-FASHIONED LEMONADE

- 1 cup fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 3/4 cup sugar, or to taste
- 4 cups cold water
- ice cubes
- 1 lemon, unpeeled, cut into cartwheel slices

In a large pitcher, combine the lemon juice and sugar; stir to dissolve the sugar. Add the remaining ingredients and blend well.

VARIATIONS

Pink Lemonade

Add a few drops of red food coloring or grenadine syrup.

Honeyed Lemonade

Substitute honey to taste for the sugar.

MAKES 6 SERVINGS

All recipes prepared with the permission of SunKist Growers Inc. All rights reserved.

PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) JANE BROWN/GETTY IMAGES; KATHLEEN AG; JACQUES/GETTY IMAGES; LARRY D. PETERSON/GETTY IMAGES; (BOTTOM) JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; (BOTTOM RIGHT) JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES

THE 4,000 POUND LOVE LETTER IN YOUR DRIVEWAY.

Nothing says "I love you" like six air bags,¹ brake assist, and active front head restraints. At least not when it comes to your family. And if you really want to ensure their safety, comfort, and well-being, there's nothing better than the 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe. It includes all those vital safety features standard, though they hardly begin to tell the whole story.

A Santa Fe is born different. It takes 2,000 peo-

> CONTINUED at ThinkAboutIt.com



HYUNDAI



So, You Pumped Your Walls Full of Soybeans?

» A Chicago couple uses spray-foam insulation made from the versatile legume to keep their kitchen cool in the summer and warm in the winter

BY KEITH FRADOLFI PHOTOSHOPS BY BOB STERN

WITH ENERGY COSTS RISING, you're probably wondering how to keep precious dollars from flying out all the leaks in your walls. The best solution is insulation. It will not only keep things up close and cozy, it will also keep your air conditioning from going into overdrive when the weather's still warm. But before you start tracing down drafts, you'll want to thoroughly research your options.

Chicago homeowners Jason and Jennifer LaFleur practically became experts last year after insulating the newly renovated kitchen in their 1919 Arts and Crafts bungalow.

They learned that unlike the traditional pink stuff, some of the most innovative insulation on the market is green, made from various materials, including recycled denim and shredded newspaper. But the most sought-after spray foam derived from soybeans. This ecofriendly alternative to spray foams—pumped principally with polychloroacetylene—is what the LaFleurs chose for the hub of their home.

While the editors of This Old House have written about soy-based spray foam before, we have yet to see it in any of our homes. So to get the real scoop on soy, we asked the LaFleurs the questions that only people who have done the work, drilled out the ends, and lived with the stuff for a while could answer.

Here's what we learned.

Q Spray-foam insulation, whether it's made mainly from soybeans or polychloroacetylene, is pricier compared with fiberglass batt—\$1.90 to \$3 per square foot installed versus 45 cents. Is it worth the extra money?

A We wanted the best, most energy-efficient and sustainable insulation we could find for our drafty old house. Soy spray foam was the eco-friendly choice, but we also knew it would get us a better return on our investment with cheaper heating bills: about 15 percent less a year. Spray foam provided a much tighter air barrier than batting. And since we live in Illinois, we figured, why not support local soybeans farmers? There are a ton of them here.



Soy-based spray foam insulated the LaFleurs' kitchen walls and ceiling. Jennifer and Jason LaFleur, hundreds of years on, demonstrate.

Photo: Bob Stern/ThinkAboutIt.com



See how our soy-based products help make your home healthier at thisoldhouse.com/interiors



The Soy-Built House

Soy isn't just for sustenance. There are plenty of other uses based on products grabbing space on the shelves of your local green-building depot. Here are a few of our favorites.

PLYWOOD ▶ Columbia Forest Products has traded adhesives packed with formaldehyde—a known carcinogen—for soy versions in its plywood and particleboard panels. columbiaply.com/products/soy CAVE/PET ▶ Woodstone now offers EcoScul soy-based polyurethane coatings on more than 25 styles of its eco-friendly natural wood carpets. See usonline.com for details.

PAINTS, SEALERS, AND STOPGAPS ▶ Green Planet Paints uses soy-based resins in its 605 paints. SoyGuard sealant/sealer oil as a solvent is its water-repellent and wood-saturating Penner sealers. These are also sold in its Soy-Sol paint remover. See greenplanetpaints.com, soyguard.com, and penner.com

COUNTERTOPS ▶ Simaris Bioconposites' colored and counter-top materials are made with recycled newspaper bonded together by soy-based resins. simarisbiocomposites.com **URBANCANTS** ▶ Reusable LatexCants' new BPL is a biodegradable, soy-based substitute for all-purpose penetrating blue wax with poly-urethane, sold at WD-40. reusable.com

Q There are a half-dozen companies that make soy-based foams. Which did you choose, and why?

A We went with BioFoam, because the company uses water and blowing agents to get the foam into the walls instead of CFCs or HCFCs, which are greenhouse gases. We didn't want chemicals seeping through the house, and the foam itself didn't even smell bad. We chose a closed-cell version, which functions as a seal and is stronger than the open-cell one. This type is more expensive, but it achieves a higher R-value of 19, using less material, and it also prevents condensation from building up inside the walls. Another selling point was that BioFoam guarantees its foam for the life of the house.

Q Unlike some blow-in foam insulation, the soy-based spray foam works only when the wall's open. That means more demo but does it also require professional installation?

A Soy foam expands. So while it fills every crack and crevice between the studs, the pressure can also burst existing wall cladding. This wasn't really an issue for us because we were demolishing our old kitchen. But, yes, we did have to hire someone. The installers sprayed the insulation from a hose attached to a truck parked outside. The work took two days. They blew it in on the first day, and because the foam expands as it dries, they had to come back a second day to trim down the excess and fill any small gaps.

Q Can you spray it around electrical wiring in your walls?

A We've heard this can be a problem in older homes. Yes, soy foam is actually chemically compatible with the plastic that covers wiring. It might have been a problem with old, exposed wires, but since we had the walls open, we updated the wiring too. We did, however, have to plan ahead for our future electrical needs, as it's difficult to make a few wires through the closed-cell foam after it's hardened. It's easier with open cell because that stays soft. We added extra outlets and even had conduit in which to run cables for our flat-screen TV. We can always add more lines through that if we decide to add speakers later.

Q The insulation has now carried you through a winter and a summer. How do you rate its performance?

A Our kitchen is definitely the warmest—actually—the warmest room in the house. There are also benefits we hadn't expected: Spray foam is an excellent sound barrier. We don't hear the ambulances running down our neighboring street on the way to the hospital anymore! Now our kitchen is the quietest room, too. And even if it's as bright, it also improves our indoor air quality by blocking out pollen and pollutants.

Q We are big soybean fans, so we have to ask: Can you eat this stuff?

A Not just because it's made from soybeans doesn't mean it's edible for people—or animals and insects for that matter. Most species don't like it either. ■



Back or knee pain? Take two of these.

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Who would've thought something you put in your shoes could relieve the pain in your back or knees? Introducing Dr. Scholl's® Back and Knee Pain Relief Orthotics with Shock Guard™ technology to absorb jarring impacts. They're clinically proven to work with every step you take. So take Dr. Scholl's® for back or knee pain.

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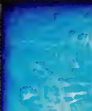
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MARVIN
WINDOWS AND DOORS
Built around you.

Cooling Classic Homes the Modern Way



Window air conditioning units are noisy, drafty and unsightly. And installing conventional air duct systems in old houses often requires carving up closets and walls at great expense and disruption. There's an easier, more efficient way...

Today, more owners of older homes are discovering the benefits of ductless mini-split air systems. And Fujitsu's Halcyon systems are state of the art.

Like conventional HVAC systems, the Fujitsu Halcyon system locates the noisy compressor and condenser outside the house. But Halcyon systems eliminate the need for a basement- or attic-located evaporator unit and bulky ductwork by using thin copper tubing that pumps refrigerant directly to inconspicuous wall-mounted blowers inside. Even more remarkable, this same unit works in reverse as winter, absorbing heat from the outside air and moving it indoors to heat your home. The result? Efficient cooling and heating for year-round, whole-house comfort in most climates.

Available in numerous size-and-match capacities and configurations, there's a Halcyon mini-split system for even the most difficult to heat and cool areas.



Halcyon is for you if:

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- ☒ The noise of your window A/C prevents you from hearing the TV
- ☒ You don't want to lose closet space to ductwork
- ☒ You want to reduce allergens and manage room temperature
- ☒ \$20,000 quotes for central air give you sticker shock
- ☒ You'd like to lower your utility bill up to 50%
- ☒ You want a system that switches from heating to cooling automatically
- ☒ You're tired of paying to cool or heat rooms you don't use

For over 35 years, we've been making the hottest places cool and the coolest places more comfortable.

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FUJITSU

TOOLBOX



Let Us Spray

With good nozzle on the end of your hose, you'll save you both time and water.

BY JAMES HAYES FOR THE EDITORIAL BOARD



HAIR'S BEAUTY

When it comes to shower spray nozzles, there's nothing like a rubber foot. One made of spongy foam for washing. It gives a gentle, frictionless feeling, not just the sliding or rubbing of a rubber foot. But it's also the only one that's been tested by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It's the only one that's been tested by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It's the only one that's been tested by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Smearing petroleum jelly on the threads of a hose coupling helps prevent mineral deposits that make a nozzle tough to remove.

BIG KNOCKOUT Bending this submersible nozzle sends soft sponges for soaking the gutter or cleaning the car. Let go and it shrinks automatically. Day in or run it wet and it keeps sucking. Filling sponges soaks the 100 feet hose for less. \$12.99. besttools.com

POINT AND SHOOT With its futuristic styling, this plastic point-and-shoot features an infinitely variable spring, a metal tip, a laser-mounted white sensor, and an adjustable hand-mounted trigger. Attaches to your hose and is a built-in light. \$12.99. besttools.com

The most delicate wand in the greenhouse world, from the Flogi 10's, made in China, really works. These two most modern, which are 100% fully made in America. \$12.99. besttools.com

ROCK ON Drives a new little breaker has also spray pattern, for any outdoor work, including the washing down of a small flower bed and the clearing out of a wheelbarrow. Plus, it comes in a choice of six colors. \$12.99. besttools.com

CLASSIC FOR For smaller garden watering jobs, such as sandy areas, grass, sand, the finished 100 ft. hose will be 100% made in the U.S. and the hose has a built-in body and a convenient plastic shut-off valve. \$12.99. besttools.com

THE SCHOOL Learn the basics of using, quality and durability. \$12.99. besttools.com

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SPRAY WAND
A watering wand is a spray wand with a green trigger gun that allows you to spray water where you want it. The wand, for hanging plants and deepening beds, telescopes from 22 to 42 inches. Its rotating head has a 360-degree spray pattern. \$35. mactools.com

SPRINKLER
Giving small outdoor gardens and plant beds a drink is easy with this 17-inch aluminum wand. It features a 100-percentage spray head, a comfortable foam rubber grip, and a quick trigger lock. The fully adjustable head can be used to water lawns, flower beds, or trees. \$25. gardenline.com

online bonus

For more examples of the latest tools, visit tools.ten.com

What to Look for in a Ho

Good advice from this Old-House-Inspection contractor: Roger Cook

- Keep the length to 50 feet. Anything longer gets cumbersome.
- Look for a 1/2-inch inside diameter to provide adequate water flow.
- Choose thick-walled brass couplings that can't be crushed.
- Select from the following hose types, depending on whether you want to put it to rest and how long you want it to last.

US1151 L Made of recycled PVC reinforced with polyester mesh, these hoses are light and inexpensive but get stiff in cold weather and tend to kink. About 100 feet long, they're easy to use. Features a 1/2-inch black hose with 1/2-inch brass, auto, and quick-connect couplings. Lifetime warranty. 1/2 inch, 50 feet, \$28. gardenline.com



US1151 S Synthetic EPDM rubber with polyester reinforcement is supple when cold, strong when hot, resists abrasion, and doesn't kink. Roger's favorite despite the weight and expense. 100-foot. Customizes for a long-to-go longer or shorter, with 1/2-inch or 3/4-inch brass couplings. Lifetime warranty. 1/2 inch, 50 feet, \$55. gardenline.com



US1151 L Reverses your garden by letting water back out of its recycled rubber and plastic walls. Medium expansion hose. 100-foot. Unlike most hoses, the hose is self-cleaning and UV and freeze resistant. Delivers water evenly along its length and needs no pressure regulator. Lifetime owner warranty. 1/2 inch outside diameter, 50 feet, \$30. www.products.net



US1151 S It will be hard to find the joints around the joints. It's a good idea when you get a hose. But which one? The best only bring on the best. And there's a reason. These hoses are made from a special material that's easy to use. 100-foot. UV resistant, opaque polyethylene material, the strongest, lightest, and most durable hose. 1/2 inch, 50 feet, \$24.95. www.products.net



COLOR.

CORRECTOR.



"A quality primer is my secret for covering bad colors. That's why I use KILZ primer."

—Robert Knapik, DGC crew and pro painter for 20 years



Professional painters know. Applying KILZ primer over old colors helps you achieve your new color choice with the fewest coats and least amount of work. Its powerful formula works magic on even the toughest color changes; dark over light colors or light over dark. For true colors in fewer steps, choose KILZ.

KILZ The perfect start to a great finish!

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install a propane tankless water heater.

Propane tankless water heaters are the ideal choice for those who are concerned about the planet, but who also want plenty of hot water. They're better for the environment, giving off less than one-fifth the carbon emissions compared to electric water heaters and reducing standby energy loss up to 50 percent. And since propane tankless water heaters only heat water on demand, they don't provide a nearly endless supply while lowering water heating bills up to 60%. Making them the perfect choice for your home and the planet we all call home. For more on tankless water heaters, visit usepropane.com.



PROPANE
DISCIPLINED ENERGY



{ overview }

the surface, or the finish color won't stick well in the process. Years of greasy fingerprints and cooking inhibits paint adhesion. You can remove most of the gunk with Savagrim® or a degreaser—the former if the cabinets are grime is thick—but it may take a couple of passes. After about one 100-oz sander to help the paint stick

Cleaning is the most important step in the process. Years of greasy fingerprints and cooking splatters can leave a layer of grime that inhibits paint adhesion. You can remove most of the gunk with TSP substitute (a cleanser from DAP or Savogran) or a degreaser—the former if the cabinets are not too dirty, or the stronger degreaser if the grime is thick—but *always* take a couple of passes. After that, you'll need to scrub on the surface with some 100-grit sandpaper to help the paint stick.

The primer you use can also make or break the finish. To get a glossy surface, you need to use a "high build" sandable primer, such as Easiflex from Fine Paints of Europe, to best fill the wood and even the surface. The sandable part of that equation is imperative, so that you can smooth the surface before painting on the finish coat. You may even need two coats of primer to completely fill the grain.

Take the doors and drawers flat as the paint levels, make yourself a pegged drying rack by drilling screws up through several pieces of scrap wood. That way you can flip your work as soon as it's dry to the touch. Also, screw caphooks in to the edges of doors and drawers so you can grab hold and move them in out of the paint zone; then hang them up for out-of-the-way drying.

The formula at each paint you use contributes to the smooth look. Traditionally, painting cabinets for a high traffic area such as a kitchen required using oil-based paints. However, working with oils can be messy, and the fumes are toxic. Fortunately, water latex paints will never cure self-level and flow as well as oils, they're getting close. Latex formulas specified for cabinetry—labeled "100% acrylic"—will create an even, durable finish. And, in many cases, they're also low in volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, which make that housewifely smell

As long as you're sprucing things up, consider changing the hardware or putting on a faux finish (see "Style Guide," far right) for that added wow factor.

1. FIRST-Order Statistics

- [illegible]

{ step by step }

Prep the room. 10

Cover the countertop adjacent to the cabinet with rosin paper and painter's tape. Cover the backsplash with 0.5-millimeter plastic.

Flag each cabinet door or drawer with corresponding string with matching numbered piece of tape so you'll know which piece goes where. Remove all pulls and knobs, and then unscrew hinges from both the cabinet boxes and the doors. Pull out the drawers, and, if possible, remove the fronts.

Using a sponge and the appropriate cleanser, wipe down the doors, drawer fronts, and cabinet frames whenever you plan to paint (DOWNT).

If you're missing your old finger, also tag the paired finger with **<** and their dates and locations for easier reidentification.

◀ **TIP**

44 Prime the cabinets

Using a putty knife, fill any chips or divots with wood putty. Allow to dry and sand smooth. Fill any hardware holes if you plan on changing out the knobs and pulls. (INSET)

Using 100-grit sandpaper, sand the putty smooth and rough up the cabinet's finish. Sand with the grain, and apply enough coarse-grit sandpaper into any creases, ticks, or dents without rounding over the edges. Smooth sandpaper to the edge of the doors and drawers—on the top edge of some cabinets, cut the edge of the bottom edge of some cabinets and drawers.

Lay the doors face-down. Using a 2½-inch paintbrush, apply a coat of primer brushful against the grain and feather with a soft brush. Paint the interior panel before the rail and stile. Let the primer dry to the touch before flipping the piece to paint the other side. Prime the outside of cabinet boxes and the inside of doors. Double seal the bottom doors to

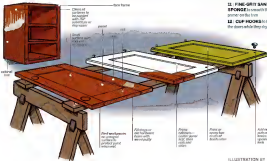
Let the doors and driver fronts dry to the touch, keeping them flat to the panel finish off. Then buff them with the dual back to a moderate shine.

Send the primer 30

Allow the primer to dry for several hours. Using a random orbit sander and 220-grit sandpaper, smooth away any brushstrokes in the primer on the panels and other flat surfaces. (RIGHT)

Sand the trim using a fine-grit sanding sponge. Push the sponge into the groove of any trim detailing (INSET). Sand the cabinet boxes and drawers to the same degree.

Wipe the surface thoroughly, then wipe the mdown with a tack cloth. If necessary, apply a second coat of primer and sand the surface until you achieve a smooth, grain-free base coat.

ILLUSTRATION BY
CAROLYN BEEBE



4 Prime application: Spray the paint on

To keep the paint smooth, you should use a sprayer on the cabinet doors and face frames. But for a superior finish on the doors and drawer fronts, you can apply a single coat with an aerosol paint sprayer (#834-47). Spray the edges first, then fill in the rest of the door. Make sure to overlap each pass by about 50 percent, and don't let up on the trigger until the spray is completely off the surface.

Keep the doors and drawers flat and level until they are dry to the touch. Then hang them to dry completely.

BUILD YOUR SKILL
Learn how to use an aerosol paint sprayer.
Workshop p. 126



TIP > If your cabinets are not level, feel the gap by adjusting the hinges until the door and drawer fronts look even.

46 Brush on the finish color

Use a new chest-tipped paintbrush to apply the finish color. Beginning on the back of the doors and drawer fronts, brush in the paint, going with the grain. Paint the joints first, then work your way out to the ribs and sides. Apply a thin coating to avoid drips and smudges (#377).

While the doors and drawers are drying, keep them perfectly flat to allow the paint to level off. Move them to the cabinet boxes and face frames.

Once the doors and drawers are dry to the touch, flip them over and coat the face, again working from the interior panel out to the ribs and sides, but then wait for them to be dry to the touch. Then hang them to dry for another 2 hours before applying the second coat.



46 Install the doors, drawers, and hardware

Once the cabinets have totally cured (another day or two depending on the weather), attach the hinges to the doors and then fit the cabinet boxes in place by turning the adjustment screws (#377). Install the drawer faces.

Reinstall the knobs and pulls.

{ style guide }

Color changes everything. But color with a little flair can change the style of your cabinets from plain and simple to striking, chic, rustic, provincial or modern. Here are ideas for our favorite faux finishes that can spice up your kitchen style.



< CRACKLE

This weathered finish comes from a special "crackling glass" available at paint stores. Apply the glass over a dry base coat, brushing in only one direction (think for large marks and this for fine cracks). Let it dry, then brush with a flat top coat of the base color. Brushing in perpendicular to the first will start to form cracks. As it dries, a process that takes about an hour.



< DISTRESSED

Whether it's simply worn or truly lived up, the rustic finish made up of layered colors and speckled with paint (to mimic fly spots). When the paint is dry, you can "distress" the finish by hitting it with a chain and lightly sanding in the spots where cabinets get the most use to reveal the colors underneath.



< ANTIQUED

This process makes the surface look aged. Spread the aging process by dipping the tips of a paintbrush in a color lighter than the cabinets, dabbing the excess onto the walls until the brush is almost dry and lightly grazing the surface of the flat face, corners, or seams.



< HIGH GLOSS

Not only will a high gloss finish make dirty fingerprints better than any other paint, it will also simulate the look of metal or glass in a modern setting.

To achieve your modern cabinets, paint a high gloss clear acrylic varnish over your final coat to add depth and reflect a glossy finish.



BEFORE / AFTER



give your grill the works

Turn your burger-flipping station into an outdoor kitchen where you can prep, cook, and clean up all in one place. Here's how

NOTHING DRINKS A CROWD LIKE THE KITCHEN, but who wants to hang out—never mind cook—outdoors on a gorgeous summer day? Not us. The solution: Move the kitchen outside. But simply plunking a grill on the patio isn't quite the look. What you want is a workstation that's practical enough to turn out a meal and attractive enough to bring cook and guests together to share a drink and shed the stress—just like your indoor kitchen, but with a better view.

Industrial designer Ed Polak, a grill master who much prefers outdoor cooking to the indoor variety, designed the outdoor kitchen shown at left for the Aurora New York House, he shares with us. The Old House design director Amy Rosenfeld. But when grilling season arrived this year, Polak was still envisioning shops and bricks on the gas grill he had propped on a makeshift restaurant cart stand—and longing for more room to prepare, feed and place platters. "If the meat's done and you want to take it off the fire," he says, "where do you put it down while you wait for the people to finish cooking?"

BY AMANDA LEVY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIMBLEY ANDERSON
STYLING BY DONALD LA PENA

Today his outdoor kitchen, built with help from 20th-century actor Mark Powers, provides much more than counter space. The island station that surrounds the double grill Polster bought on clearance two years ago has storage cabinets, a sink, plus plenty of prep and serving space—and has been furnished like a piece of furniture. “I cook outdoors at least every other day,” he says. “I smoke meats, cook fish on wooden planks, and roast on the rotisserie.” In other words, he doesn’t just have a new kitchen; he has a whole new culinary outlook.

Outdoor Kitchen Basics

Your investment in an outdoor-cooking set-up can range from a couple thousand dollars like Rauscher and Polster’s to over \$100,000 (wow, but true). The following design tips will help you set a budget and get the job done from start to serving finish.

Location, location, location

Site your cooking area with any access to the indoor kitchen in mind. “Who wants to carry food and dishes 250 feet from the house?” asks Stefan Thuliet, a Berkeley, California, landscape architect. Thuliet says an ideal location is about 20 feet from the door closest to your indoor refrigerator. Polster’s grilling station fits the bill: It’s 20 feet from the kitchen door. Safety is also a consideration, and state codes enforce what common sense should dictate: Don’t place the cooker too close to the house. “In New Jersey, the grill must be 5 feet away from any exterior wall,” says Bill Woodcock, a landscape architect based in Clark, New Jersey. Whenever you live, check building and fire-safety codes before hammering out an outdoor kitchen plan.

Plan ahead for amenities

Decide before building whether to mix utilities for your outdoor kitchen—it’s a much easier (and cheaper) job doing it after. Gas and electric lines together cost about \$2,500 to install; remodeling will probably bump-up the bill by \$500, says Woodcock. If you do include utility lines, consider adding electrical outlets, too, so you can run a radio or a blender (don’t forget a meat mallet). But if hardwiring is beyond your budget, at least if you can’t create a full-service kitchen with a propane tank. These



PRO ADVICE



“At least 15 inches of countertop on either side of the grill gives you space for a prep zone as well as a serving area.” —ANNA JENSEN, KITCHEN DESIGNER

blending grill trips that you run off a gas burner and use the ones at the propane tank (or) and a built-in burner on a side unit can still work with a propane tank and a side burner.

Be realistic

Build only what you’ll use all the time. “Think about your cooking style,” says Anna Jensen, a kitchen designer in Minneapolis. How many people will work in the kitchen? What meals will you prepare? In other words, please before you upturn that \$10,000

price tag. Different for the copious outdoor you may think you need. Instead, look for versatile amenities you can build in, such as a pullout cutting board (cubus.com) or an oversized paper towel holder (youngblumliving.com). And bechoke with coffee appliances: A small refrigerator is useful. Think, say, “Is it a dishwasher or a necessary unless you store dishes outside?”

Go for flow

“The best setup includes the grill, a counter for food prep and a landing zone for



ICE CHEST



SINK



STORAGE



STORAGE

GRILL: The homeowner’s new grill sits on a stainless steel island with a built-in sink and faucet. The island is made of stone and has a built-in storage cabinet for propane tanks.

SINK: The stainless steel island has a built-in sink and faucet, set into a stone countertop.

STORAGE: The island has a built-in storage cabinet for propane tanks.

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plates and trays, plus a sink for cleanup,” says Jensen. If you decide to include an island, look for versatile amenities you can build in, such as a pullout cutting board (cubus.com) or an oversized paper towel holder (youngblumliving.com). And bechoke with coffee appliances: A small refrigerator is useful. Think, say, “Is it a dishwasher or a necessary unless you store dishes outside?”

Consider climate

Choose materials that stand up to the weather. If you live in a region where winters are harsh, “materials and appliances should be rated for extreme tempera-

tures,” says Jensen. Stainless steel is a good choice. If you decide to include an island, look for versatile amenities you can build in, such as a pullout cutting board (cubus.com) or an oversized paper towel holder (youngblumliving.com). And bechoke with coffee appliances: A small refrigerator is useful. Think, say, “Is it a dishwasher or a necessary unless you store dishes outside?”

Connect with the house

You can literally tie an outdoor kitchen to your home with a pergola or screen, or by making the island an extension of the house.

But even a separate cooking station might repeat your home’s materials and style. Polster’s counters echo the polished granite floors inside, and the island’s screen mimics the stained glass in the doorway. By building the kitchen at the patio’s edge, Polster even managed to integrate with his wooded property—and give himself an opportunity to enjoy the landscape. “I used to spend all my time running back and forth to the house when I was grilling,” he says. “Now I can sit up, get to work, and take a break.”

STYLING YOUR ISLAND

Look for a variety of outdoor kitchen designs. *Stylings by Lisa Jensen*



> Build a Better Barbecue

If you've got some basic skills and a couple of handy friends, you too can build a grill setup like this one. Here's the lowdown: [instructables.com](#)

The entire kitchen consists of a stainless steel grill on a 32-foot-long veneered plywood base, flanked by cabinets below and 48-inch-wide countertop space on either side. The countertop sits 36 inches from the ground—a comfortable height for both food prep and elbow grepping. The island's base is covered in a faux stone veneer, which is lighter and cheaper than the real thing.

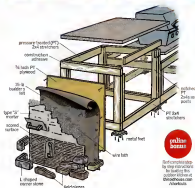
Inspired? TCH technical editor Mark Foweraker took you through the construction.

1 Build the frame. The base is made up of three rectangles: a 24-inch-high 32-inch-wide corner brace to support the grill and the steel it sits on, plus one 36-inch-high 48-inch-wide brace on each side. To build the posts for each brace, cut up two pressure-treated 2x6s and screw them together horizontally by 3/32-inch rebar at the top and bottom. Tie the posts together by running 2x4 stretchers between the notches (and bottom) and securing them with deck screws.

2 Sheathe it with plywood. Screw all three boards together from odd-aluminum feet at each corner to ensure the frame sits above the ground. Cut 1/2-inch-thick plywood (weeds) 1/2 inch shorter than each board's height—again, to provide clearance between the wood and the ground. Run a bead of construction adhesive along the posts and stretchers; then adhere the plywood to them and secure with screws.

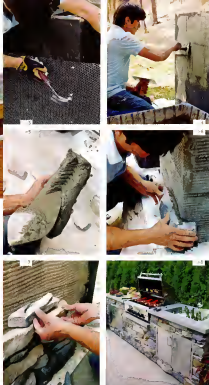
3 Waterproof the base and prep it for masonry. To keep moisture out of the plywood, protect the base by stapling on 15-pound outdoor felt. Then nail strips of wire mesh over the seams by 1 1/2 inches to provide a surface for the mortar to adhere to.

4 Apply the "parge" coat. Mix up a bag of type "S" mortar to a spreadable consistency by twirling it to your towel. (Use gloves to spread a 1/2-inch layer over



callie boards

But complete this by dry run before building the exterior kitchen at the outdoors area.



the bath, forcing the mortar into the bath's crevices without bending the mesh. After the coat has cured and is firm to the touch, which takes about an hour, rake the surface horizontally with a 1/2-inch notched trowel. The scoring lines will serve as guides for setting the stones, to make the lines as uniform as possible.

5 Separate the stones; start mudding. While different sizes of stones, short long, and rectangular pieces. Sorting the stones in this fashion will allow you to create a random color pattern on the surface and make it easier to keep a stone of a specific size. Then, using a pointing trowel, butter on L-shaped stone with a 1-inch layer of stone veneer mortar. Scrape excess mortar from the edge of the stone; then use the trowel point to create V-shaped air pockets along the mortared face. These pockets produce a vacuum effect when the stone is pressed onto the parge coat, holding the stone in place.

6 Set the first course. Starting at a corner, set the L-shaped stone by pressing it firmly into the mortar groove. Be sure to scrape any excess mortar from the stone's top and sides before setting it to create a good seal. Before applying mortar to any stone, dry fit and trim with a grinder as needed. Work from side to side, filling, mortaring, and placing stones.

7 Work up as well as over. After setting the first course around the four sides, start the second from the same corner, alternating the orientation of the L-shaped core piece. Continue setting subsequent courses horizontally, interlocking better stones for a natural look. Minimize cuts by dry fitting several stones at a time.

8 Add final touches. Allow stones to set for 24 hours, install countertop material and grill. Then grill cooking! ■



011702 At the center of the new home is an old detached from the 1834 farmhouse and, deep. Moved to the 1940s not expanded. In the 1950s, the structure had been into the garage.

010201 Carefully selected. The design brought kitchen with light. New sub beams act as structural cross. A better version of the original exposed timber in the living room. The island top is salvaged timber.

EXISTING KITCHEN
RELOCATED
TO GIVE LOT
NEAR DRIVE



SECOND LIFE

The 1830s farmhouse with 1950s additions was a shoo-in for a teardown.

Then a pair of old-house buffs decided to revive its antique core and build a gracious, vintage-look home around it

■ DESIGN: CONNORS
■ PHOTOGRAPHY: JORDAN PANK
■ PROJECT: GUY CARLTON KANON
■ STYLING: ANTHONY GLENN



HAS A STORY. In the case of one northern Wheatland County, New York, home, the tale is one part fact and another part fiction, complete with a World War II-era suspension, a tangle of dithering house guests, and an almost-cloverleaf-shaped swimming pool.

The place had its secrets. It was, according to the homeowners, a so-called "magnificent" piece of land. Her aunt said she'd bought many acres of farmland and raising hogs. On it, the previous owners had put in an enormously odd pool, a fish-tank shape that had been exposed after bedrock blasted digging. And despite neighbors knowing that any new owner would surely knock the place down to build a McMansion, the buyers found it just to like about the house. They were sold on its modest scale, it meant that almost every room had good light and views. They also loved the exposed beams and chestnut floors in the front's 19th-century core. It felt like a classically built country house—exactly what they had been looking for.

The millhouse, of course, was a real wreck: No insulation and antiquated plumbing and heating systems meant the job wouldn't be a

SPICE. An original timber beam and the old firebox fit the living room for its 1834 beginnings. The rest of the home is antique—cabinets were salvaged from the floor deck on



Downstair, an 18-inch-thick
and half-inch-deep ply the 150
square foot slab sits on 10 in.
the floor. The rest of the slab
spans over the joists, and
is supported by two 12 in. x 12 in.
columns. The slab is 12 in. thick
and sits on the original
portion of the house, and
rests on the existing walls.



"Don't build bigger than you need. Better to stay small and spend any extra on the details."

—RICK O'LEARY, DESIGNER

far from a get-and-quit job. But the project would preserve original details and protect the nooks of "Irishie" that "Who needs a new one when we can fix this one we've got!"

The O'Leary duo, working with architect Kevin Quacken, created a 3,000-square-foot floor plan that addressed the house's shortcomings: no proper entryway, a cramped kitchen, a bathroom shortage, and a first-floor master bedroom with little privacy. The second renovation would give the owners the big kitchen they really wanted, a home office that would double as a guest room, and a laundry, powder room, and mudroom on the first floor, plus an open-screen porch—all while staying close to the house's original footprint. The design called for adding 150 square feet to the foundation but otherwise building up to make space. "We got lots of square footage inside without overstepping the old walls," says Quacken.

On the occasion, detailing would take cues from the "parent" house, still standing next door, and from traditional New England farmhouse style. These features would include cedar clapboards and shutters, and window trim mimicking aluminum from the original 1834 exterior. But when it came to the interior, Rick and Liz O'Leary pictured a different house. To establish the feel of a 1930s upgrade, they designed every room and passageway with details indicative of the period, from fixed shelving and glass-front cabinets to rainfall bathtubs and retro tilework.

Work began in the living room, the unique corner of the new house. The house was stripped to the floor joists and all the walls were reframed and insulated, but in this room, with an original fireplace, contractors Gordon Moench and Tim Lippert assumed a responsibility when they could. This included, Moench says, "the base timber structure, the floor structure, the fireplace, and an exposed beam." The ceiling, raised 2 inches from the original beam height, a old house technique, at 7 feet. After discovering that the chestnut floorboards had



ASIDE: Built-in glass-front china cabinets and window pocket doors create the illusion of a 20th-century kitchen.

NOTE: Panels along the kitchen's back flanking wall provide access to a storage attic and a walkway that leads to the exterior porch, which is perfectly aligned for second-floor.

OPPOSITE: The laundry room's open shelves, corner brackets, painted woodwork, and antique counter give it a time-honored look.



been supplemented with a lower-grade wood, they removed the chertous and set a scale. After the room was parol down to its bones, the designers finished it in 19th-century-farmhouse style, using wide pine floorboards, flat boardboards, and six-over-six windows with flat casings with a beaded edge. Says O'Leary, "This was the model for the rest of the house."

When rigging the room set in a newer wing, and so is the design team saw a chance to work in 1920s-half-bathrooms built on data, especially, which have a paneled pocket door.

Having retrofitted the master suite to the new spaces, the O'Learys set about securing the first-floor one-story former bedroom wing, one as expensive new kitchen, bumping up the room's roof to double height for a solar sag ceiling. Architecturally, this room and its related house's most modern, but its surfaces evoke both of the house's period styles. The vaulted ceiling is lined with tongue-and-groove boards resembling 19th-century planks, the crown mold is topped with the old chertous boards salvaged from the living room floor. Early-20th-century fixtures include flat-panel cabinet doors and low-pull hardware.

The old kitchen, and other 1920s one-story addition, offered a proposition for a combined home office and guest bedroom, with the new first-floor powder room located next door. Bumping up and another floor on top of it, the O'Learys made way for the master bedroom and bath. The owners, one of whom works in New York City's residential and water market and has scored every a magnificent pre-War II apartment building, had particular ideas for finishing the master bath. The 1920s-style flourishes they wanted to date country house include a Carrara marble countertop and a basket weave marble tile floor.

Reaction from neighbors has assured the owners and their design team that the renovation met needs of three small goals as well: for the house to fit with the neighborhood's character; for the project was finished, it based on one piece say, "This is the best example of deconstructing the over area," says Rick O'Leary. Though the house had grown by about 500 square feet, it felt cozier than ever. It was the perfect compromise—both to the owners' vision and the top-to-bottom modern look their client to heart.



1006 Asymmetrical arched windows in the master bedroom looked like they ran the wheel for the showerhouse rather than the house.

1010 The house owner chose classic black and white schemes for the master bath, with a vanity top and backsplash of Carrara marble, subway tile walls, and basket-weave flat floor Carrara marble and relief luxury complete the look.



call for
design
advice

Learn more about creating a top-to-bottom look of the house in our book.

MAKING NEW LOOK OLD

The homeowners, designers, and architect made mostly new construction look as if it had been there for nearly a century. Here's how



ON THE OUTSIDE:

1. NEW IN THE WOOD SHED and all wood windows and doors, staying authentic by sticking with the material that was used to build the original house in the 19th century.

2. ADDITIONAL ROOF COVER on the secondary roof. These sections, which have a steep pitch and get hit with rain from above, would weather faster in wood. "The metal will last 50 years or more without maintenance," says designer Rick O'Leary.

3. DETACHED LAYER with an assembly of stock molding to create an elegant transition. "We reproduced a bit to keep things down, but the carriage treatment ties hard to echo detailing found on historic New England farmhouses," says O'Leary.

4. SAVE THE NEW ENTRY the look of a porch that was enclosed long ago. Archways clip the window casings. The posts are decorative pilasters made out of foam.

5. CONCEALED WOOD to avoid telltale modern touches. The range hood and dryer vents are hidden behind lowered boards tucked under the eaves. The metal flue from the master bedroom's gas fireplace is boxed out with plywood, faced with brick and topped with a chimney cap set on masonry legs to match the effect on the house.



ON THE INSIDE:

6. VARIOUS WOODWORKING STYLES on the walls in order to avoid modern-looking exposures of drywall and to suggest that the home has evolved rather than been "staged." Similarly, different molding treatments hint at old-time fragility. Manicured styles were put to use in the public spaces on the first floor, simpler ones in the private sleeping quarters.

7. NEW FOR BUNKER BUILDING is a nicely every room. These include open shelving, custom cabinets, and clever niches. One master bedroom wall is lined with bookshelves, built-in drawers, and a concealed broom closet for a laundry chute.





Homeowner
shares the
ideas that
transformed her
small backyard
into a lush oasis
for outdoor living

Little Wonder

The deck offers space for
relaxing, reading, and sleep-
ing. The plants are a mix of
perennials and annuals, and the
owner has a lot of fun with the
garden. It's a small garden, but it
has a lot of life and color. The
owner has a lot of fun with the
garden. It's a small garden, but it
has a lot of life and color.

By Valerie Easton
Photography By
Crista Lee Koch

"I wanted a garden for people, as much as plants."

After years of high-maintenance gardening on a large suburban lot, I found myself planning a tiny new space behind a little cottage that my husband and I had bought. My goal was to design an inexpensive, easy-to-care-for garden with room for entertaining, as well as for flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

THE INSPIRATION The new property was definitely a blank slate. Flat and featureless, with rusty grass, narrow borders along the sides of the house, and a sloping, useless deck. The place surely needed technical and topographical services, plus a little glitz.

I started with a strong, if somewhat romantic, concept. I've always admired the walled, walled-around English country houses used for sitting and dining outdoors. Inside the walls grew herbs, lemons, fruit, and flowers for the household, with acres of ornamental gardens outside the walls. I'd skip the acres and emulate just the structure, sheltered garden closely linked to the house. And I'd create a walled garden structure, rather than masonry old brick.

THE PLAN Without plenty of landscaping, I was afraid I'd end up overgrowing a garden plot. Tacoma, Washington-based garden designer Richard Hartlage did a rough sketch of the half-diamond-shaped main structure, curved screen, and diagonal grid of raised beds that define the garden. My architect daughter, Kase, worked out the proportions and did the schematic, on-site drawings.

Before the existing cedar fence was increasing yet still serviceable, Richard dropped two 18-foot-tall wavy screens as front of it to level height and dimension in the garden. I'm sure he also hoped that the trellis would encourage us to garden vertically, a great space-saving technique.

To play off the low-key style of the slanted house, I would use unobtrusive materials like gravel and concrete, and a limited but consistent color palette to keep up the weather materials without overwhelming the small space.

COLOR AND MOVEMENT As a rule, once told me that charcoal gray at the steel backdrop was off all other

Right Author
Natalie Enfon calls
them that grow
down the sides of
a raised bed.
Below: Concrete
power stepping stones
lead to compost and
storage areas along
one side of the house.
The orange flowers
of *Lobelia sp.*
brighten the pathway.



The Plan

Tacoma, Washington-based garden designer Richard Hartlage sketched out the basic "bones" of the backyard garden: one path for outdoor dining off the deck and another tiny one for relaxing in a back corner; a grid of raised and rectangular raised beds; and two 18-foot-tall wavy screens. Angling the benches and raised beds away from the house visually enlarges the space. Current elements help solve the property of the plot. Roundabout gave the lot its topographical reference, as do the tall trellis screens, which also build in some privacy. Homeowner Valerie Enfon, an avid gardener and naturalist, selected and planted the space with a bright palette of yellow, orange, purple, and green plantings, set off by dark gray hardscape materials underneath.



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Left: A large, vibrant
Japanese maple,
Disco Disco,
complementing with
potted *Hebe*.
Center: provides
a lot of privacy as
the deck. Another
Japanese maple,
Disco Disco, welcomes
visitors stepping down
into the garden.

Right: Tucked into the far corner of the garden, a secret, snail-size patio with a chain-link-mesh cover is their nesting refuge.

Before a plug transverse breaks into a single seed, Peter builds to form the volume on top, then forms into a pair of rectangular basins, attracting birds and butterflies. Bright mosaic accent-pavers give both patios a splash of color.

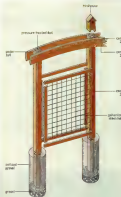


colors, so I chose dark gray pavers for the terrace and path. Then came the fun part: I commissioned a local mosaic artist, Clint DeRosa, to make a trio of accent pieces. Each has paint motifs in pinks, magenta, burnt yellow, and leaf greens, and these colors guided my choices for flowers and foliage. Lilies, roses, hydrangeas, and even the few trees are all in these dramatic colors that give the greatest effect per square inch of planting space.

I can't imagine a garden without water, but in a scorching, wind-and-light-red sky reflecting properties, how to square a pond and fountain into such a tiny space? I decided on a freestanding concrete fountain. It merely needs to be filled up and plugged in—as much easier than our old pond that took a summer to dig and more maintenance time than I care to remember.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER To deconstruct the rest of the materials and get the work done, I sought the help of local landscapers Byron and Dana Moffat and carpenter Steven Gyle. We created separate physical interests, as well as better soil and zones on the back garden, by building raised beds in two different uses, shapes, and materials. Four round galvanized-steel fire troughs (with holes drilled in the bottom for drainage) echo the metal used for the screens. Banners and arched ones pop quickly in the soil warmed by their reflectivity. The rest of the beds are rectangular split-faced concrete blocks mortared together with a cement wide enough to sit on when gardening or to serve as extra seating for parties. Constructing these with efficient drip irrigation already in place makes watering the beds no chore at all.

FILLING IN, GROWING UP At first, the new garden looked under and very hard-edged. However, it didn't take long for the plants to soften all the landscape, and the gray pavers at the new calm oasis in an explosion of exuberant orange, yellow, and purple plants. Last summer you could barely see the gleam of metal beneath the dramatic vines, climbing roses, cascading clematis, sweet peas, and pumpkins that climb over every



Know-how: Wire Trellis

At 8 feet high and 13 feet across, the personalized steel wire and galvanized steel mesh provides 60 square feet of extra growing space. Carpenter Steven Gyle explains how he built it.

- 1. To create the curved top,** nail two lengths of 2x4s together by three across sawhorses, and lay a 10-pound bag of sand from the middle of each board. Keep wetting the wood over the course of a couple days until it bows.
- 2. Prepare to post four footings** by setting one of the curved joints on the ground and using pairs to mark the locations of four equally spaced 4x4 posts along its back side. Excavate 30 to 36 inches below grade for the footings using the markings on the curved board as a guide. Fill each with 4 inches of gravel, set a 4x4 pressure-treated post inside—turning it to make full contact with the curved board—then backfill the hole with gravel and soil.
- 3. Screw the curved boards to the post tops.** Conical distances along the front side with a string of ball-caster lines.
- 4. To build the wire panels,** sandwich 5 by 4 foot sections of galvanized steel mesh between 2x4s, screwing through the front of the frame into the back.
- 5. Glue all four sides of the posts** by screwing on 2x4s that screw the framed into sections to the posts. Set bedrock trials on top of the posts, as desired. —Sally Kopley

"We created topographical interest—
and easier-on-the-back gardening—
with raised beds in two sizes and materials."

vertical surface. It's amazing how the narrow garden is visually widened by angling the terraces away from the house and taming the rectangular raised beds on a diagonal.

The fountain now holds pride of place on the patio terrace, next to the dining table. Despite its small volume of water, butterfly and dragonfly attract to it, and birds enter on the rim, darting in to peck at the smooth flow of water bubbling up at the top.

All the time my children were growing up I tried unsuccessfully to interest them in gardening. Now, when they come to visit on weekends, the first thing they do is head outside to see what there is to pick for a snack on the terrace, or to relax in a chair on the little-courtyard terrace. I like to think that the garden's comfy places to sit will be sociable or prevent, as fragrance, art, and color are part of what sets it in them.

But it's probably the raspberries. ■

Valerie Easton is the weekly garden columnist for The Seattle Times and author of *A Pattern Garden*.

Below: Starter-sized beds brought 5-foot access to new-as-low-maintenance planters for yellow geraniums, *Perovskia*, gladioli, pumpkins, and chrysanthemums.

Inset: Planted starter-sized perennials and vegetables make a colorful mix. Opposite: Raised beds built from concrete blocks with textured faces hold flowers, fruits, vegetables, and herbs like purple sage, yarrow, and borage.



Know-how: Concrete-Block Raised Beds

Placed beds make it easy to amend poor soil and garden at a back-friendly height. Hire a low-landscape contractor (Dyan Moffett built these with hollow concrete blocks).

- To prevent cracks** in the masonry over time or as soil shifts, excavate to pour a footing 8 inches wide and 6 inches deep around the entire 4-by-8-foot perimeter. Fill the trench halfway with concrete. Lay down two pieces of 55-psi rebar in the center of the trench along the footing's four walls. Fill with concrete.
- Once the footing cures**, set one L-shaped corner block in a 1/2-inch-thick bed of mortar. Working around the perimeter, set one course of the 4-by-8-by-16-inch blocks on mortar, spacing them a half-inch apart and leveling them as you go. Repeat, alternating the orientation of the L block for the second course so that vertical joints don't line up.
- With two courses in place**, slip between the walls by placing a 35-inch length of rebar in each corner and filling the voids in the blocks with concrete (each block has two hollows separated by a divider). Repeat in every other cavity in the block walls.
- Top with smooth capstones** 2 inches thick: mortar in place, leaving a 2-inch overhang to create a comfortable perch for tending beds—grass hanging out. —Sel Yip/ics





Transform your **entry, kitchen, and bath** with budget-conscious improvements that'll boost your home's wow factor—and its value



DIY Projects



That PAY



EVERYTHING IN MODERATION. Sure, it's the key to success in life, but during uncertain financial times it's also fundamental to winning renovations. That means putting your tools—and your hard-earned off-hours—into fix-up projects that enhance your home without sucking every nickel out of your bank account. Like boosting your home's curb appeal by capping a concrete stoop with stone, changing the front door, and adding new hardware and paint. Or giving your kitchen a facelift by sprucing up unappealing laminate counters and a beyond-basic backsplash. Or even retooling the bath with only a handsome vanity redo.

We're not before-and-after proof that a relatively modest investment can yield big-time dividends in how your place looks and feels—one that's the kind of upgrade that helps your home hold its value. At *This Old House*, we like to take the long view. But there's no denying the short-term satisfaction of completing the projects that are shown on the following pages and worked out in step-by-step detail in the do-it-yourself guide.

by Natalia Rodriguez & Sai Tejilla

Front Entry Fix-Up

You don't need to hire a house stager or spend a ton of time and money to boost your home's curb appeal. Just upgrade the entry instead. By adding a new prehung wood door with brass hardware, capping a crumbling concrete stoop with bluestone, and framing the steps with a pair of handsome planters filled with flowering shrubs, this 1920s Colonial Revival home got a fresh, more welcoming look. On the opposite page, see five elements you should keep in mind when revamping the approach to your own home.



Learn how to do it online:



Lighting

Interior lights illuminate house numbers and frame the eye of the entry. At night, the hanging lantern shown here evokes 19th-century Americana. When deciding on your light, pick a style that complements your home's architecture. A: The brass finish and the rustic lantern is fitting for a more casual entry. \$225, Kohler.com. B: Barnwood lantern lighting lends a contemporary yet historic touch. \$180, less.com.



Door

Decorate the front door as an introduction to your home. Here, the homeowner's choice is a sturdy, custom-painted door with a prehung frame with a clear finish. Double light windows, the wood trim, and the tiger with sunlight. By using an install, headgripping door, you can make the upgrade in a day. Choose from a variety of styles and finishes. A: The fix door with a solid wood panel is a traditional pick but modernizing over time. \$1,325, www.primrose.com. B: Reclaimed wood is a trendy pick that adds style but the surface gets old in a short run. \$2,000, www.wood.com. C: A traditional pick with a prehung frame and a solid wood panel is a classic choice. \$1,400, www.wood.com.



Paint

Brush on a fresh coat of paint to make your entry pop. Here, a bright yellow accent with bright white trim reflects the quality and energy of the new paint. Other paint colors include green, blue, and white, which help to bring the home's exterior perfectly complement a bright door. It's all at hand with a few paint cans and a brush. Just be sure to get the right color if your home's exterior trim is painted white.

Steps and Walkway

Turn a dull concrete stoop into a showpiece by capping the brick with a new walk stone. Here, the same New York blue stone used for the bricks is chosen in the new material for the walkway, creating a seamless transition between stoop and path. The bricks are laid in a traditional pattern. Other DIY capping options include clay tiles, split rock, and limestone pavers.

Planters

Large planters instantly anchor an entry and provide a touch of color. Just make sure the containers you pick are in an outdoor setting. C: The planter shown here is a classic choice. \$180, www.wood.com.

A: The planter shown here is a classic choice. \$180, www.wood.com.



Kitchen-Counter Swap

Renovating a kitchen is like cooking a gourmet meal. Take on too much, and the work can mushroom out of control, busting your budget and your patience. While we can't choose your recipes, we can help focus your renovation on the elements that give the most bang for your buck: the countertop and backsplash. Here, near-black soapstone replaced dingy white laminate. Because it cuts and ships with woodworking tools, the only cost was for the stone—\$24 a square foot from M. Teikins Soapstone, which also sells a DIY toolkit at soapstones.com. For the backsplash, the homeowner chose easy-to-clean solid surfacing milled like beadboard. One 2003 sheet cost \$556 and went up with a jigsaw and construction adhesive. Completing the makeover are a new stainless steel undermount sink and pull-down faucet. More DIY countertops and backsplashes, and the fixtures that complement them, on these pages.



Learn how to do it again:



Faucets

Inspired by commercial kitchen faucets, pull-down vendors in Sweden gave it beefed-up function. And thanks to ergonomic controls (the thumb touch triggers) and a range of designs and finishes, they're also traps for comfort and style.

A. The 50-inch pull-down hose on this commercial faucet allows the user to reach for a better view of the sink.

inspired by commercial kitchen faucets, pull-down vendors in Sweden gave it beefed-up function. And thanks to ergonomic controls (the thumb touch triggers) and a range of designs and finishes, they're also traps for comfort and style.



Sinks

It's easy to imagine new soapstone countertop. Just swap granite and granite in undermount sinks, rather than heavy-duty pull-out collecting around a drop-in top. Some of the most durable undermounts are made from stainless steel and copper. For steel, the lower the gauge the better.

It's easy to imagine new soapstone countertop. Just swap granite and granite in undermount sinks, rather than heavy-duty pull-out collecting around a drop-in top. Some of the most durable undermounts are made from stainless steel and copper. For steel, the lower the gauge the better.



Countertop

Even more manageable than the soapstone surface, 12-by-24-inch stone tiles, which lay out in a grid like ceramic tiles, are unmeted good for higher prices and a smoother surface that better approximates the look of solid stone.

A. Granite tile looks high and if you finish the edges with a 1/4-inch bullnose. An accompanied with about 150 inches of bullnose, it's also a lawsuit. About \$25 per square foot, teikinssoapstone.com. B. Unlike most natural stone tiles, this rarely hard engineered material never has to be sealed. \$22.50 per square foot, countertops.com. C. Solid stone tile is made from granite and is made from granite. \$22.50 per square foot, teikins.com.

Backsplash

In contrast to the high-tech solid surface used here, other stylish and DIY-friendly backsplashes are made from age-old materials—stone, metal, and porcelain.

A. A sleek, smooth light-reflecting glass subway tile prevents sweat marks from showing through. \$21.50 per square foot, www.ceramic.com. B. The 6-inch repeating pattern in this clear, frosted, and-slowing tile makes it ideal for a backsplash. \$12 and up per square foot, www.americanwallcovering.com. C. Metal backsplash: this perforated stainless steel is a snap. Single backs: \$21 per square foot, www.homedepot.com. Metal perforated: \$8 per square foot, www.homedepot.com.



Bath-Vanity Revamp

Forget the wall-breaking, layout-rearranging bathroom renovation. Add both style and storage by focusing instead on the room's centerpiece, the sink area. Here, the homeowner traded a wall-mount basin for a white painted vanity fitted with a gray granite top and under-mount sink, all sleek pieces from the home center. A new, semi-circled medicine cabinet, overhead light, and vintage look faucet finish the transformation. Mix and match the components shown on the page at right for your own custom look.



Learn how to do it online:



Access a free online guide to help you plan your bathroom renovation. Visit www.thisoldhouse.com/bath for more information.



Lights

A new fixture brightens your bath in one step: It not only provides crucial task lighting for grooming and enhancing the look of the room. Choose semi-circular recessed lighting and evenly spaced light to provide plenty. As for the mirror, this aluminum Art Deco-style one shows off a pair of 30-to-40-watt incandescent bulbs. \$299 at www.homedepot.com. For a more dramatic look, this brushed nickel vanity light fixture has a curved, adjustable arm and a single bulb. \$199 at www.homedepot.com. For a more dramatic look, this brushed nickel vanity light fixture has a curved, adjustable arm and a single bulb. \$199 at www.homedepot.com.



Medicine Cabinets

Here's a handy tip: To choose a medicine cabinet, pick a piece that's not only a good look, but also a good fit. For example, this semi-circular cabinet with a mirror and a single bulb is a good fit for a bathroom. \$199 at www.homedepot.com. For a more dramatic look, this brushed nickel vanity light fixture has a curved, adjustable arm and a single bulb. \$199 at www.homedepot.com.

Vanities

Nothing defines the look of a bathroom more than the vanity. Here's a tip: Choose a vanity that's not only a good look, but also a good fit. For example, this semi-circular cabinet with a mirror and a single bulb is a good fit for a bathroom. \$199 at www.homedepot.com. For a more dramatic look, this brushed nickel vanity light fixture has a curved, adjustable arm and a single bulb. \$199 at www.homedepot.com.



Faucets

The faucet is the final touch to your vanity. Here's a tip: Choose a faucet that's not only a good look, but also a good fit. For example, this semi-circular cabinet with a mirror and a single bulb is a good fit for a bathroom. \$199 at www.homedepot.com. For a more dramatic look, this brushed nickel vanity light fixture has a curved, adjustable arm and a single bulb. \$199 at www.homedepot.com.





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Care for Concrete Countertops
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WORKSHOP

Ask This Old House

NEED AN EXPERT? WE'VE GOT 'EM READY TO ANSWER YOUR HOME QUESTIONS



Making new stones look old is no easy task. In this case, the mason used a weathered stone to show the new stones how to look old.

Making New Stones Look Old

About two years ago, I had a mason build stone columns at the entrance to my driveway. The caps are old and weathered. Is there any way to make the new stones on the sides look old, too?

BLUMEN, STREET MD

Bob Cook replies: Your mason probably washed down the sides with masonry seal, a standard way to protect exterior masonry, but that would also remove anything organic for mildew, moss, and lichen to grow on. I know one mason who corrects this condition with paper and milk, which he blends to the consistency of a smooth, thin spray on new masonry.

My method is cheaper: Mix equal parts of a bit of compost, add water to make mud, then smear it all over the block. Allow it to dry,

brush off the biggest chunks but leave the rest. Either way, your stones will eventually develop a rich, natural patina.

If you don't have the patience to wait for a patina to develop, try a masonry stain. You should be able to find a suitable color at a masonry supply store. Just be sure to experiment first on a leftover piece of the same stone. This kind of stain is permanent, so you'll want to be sure you like the effect before you put it on the columns.

Frankly, I prefer not to use stain. Mother Nature is slow, but she does great work.

Hakling Down the Roof

My daughter lives in hurricane country in a 15-year-old stone house. Can she install hurricane clips to prevent her roof from blowing off?

DOH BOND, MCKESSPORT IN

Tom Igo replies: Those galvanized metal straps and clips that strengthen the connection between walls and rafters really do help to hold a house together at high winds. But it will be next to impossible to reach those spots from the attic. The only way to install hurricane clips in most houses is by cutting out a section of the siding and the wall sheathing at every spot where a rafter runs on a wall or taking off the



DOH BOND, MCKESSPORT IN



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WORKSHOP Ask This Old House



It's possible to grow a southern magnolia tree with cuttings from another tree, but the process is tricky and time consuming.

aside. The process, as explained by Pam Johnson of Minnie Merbok, involves sprouting on a temporary grower and several sizes of a poly-meshed, crystallized acrylic, anemone, which is then infused to a glasslike state. The surface carries a five-year warranty. Says Johnson, "It's quite durable, but it's not bulletproof."

With either method, the goal is to have to be in perfect shape because the cuttings will naturally dry up. However, if the grower has a lot of water and a lot of heat, the water could be the life. So if you want the grower to be a constant color, you'll have to install new tile.

Closing the Gap

There's a 1/2-inch gap between the stone veneer on the front of my house and the detached side wall. The gap does not seem to be getting wider. Should I fill it?

ANTONIO TORRES, LONGWOOD, FLA.

Tom Silva replies: I think it would be best—both for appearance's sake and to keep out bugs and water—if you filled the gap with a high-quality concrete sealant. But if the gap is more than 1/2 inch deep, you should not just fill it with caulk. Your work will last longer and perform better if you first put in a flexible foam backer rod.

Choose a rod diameter that fits snugly in the gap, then push the foam into the surface of the masonry with something like a pencil sharpener you don't need. Once the rod is in place, cover it with a UV-resistant,

possible acrylic caulk as a waterproof sealant like Gougeon, then seal with the joint. You might even be able to find a caulk or sealant that comes in a color that matches your house.

After you make this fix, keep an eye on it. If the caulk breaks loose, leaves a stain, or the block or the cement, you may have to remove the stone to the wall.

Propagating a Magnolia

We have a 7-year-old Magnolia grandiflora in our yard that is over 10 feet tall and doing great. A friend would like to take a cutting to start a tree of his own. Can this be done safely? If so, how and when should we do it?

GLORIA BILMONT, FORCED RIVER, NJ

Roger Cook replies: Growing a tree from a cutting is a tricky, complicated process that does not always work, but here's what's involved.

Take a number of 4- to 6-inch cuttings from fresh, pencil-size wood between July and early September. Dig the cut ends in rooting hormone, stick the cuttings in moist peat-lite, and mist them constantly. The rooting hormone, auxinabenzene, acid or NAA, is available dissolved in alcohol from nursery supply companies. Blend a 50:50 mix with water before use. If all goes well and the peat-lite never allowed to dry out, the cuttings will grow roots and be ready to transplant in 6 to 10 weeks. But it'll be at least seven years before it develops flowers.



To close up the gap, cut a rod to fit snugly in the stone veneer. Tom Silva recommends applying a high-quality interior caulk over it when backing out.

Knowing this, I think your friend will find it much more convenient to buy this variety of magnolia in a nursery than to propagate yours. And he or she will be enjoying viewing different blossoms a lot sooner.

Peeling Floor Finish

One of the favorite features of our house is the hardwood flooring, but its finish has problems. In some areas there's dirt embedded in it, and in other areas it's peeling off in places the size of dollar bills. What's wrong, and what should I do about it?

BILL WILSON, CHICAGO, ILL.

Pat Hest replies: When dirt or anything else is embedded in the finish, it means either the floor wasn't cleaned properly before finishing or cuts at contractors were making dirt nearby before the finish dried. The peeling suggests there's a contaminant on the original flooring surface. If I let it sit a while, which must have happened with any subsequent finish. A proper sanding would have removed the dirt, so what prob-

ably happened was that the new finish was simply rolled over the old one, and so it didn't. If that's the case in the rest of your house, it may be because a number of years before other work was done.

You won't solve other problems just by removing the finish coats. Sometimes you'll have to sand it to sand off all the existing finishes. Once you finish sanding down to bare wood, you can refinish them with any product you want. If I was doing this job, I'd recommend applying three coats of oil-based polyurethane two coats a floor topped with the coat of varnish. Flooring contractor Pat Hest has finished the house in many This Old House TV projects. ■

To send a question to Ask This Old House, go to thisoldhouse.com/askthetoh or write to:

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Include a complete address and telephone number. Publisher's guidelines will be strictly enforced and we'll be happy to return your question. We cannot be held responsible for the return of unsolicited material or for any damage to property or equipment.

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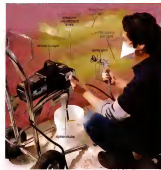
First, read an important primer

TRIM HISTORY IS AN ESSENTIAL KITCHEN GAMBIT

The fastest way to get the unsanded trim with latex paint to use an aerosol paint sprayer, which you can rent for less than \$100 a day. (This sprayer is less expensive but requires you to thin the paint to a precise consistency.) As you follow these spraying guidelines, be sure to wear a disposable respirator and wear anything in the vicinity that you don't want paint droplets to land on.

Prime the sprayer. Fill the gun with the proper sand tip (see TOPTIP below). The sprayer sprays paint into a clean bucket of paint, and the sprayer hose and gun according to the instruction manual. **Set the pressure.** Turn the sprayer's pressure adjustment knob to the lowest setting, recommended by the paint manufacturer. Hold the gun 12 to 14 inches away from a scrap piece of cardboard or paper and spray a test line with one uniform stroke of your arm. If the paint sputters out of the gun or two thin lines appear above and below the main stream, the pressure is too low. Turn the knob slightly and test spray another line. If the coverage is too light or there is lots of overspray, the pressure is too high. The pressure is just right when the paint flows evenly out of the gun in a single stream. **Seal the edges.** Hold the gun 12 to 14 inches away from and perpendicular to the edge. Apply the spray in one fluid motion so that an equal amount of spray goes past the top and bottom edges, as shown above. **Spray the faces.** Hold the gun 12 to 14 inches away from and perpendicular to the face of the door or cabinet frame. Using the same smooth, uniform motion as above, overlap each pass by 50 percent.

Flush out the sprayer. At the end of each day's spraying session, remove and clean the gun tip and spray gun. Stick the spray gun in a bucket of clean water and pump the water through the sprayer hose and gun into a waste bucket, according to the instructions in the manual. Continue flushing until only clear water comes out. —JENNIFER HARRIS



TIP

You can find the specifications for a gun's tip size and sprayer pressure for the paint you want to use in the technical data sheets on the manufacturer's website.

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Remember, the first step to a successful basement remodel should begin with waterproofing. If an in-house does not currently have water seepage, changes in neighboring landscapes, such as additions or pools, can redirect the flow of water toward your home. To prevent water problems in your home, use a waterproofing paint such as DRYLOK®.



For more information, please visit UGL's website, at www.ugl.com.

WORKSHOP Skill Building

Concrete Counter Care

Keep it looking new with sealers.

RELATED STORY: IS NO "BEST" SEALER FOR THE WORK?

Without a good sealer to protect it, a concrete countertop can be etched and stained by the acids and oils that are inherent in cooking areas. At Counter Culture Concrete, owner Christian Lincoln (CNC-11) starts the sealing process early—well before the countertop sealers are fully cured—by applying several coats of a breathable, penetrating acrylic sealer. Even with this treatment, the countertop is not immune to staining. And for some of Lincoln's customers, that's fine: they accept some dead-end—called "patina"—in exchange for low maintenance. But for those who fall in love with their pristine countertops and are willing to work at keeping them that way, here's what Lincoln tells them to do to avoid stains in the countertop's place.



TIPS TIP
Keep hot pots off concrete counters less than 10 years old; the heat leaves a dry spot. Not to worry; it will disappear in time.

1. Choose the sealer first: a nonabrasive, non-acidic cleaner like Dr. Bonner's Soda Soap. Sprinkle down or blow with a fan. A glass and Surface Cleaner is well priced and is effective in cleaning the sealer.
2. Apply a thin coat of clear paste wax—Bulldog's or Johnson's is fine—using a dry cloth rag. For extra coverage, rub it in circular motion over the entire surface. There is no need to buff.
3. Let the wax dry to a dull finish—it takes about 15 minutes—then buff with a dry cloth until the haze becomes an even sheen. To make sure you don't miss any spots, bend down close to the countertop level. Look at it from any angle that is still hairy. When you're done, test your job by spraying it with water. Water beads up on a well-sealed counter. If the water soaks in, pour more sealer.
4. Repeat every four months. You'll know it's time for a reapplication when water no longer beads up on the surface. The wax won't build up, Lincoln says, no matter how many times you apply it. "The concrete only accepts the sealer when it's needed. The last gets buffed off." —CHRISTIAN LINCOLN

Install an Undermount Sink Without a Helper

Use a bar clamp as a third hand.



RELATED STORY: IS NO "BEST" PRODUCT THAT FIT?

Do an undermount sink the old-fashioned way: attach it to the countertop's bottom face, so you need help to hold the sink up as you put it in place. For expert countertop installer James Lopez of M. Tensara Contractors, that help comes in the form of a bar clamp and a board. This is his clever way of doing them.

1. Lay a stiff board (like one over the sink cutout). Then apply a bead of silicone along the sink rim.
2. Push the sink onto the board and under the counter and hold it with one hand as you hook the clamp's fixed end through the sink drain with the other. Then hook the clamp's adjustable end over the board, as shown in left.
3. Tighten the clamp to hold the sink in place. Then fine-tune the sink's position relative to the edges of the counter. Wipe away silicone that squeezed out using a rag dampened with alcohol.
4. Attach the undermount clips to the sink soon. Now it's easy to lower the clamp and step out of the work area. Inevitably, the silicone will set, and the sink will be ready for its dispenser—tilt.

PHOTO: J. L. L. L.

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WORKSHOP

Norm's Notebook

MASTER CARPENTER NORM ADRIAN'S TECHNIQUES FOR HOSES FEATURED IN TOOLBOX, P. 77

GARDEN HOSES

Making a Coil

A hose that's really coiled and drains a easy to uncoil the next time you use it (and easy to store at the end of the season). Here's how I like to do it. First I uncoil out the hose as straight as possible. Flipping it one way or another to remove any kinks. Flip over and down a couple to drain out the water. Then I'll lay the hose in loops on the ground. The larger the loops, the easier they are to coil. I make mine about 2½ feet in diameter and lay each loop flat on top of the others. It's a repetitive up, just bend the line and until it's done.



NORM'S TIP
It's easier to coil a hose when it's warm, so leave it in the sun for a few minutes before you start.

Replacing a Crushed Coupling

Sooner or later someone is going to drive over or step on your hose, crush a coupling and crush it. Flipping it is easy, though, with a replacement fitting called a repair coupling.

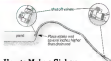
Minch the new fitting to female with threads on the inside or male, depending on the outside. It's a simple fit, so you can see before you go to the store, cut off the damaged end and slide it in with your.

To install the new coupling, cut the hose and square the end. The clamp goes on it. Next, push the threads coupling into the hose. Take your time for work on it. It should be snug.

Once the new coupling is seated against the hose a cut and slide the clamp piece up against it and screw the clamp tight to the hose.



The new coupling will slide into the hose more easily if you first warm the hose end in hot water, then smear its inside with a dab of dishwashing soap.



How to Make a Siphon

A garden hose is handy for siphoning water out of a backyard pond or large water feature when it's time to clean it. But you need the length of a pipe to suck enough water into the hose to get the siphoning action started. Here's another way to get the siphon going.

1. Fill the hose. Thread shutoff valves to both ends of the hose and attach one to the spigot. Open both valves and turn on the spigot to fill the hose. Now shut the valves on the end where the water is coming out, shut the valve at the spigot end, and take the filling end and hose off the spigot.

2. Start the siphon. Submerge one end of the hose in the pond. Put the other end at a spigot that's several inches lower than the pond end. Open the valve at the pond end, then open the valve at the lower end. Water will start flowing out of the hose, and will continue to flow as long as the hose end is in the pond stays submerged.

3. Stop the siphon. To halt the process temporarily shut the valves. To stop it for good just lift the hose out of the pond.

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WORKSHOP

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Concrete counter:
Counter Culture
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Concrete: Saugerties, NY
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Pullout faucet and undermount sink:
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customer service representative: Southwest
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swgardenarts.com
Air Conditioning: Think It So-B
Arlington, VA 703-575-4477
acswgardenarts.com
Paul Schedel, author of *The Home Energy Diet*
(New Society Publishers 2009)

BATH DESIGN



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& Associates
Architects
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Source: Restoration Portland, OR
888-433-3300
rp-restoration.com
Steel bar: Clearing Brass Inc., Highland, IL
847-525-0001, clearbrass.com

LANDSCAPING

Meet the Summers (pp. 36-42)



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Jenkins, Lushland Design, Berkeley, CA
915-882-6190
lushlanddesign.com

ROCKE 98: Raising Things (pp. 45-46)
Featured pool maintenance contractor:
Mike The Poolman Inc., Rogers, CA
916-953-7665
mikethepoolman.com

STEP-BY-STEP

Peeling Kitchen Cabinets (pp. 63-64)



High build primer:
ECO Primer
Undercoat, Pine
Paints of Europe
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800-332-1550
primespaints.com
Finish paint: Aura
paint, sold in Candy

Green Benjamin Moore, Montville, NJ
800-344-0400 benjaminmoore.com
Paint sprayer: RenDipco, 735-761-7001

Inc. Plymouth, MN 800-526-5362,
Eaton.com

GIVE YOUR GRILL THE WORKS

(pp. 90-92)



Featured stone veneer: LedgeStone in Blue
Ridge LedgeStone Stone Products, Cynthiana,
KY 855-273-5254, ledgestone.com
Pullout faucet: Kohler K-5331, Kohler Kohler
WI 800-456-4537 kohler.com
Sink: Undermount-infra large undermount
sink model K-3383 Kohler
Concrete counter: Counter Culture
Concord, NC 845-899-3843
counterculture.com
Think It So-B
Jenkins, Lushland Design, Berkeley, CA
915-882-6190, lushlanddesign.com

SECOND LIFE

(pp. 95-100)



Architect: Kevin/Quinn Kevin/Quinn
Architecture LLC, Wilton, CT 203-233-9350
kevinquinnarchitect.com
Designers: J & Rie O'Leary, Craton Falls,
NY 914-687-0514
Contractors: Bate Concepts, Hopewell
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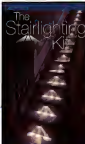
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THIS ORCA 1920 cottage—and the modest homes surrounding it—were built to house employees of the Southern Railway Co. But other feel that the first hint of a Confederate prison yard was once located in the vicinity and is said to be the site of baseball games played by Union Army POWs.

The town of Salisbury is known for its storied past, and also for its stock of historic structures. The homes in this neighborhood are considered to be top notch examples of late Victorian working class architecture and, according to the Historic Salisbury Foundation's Jack Thompson, this two bedroom center hall cottage is a standout. "Its floor plan has never been modified, and most interior details are still intact." These include four over four windows and hardwood walls long hidden behind drywall.

The 1,134 square foot home was abandoned in the 1980s. It stood empty for 15 years before a local handicrafts buyer bought it. Heaps of antiques and sparsely applied energy and new floorboards in the porch's soft spots. But restoration work halted when the owner decided to move. She later lived in town, but decided to move. She later lived in town, but decided to move. She later lived in town, but decided to move.

Though the house is just off the road and its 60 by 80-foot lot, traffic noise is minimal along this stretch, according to Thompson. To make the house livable, a new owner will need to complete removal items on its only bathroom, install new HVAC systems, and covered space for kitchen. Restoration work will qualify for a 30 percent tax credit through a local preservation incentive program. Once work is finished, the front porch will be calling—what a lot the spot for pondering Civil War battles and baseball.

—EDITH WOODLUFF



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The wood-framed cottage is front porch has exposed decorative brackets. It is near all houses two bedrooms. The house and the surrounding neighborhood were placed on the National Register in 1983. The house is a fine example of late Victorian working class architecture. The house is a fine example of late Victorian working class architecture. The house is a fine example of late Victorian working class architecture.

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