

This Old House

DIY
tricks to
cut your
energy
costs
P. 100

*We're
giving away
\$31,149
worth of
free stuff*

fancy claw-foot tub
french-door refrigerator
top-quality furnace
...and 51 more
prizes inside!

No purchase necessary.
For details, go to page 10
or just log on to
thisoldhouse.com/win

quick
fixes for
remodelling
goofs
P. 57

how-to advice
vintage bath on a budget
best trees for fall color
get a safer, healthier home

All about...
gas
fireplaces
P. 106

OCTOBER 2010
THISOLDHOUSE.COM

\$4.99US \$5.99CAN 10





RED
RELIABLE. ERGONOMIC. DURABLE.

**RELIABLE
ERGONOMIC
DURABLE**



HT50i R.E.D.
PROFESSIONAL
SUMMER JACKET

T50RAK
Manual Staple Gun



www.annals.org/doi/10.1136/annrheumdis-2011-021314

For more information, please visit
www.amsi.org.au or www.amsi.net.au



Made by the Garcias
Designed by IKEA®

There's little in this world the Garcias deem more important than good friends and excellent food. Their new kitchen is perfect for them with built-to-last cabinets, deep drawers that organize their party supplies and lots of counter space for prep work and just hanging out. Next up, a house full of happy people to complete the dream. Create your dream at IKEA-USA.com/kitchen.

Available **Meridian** with **AMPLI/FAIRPLAY** doors and drawer fronts **88220** Meridian finish, etched and clear lacquer, sold MID-Pitch series. Also, **Meridian** finish. Shown with full **FAIRPLAY** drawer front. Requires assembly and installation. *The total price includes cabinet, doors, drawers, shelves, drawer and door handles, **88220**, legs, vinyl countertop and panels. Countertops, sinks, faucets, handles and knobs, appliances and lighting are sold separately. See **88220** note in **2014** **2014** for limited warranty details. www.2014-2014.com. See **88220** note for images of available information and **12** and **12** cabinet front details.



AKURUM/ÄDEL Kitchen[®]
Starting at

\$1999

Based on 52" x 16" kitchen



The Life Improvement Store[™]

TO PROVE YOUR STRENGTH YOU COULD
RIP THIS MAGAZINE IN HALF WITH YOUR
BARE HANDS. IT'D BE HARD TO READ
TORN IN HALF, THOUGH.

A TRANE SYSTEM IS TOUGH. TOUGH ON COLD.
SO TOUGH THAT IT KNOCKS THE COLD
RIGHT OUT OF COLD. KEEPING YOUR
HOME NICE AND WARM, USING UP TO
45% LESS ENERGY NO MATTER HOW
TOUGH THE GOING GETS OUTSIDE.
AND THAT'S THE WARM, HARD TRUTH.

RELIABLE. ENERGY-EFFICIENT. CLEAN AIR FOR THE HOME. trane.co



Estimated energy savings reflective of comparing an SEER 13 unit to SEER 14 unit with a capacity of 12,000 BTU/h. Actual savings may vary. © 2008 Trane. All rights reserved.



{ October 10 } contents

ENERGY ISSUE →

energy-savers

- 88 100-year-old cottage, 21st-century remodel: A couple's new energy choices transform a 1910 house into an energy-efficient "living lab"
- 100 slash your utility bills with a DOE energy audit: Find and fix 12 energy-wasting money-wasting problem areas

idea file

- 37 before + after: kitchen: The right tools can help a Victorian eat room's kitchen keep its flavor while updating its efficiency
- 47 landscaping: Trees and shrubs that will give your landscape lasting fall foliage
- 57 lessons learned: Advice for new readers on how to cope with their remodeling goals and get it right the next time
- 63 American craftsman: Charles Peterson turns wood floors into hand-finished works of art
- 94 vintage bath on a budget: Follow a DIY couple's example to create your own dream bath

TOH tv

- 73 get the lead out: Addressing hidden dangers at the new project house

upgrades

- 31 shopping: Recycled reclaimed repair-and-replace products
- 64 get this look: Rustic reclaimed work space
- 67 price wise: Smart smoke alarms
- 90 build it or buy it: Small bookcases
- 106 all about: Gas fireplaces



88
100-YEAR-OLD COTTAGE, 21ST-CENTURY REMODEL



106
ALL ABOUT GAS FIREPLACES



73
TOH TV

on the cover



87 Who is going away \$3,149 with all the stuff? Get tips to cut your energy costs.
27 Quick facts for remodeling pros
94 47: 30 11: 40 67: 11 How to avoid
106 All about gas fireplaces
Cover Photo: © J. L. B. / iStockphoto.com
Stylized by T. L. B. / iStockphoto.com

contents { October 10 }



25
HOME SOLUTIONS

Juice up your jack-o'-lanterns with strings of lights. Use our step-by-step to create your own illuminating designs.

69
BRIGHT OR WHITE

45
BRIGHT IDEAS



113
THE OLD HOUSE



81
ITEMS TO REMODEL



home solutions

- 25 Let your pumpkins light the way this Halloween: Use a pro's tips to repurpose a chair seat, reuse 104 starters, green up cleaning products and more

how-to projects

- 45 paint ideas: Give your walls the look of custom wallpaper with a store-bought stamp
- 79 whodunnit? 12? Exhaust fan ventilation system
- 90 weekend remodel: Extend your morning first with a cold frame made from salvaged windows and old assistant, plants

ask this old house

- 113 Q + A: Get the scoop on hot pros, hot trends, find out to always want, will leak, remove a glass block shower wall, repair a wind-damaged storm door and more
- 117 what product when: Circular saws
- 120 step-by-step: Insulate your walls
- 121 tool test: Compound miter saws
- 126 Norm's tricks of the trade: Learn where to locate deck footings

in every issue

- 8 theoldhouse.com
- 17 letter from The Old House
- 16 reader mail
- 18 checklist: Easy ways to improve your home right now
- 20 home news: Check the law before hatching your quality plans: 100 Best Old House Neighborhood, and more
- 80 directory
- 110 save this old house

GREAT STUFF[™]
fills gaps and cracks in
homes, businesses
and now, entire towns.



When you make the #1 insulating foam sealant, you want to show it from the rooftops. Well, there are a lot of rooftops in America, and we have to start somewhere. We've chosen Great Falls, Montana. Like all towns big and small, they have gaps and cracks big and small that wreak havoc on power bills. So we're coming to plug pipe penetrations. To fill gaps around windows. To seal up foundations. All to save Great Falls a bunch of money. Maybe we'll get to your town next. Until then, pick up some GREAT STUFF[™] and get to work!

Visit us at dougreatstuff.com

GREAT STUFF[™]
with
GREAT FALLS
MONTANA



CAN

YOU

PICK

THE

LUCKY

COLOR?

Play The LUCKY
COLOR OF THE DAY
Game, and you could
win \$4,500 in cash or
a \$100 gift card from
Sherwin-Williams.

VISIT



sherwinwilliams.com/luckycolor

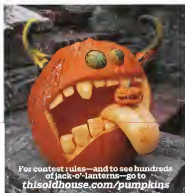
We purchase temporary retail store paint and the lucky color of the day promotional paint used for the Sherwin-Williams Company America's Best U.S. retailers, 100 Under \$100,000 can't be used to cover a wall. Limited time, 11/1/12-11/30/12. See sherwinwilliams.com/luckycolor

this oldhouse.com



pumpkin carving
contest

enter to win a \$500 gift card



[facebook.com/thisoldhouse](https://www.facebook.com/thisoldhouse)

[@thisoldhouse](https://twitter.com/thisoldhouse)



Make the most of your color with the very best paint.

For exceptional coverage, rich color and results that last, ask **SHERRILL WILLIAMS™**. Find the perfect shade at your neighborhood Sherwin-Williams store or sherwin-williams.com/true.

PROMOTION

This Old House PRESENTS

THE GREAT TOH GIVEAWAY



We're giving away \$31,149 in prizes!

Entering is easy: Use your smartphone, following the steps below.

Or go to thisoldhouse.com/win





Conventional vacuums have wheels that don't steer properly.

The Dyson vacuum pivots on a ball. The motor is inside the ball, lowering the center of gravity and making steering even easier.



www.dyson.com



dyson ball

Turns on a dime. No loss of suction.

letter { from This Old House }

The haunting

"You scared!" my wife said.

I looked up from carving my pumpkin. "Why don't you take that sheet off your head and turn the lights on?"

"It's not that," she said, adjusting the eyelids in her Halloween costume to better see me. "It's the new contractor—I think he's dropped out!"

It was true the contractor we had hired to finally finish our longed-for remodel had gone missing. Fortunately, he turned up before long. We'd had a message demanding. He didn't realize he'd spent a couple of days in his shop fabricating some parts for our house.

That was a relief, but even so, there's room for fear at our place. Maybe more than ever. See, last October my Letter from This Old House was about the spooky midnight collapse of the ceiling in our TV room and my belief the place was cursed or haunted or something.

Many readers wrote back. A law enforcement officer sent me the phone number of the real-life Ghost Whisperer, saying that the medium could remove the black spirits that cling to people who come in contact with them. Another suggested blessing the house with incense, salt, and spring water.

But one mysterious note really gave me chills. The writer described my fireplace as evil as ever. I don't. He somehow knew that the living room had been remodeled years before. He asked if I still had a certain stained-glass window installed as an entrance wall. It was as if he had been in my house!

And it turns out he had been. Rich, who used to live in my place a couple of decades past, recognized it from some of the photos we've run, and he wrote in. It was one of those from him, except for the spine-chilling tale he told me.

Back in the 1800s, he said, a man had three identical houses built, one at Lot 1013 for one daughter, one at 1017 for another daughter, and one on 1019, where I now live. Legend has it that after they settled in, a young girl in 1017 died under mysterious circumstances, and her spirit, confined by the identical houses, moved back and forth between the three, creating mischief.

He told me of an old, scowled woman who lived in 1017, perhaps the sister of the deceased, and how on dark, moonless nights... ooops, looks like I'm out of space. Oh, sorry, but if you want the rest of the story, you'll have to check out the video version of this month's Letter From This Old House. You'll find it at thisoldhouse.com/watch. Or just scan the tag on the right to view it on your smartphone. (Check out the box at right for more details.)

Scott O'Meara
SCOTT O'MEARA, EDITOR
@SCOTTOMEARA



THE GREAT TOH GIVEAWAY

\$31,149 worth of prizes inside!
Thanks to some pretty awesome technology and the generosity of companies such as Broan, NuTone, KitchenAid, Kohler, and Trane, we're able to offer TOH readers the chance to win some great remodeling products, watch videos, or learn more. Turn back to page 10 for details, and look for the giveaway tag throughout the issue. Here's hoping you're a winner!



WATCH IT—Scan this tag with your smartphone to watch a video about this month's Letter From This Old House. For details, see page 10 or visit thisoldhouse.com/watch.

BROAN-NUTONE AMERICA'S CHOICE



Broan and NuTone **ENERGY STAR** qualified fans offer you superior ventilation solutions:

- **Ultra Silent**, among the quietest in the industry
- **Superior Performance** at removing excess humidity, heat and odors
- **Brilliant Lighting** that floods the room
- **Easy Installation** directly in a shower or tub enclosure with a GFCI-protected branch circuit
- **Less than \$1 a Year** in energy costs to operate



Made in USA



For a chance to win a SmartSense® SmartSense® System with an Automatic Shut-Off for Deep Sleep.

BROAN
NuTone
Broan.com NuTone.com

readermail { October 10 }



This year's Reader Remodel Contest (see the winners at thisoldhouse.com/bonus) created lots of enthusiasm among This Old House readers, many already inspired for next year. We share a lovely thank-you and a useful addendum to the July/August Reader-Created Issue, plus a handsomely done Reader Project.

DIY student

In the 10-plus years I have been devoting your magazine I have often thought that I should thank you. So, thank you—for taking this first-time homeowner and, with his task, project by project, showing me how to do them right. They were simple and relatively inexpensive improvements, but none would have been really successful had it not been for your tutoring. Thanks for everything you've taught me.

—PAT DONLIN, ST. LOUIS

but work great for straight cuts on anything that won't fit on my chop saw

—KIMBERLY HOUTSON

Clarification

In the July/August 10 section on table saws, we said the Craftsman 28833 hybrid saw met Underwriters Laboratories' 565 only kickback standard. The saw was not tested and certified by the Canadian Standards Association to meet the UL safety standard.

The editors

This Old House magazine
122 West 50th Street
New York, NY 10019
Or a mail TOH letter
anytime

— Include your full name, address, and phone number. Published letters may be edited for clarity and length.

how to
watch
us

Embellished floor
DIY HOW-TO PROJECT FROM OCTOBER 2004

Reader Project of the month

DIY HOW-TO PROJECT FROM OCTOBER 2004

After we'd shared our entry, your November 2009 article on painting wood floors inspired us as a way to distract from two different wear patterns on the 300-year-old floor. I used the techniques in the article to paint the center medallion design. I am very proud of this job and glad to get such a great idea from TOH.

Fans aren't just for the bathroom anymore.



Everybody wants their house to be more energy efficient. That's why we offer a wider variety of incredibly quiet ENERGY STAR® qualified products than anyone. So whether you need a fan for the kitchen, the garage, or the entire house, we've got you covered. And, of course, we do have bathroom fans too.

©2012 Broan-NuTone LLC. Broan® is a registered trademark of Broan-NuTone LLC. NuTone® is a registered trademark of NuTone, Inc., a subsidiary of Broan-NuTone LLC. Photo: iStockphoto.

BROAN
NuTone

www.broan.com www.nutone.com

checklist {October.10}

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

Retire the BBQ

Prior to stowing your grill for the season, run it on low for 15 to 20 minutes to burn off food residues. Let cool before using a wire brush to scrape away the remaining gunk, then cut any leftover grease with water mixed with a few drops of dish detergent and let dry. To prevent rust, wipe the grill with a light coat of cooking oil and store in a dry location, or use a heavy-duty cloth-lined cover to protect it from water.



What's on your checklist?



"If I'm emptying my seed racks, bulbs and seed capsules, I'll also remember to prevent the seeds from drying out by freezing them for a few days."

—Becky Worland, North Freehold, Wis.
E-mail us your ideas at checklist@thisoldhouse.com.

Make your home a treat to visit

This Halloween, before all the local ghouls, goblins, and witches make their way to your front door, give your stoop a safety check:

- Move wax candles (even if they're tucked inside pumpkins) away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush up against the flame.
- Temporarily relocate obstacles such as flower pots, sprinklers, and garden ornaments from the lawn to your garage.
- If you're hanging outdoor lights, use models listed by Underwriters Laboratories, and check for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections.



TOH TIP

Get bids from building pros

Get quotes for contractor bids in autumn, which makes it the best time to get quotes and negotiate fees for upcoming remodeling projects. For more tips on how to vet a contractor, go to thisoldhouse.com/bonus.

Save money on vegetable seeds

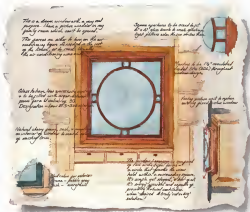
During fall, many seed-producing plants, including green beans, peas, and summer beans (shells), start shedding their seed capsules. To keep the seeds for next year, snap off the pods soon as they split open and turn light brown, but before they drop their contents. Gently remove the seeds and store them in paper bags in a cool, dry place. Just don't try this with hybrids—they won't give you identical giants.



Avoid accidental blazes

As you clean out the leaves and debris from your gutters, make sure you're not using a power tool near any electrical wiring. If you're using a power tool, make sure you're not using a power tool near any electrical wiring. If you're using a power tool, make sure you're not using a power tool near any electrical wiring.

If you could design your dream window, what would it be?



myMarvin by

Sarah Susanka, FAIA

Sarah Susanka, FAIA
architectural author *The Not So Big House* series



Create windows and doors uniquely your own. Whether remodeling, replacing or building new. Get inspired by the myMarvin Project artists, or start organizing your own projects with the new Online Remodeling Planner at myMarvin.com

MARVIN
Windows and Doors
Built around you™

ADVERTISEMENT



Soru Mathew
DESIGNER

When we asked TOM Reinbeck how we should like to learn from a Benjamin Moore color expert, an eco-conscious theme emerged. Here, designer Soru Mathew shares her approach to earth-friendly design and color.

We're using a zero-VOC paint. Isn't my color palette?

A: You no longer have to choose between beauty and environmentally responsible paints today. In fact, Nature from Benjamin Moore is the perfect example of the two coming together. Nature is a zero-VOC, virtually odorless paint that's available in endless color combinations and offers the top levels of quality that defines Benjamin Moore.

Here's a quarterly design we know: Make sure the colors you use in the paint in the first story are also zero-VOC. Just like the paint. Otherwise, the zero-VOC paint you selected can become VOC when the introduction of colored. Nature reveals zero-VOC in any color, delivering green without compromise.



DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR A BENJAMIN MOORE EXPERT?

Snap the "bug" on your smartphone or visit facebook.com/BenjaminMoorePaints



Benjamin Moore
EXPERT'S EXCHANGE

homenews (October 10)



STOCK LIVING

Got a permit for that chicken?

Before you jam the backyard chicken bandwagon that's rolling across the nation, make sure you're not breaking any laws. Some cities and municipalities don't allow the birds, and those that do may have certain requirements, such as limits on the number of chickens you can keep and whether or not you can sell their eggs. Luckily, BackYardChickens.com—which has featured some stellar coop designs—gives you the lowdown on the specific laws in your area.

The cute little cutter

The Domett Tre lets you cut, sand and seal with just one tool. It comes with cutting bits that can chop through everything from wood, plastic and drywall to sheet metal and wire. At half the weight and one-third the size of a jigsaw, it's easy to maneuver. Thanks to its 90-degree gliding blade, \$89 Domett can

WIN IT! Search Log with your smartphone and enter for a chance to win a Domett Tre. See page 103 for gold thread rules.

WIN IT! Search Log with your smartphone and enter for a chance to win a Domett Tre. See page 103 for gold thread rules.



One fridge is enough!

The good news is that many of us are replacing our old energy-guzzling refrigerators with

more energy-efficient models. The bad news is that we're retooling on the old fridges, plugging them into sockets in our garages and basements and hanging them outdoors and hubs of energy dip. In fact, about 28 percent of our homes now have a second fridge, a number that is growing fast according to the Department of Energy. Upgrade your second fridge and save \$300 to \$200 on your annual energy bill.

WIN IT! Search Log with your smartphone and enter for a chance to win a Domett Tre. See page 103 for gold thread rules.

WIN IT! Search Log with your smartphone and enter for a chance to win a Domett Tre. See page 103 for gold thread rules.



Safety or style? Amy Lau says you can have both.

Amy Lau loves to recommend Benjamin Moore® to her clients. Including Natura®, a safer paint for your family and your environment. Natura is virtually odorless and has zero VOCs, even after tinting to any color. So it's eco friendly without sacrificing performance. And when you're one of the most successful designers in the country, like Amy Lau, performance is the last thing you can sacrifice.

To learn more about Natura, visit benjaminmoore.com/safer.



Learn more from experts like Amy Lau at [facebook.com/BenjaminMoorePaints](https://www.facebook.com/BenjaminMoorePaints)

HouseLogic is an Equal Housing Opportunity Equal Housing Opportunity

RAISE YOUR HOMEOWNER IQ.

Go to HouseLogic.com for smart ways to manage, maintain and enhance your home.

HouseLogic provides free info and tools to help you become an expert homeowner in areas like home improvement, maintenance, home repairs, home design, home security, and more. To protect and increase the value of your home by becoming a more confident homeowner.



INSTALL LOW-FLOW FIXTURES

By installing low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, you can reduce water use and cut hot water consumption by up to 50%.



homenews [October 14]

Here's another winner of our 2010 Best Old House Neighborhoods contest

This Old House
2010
Best Old-House Neighborhoods



Beaufort, South Carolina

- » Cottages start at just \$150,000
- » Steps away from downtown
- » A historic neighborhood in a waterfront city

THE NEIGHBORHOOD If you want to get in on the ground floor of another downtown neighborhood revitalization, hit up the Northwest Quikrent. Once a thriving black middle-class neighborhood, the area fell on some hard times in the 1970s. But the city and its preservation-minded mayor are determined to breathe new life into it by working with residents to create sidewalks, clear vacant lots, and welcome people to buy and restore a house here.

THE HOUSES They are modest one- and two-story shops-in-style homes or "hall and parlor cottages," as they call them here. Most are close to the



GOING TO CAROLINA: Typical examples of Beaufort's ubiquitous hall and parlor cottages

street and were built with timber frames, wood siding, and bar-nails. Prices start at \$300,000 and top out at \$750,000. **WHY BUY NOW?** This is a great opportunity to live in one of the prettiest waterfront cities in the South. Beaufort is working with the Historic Beaufort Foundation to come up with a master plan for revitalizing the area that will include restoration guidelines and financial incentives. The Quikrent is downtown, in a great spot, it's within walking distance of restaurants and shops. "These houses are the future of Beaufort," says Evan R. Thompson, the foundation's executive director.

Reporting by Leah Fendall
and Natalie Rodriguez



There's nothing half
so pleasant as
coming home again
—Margaret Elizabeth Simpson

**There's a reason homeownership is
the foundation of the American Dream.**

Over time, owning your home has proved to be a good decision. And while today the economy has presented some challenges, it has also helped us focus on what matters most. It's reminded us that home is where we make memories, build our future and feel comfortable and secure. When you're ready, a REALTOR®, a member of the National Association of REALTORS®, can help you find the home that's right for you. REALTORS® are prepared—to answer your questions, show you options and guide you home.



Every market's different, call a REALTOR® today

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

www.nar.org

It's as friendly to
the environment as it
is to your budget.



UP TO \$1,300 INSTANT CASH BACK*



UP TO \$1,500 TAX CREDIT

CASH BACK CAN ALSO BE APPLIED TO EXTENDED WARRANTIES OR FINANCING OFFERS

*Offer only available on select products. Call your participating York Dealer for product details and restrictions. Offer available through participating York Dealers.

The more efficient a system, the less fuel it uses and the better it is for the environment. ENERGY STAR® qualified York Affinity™ Furnaces have an off-the-charts 98% efficiency rating. As a matter of fact, the York Affinity Modulating Furnace is the most efficient gas-fired residential furnace on the market today. Rather than simply switching on or off, it works like a dinner switch—evenly replacing the amount of heat leaving the home and automatically adjusting itself to maintain the desired temperature setting. Quiet, eco-friendly Affinity systems save energy, money, and the planet. Now that feels nice. Call your York Dealer at 800-910-YORK to learn more. Visit us online at yorkup.com/comfort.

**Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) ratings up to 98% on select models and as low as 77.5% on all models with variable speed motors.

The eco-friendly York Affinity Series Furnaces and Heat Pumps.



home solutions

Edited by Jessica Rodell-Picker

inside

10 USES

STARTER KIT

LESS-TOXIC CLEANERS

MORE



▶ SMART IDEA

Powered-up pumpkins

Sure, you rely on it to hang shelves and assemble furniture, but your drill is also the key to turning the pumpkins on your doorstep into out-of-the-ordinary Halloween luminaries. Straddled with tiny bulbs in swirling or geometric designs, the gourds throw bare naked radiant use-of-white and orange outdoor Christmas lights (for the most bang for your buck, use energy-efficient LED bulbs)—plus they look far more sophisticated than the average ready-pick-of-lantern. Come trick-or-treat time, simply plug this crop into your nearest power outlet to illuminate even the blackest night.

Choose a drill bit that's slightly smaller than the diameter of your lights for a tight fit.

Turn the power off before you start drilling.

home solutions

HALLOWEEN HOW-TO

SUPPLY SITES



▶ SMART IDEA, CONTINUED

Powered-up pumpkins

1. Hollow out your pumpkin. Use a hole to carve a large circular opening into the bottom of your pumpkin. Clean out the inside thoroughly, removing every trace of seeds with a spoon.
2. Transfer your pattern. Rough out a design on paper first, then mark the dots on the pumpkin with a permanent marker. Try a swirling or geometric design or randomly space dots on the pumpkin itself.
3. Drill holes in the pumpkin. Drilling the grid of holes will be easier if you use a drill with a variable speed. Use a drill with a variable speed. Use a drill with a variable speed.
4. Plug in the lights. Insert a string of small lights through the pumpkin's bottom and push bulbs halfway through each hole. Run the lights out to the bottom of the pump to an outdoor receptacle.

▶ QUICK LIST

Green building materials



Instead of buying new supplies every time you start a project, visit an online market place. Populated by contractors looking to unload extra and homeowners with gently used goods, these sites will save you cash—and create some eco-friendliness. —DANIELLE BLANDIN

For the smart DIYer

Operating in 30 cities, this site offers everything from discount drywall to antique chandeliers organized by price and category—hardware, appliances, heavy equipment and more.

For temporary tools

Unable to splurge on a tile cutter or a paint sprayer? This site takes some of the legwork out of borrowing. Users post what they can spare down neighborhood lending time.

For both buyers and builders

Stocked with store surpluses and usable construction waste, this virtual market requires patience, but payoff can include terra-cotta tiles and reclaimed maple flooring.

Unabashed Beauty, Hidden Assets



Meet
In O'Conner
Piet of The Old House
at B&B's Bazaar/Shop
(located in Stroudsburg, PA)

October 9, 2010
from 10:00-12:00
and 2:00-4:00



Everything in its Place
What's the use of a beautiful kitchen if you can't find the what? These clutter conquering drawer dividers are adjustable to give all your favorite cooking gadgets and gizmos a home of their own so they're right at hand when you need them. An accompanying insert cradles your spice jars and pulls out for easy cleaning.
RATONMILL VARIERA spice insert, \$3.99/ea. IKEA.



Smart performance and good looks are the goals of great kitchen design. And this one's got it all.

With its cook-friendly layout, inviting sit-down island and sleek stainless appliances juxtaposed with warm wood cabinets, this kitchen is designed to impress. What's most impressive, however, is hidden to the eye. Behind every door and drawer lay innovative storage solutions and organizers that make this kitchen as fun—and easy—to cook in as it is to be gathering friends and family. All at IKEA prices.



For more inspiring kitchen designs from B&B, scan this tag from your smartphone



Places to Go
These stainless steel and beech wood place holders keep clothes securely in place—whether they're stored in a cabinet, a deep drawer or hanging neatly from the dishwasher or in the tub.
RATONMILL VARIERA Place Holder, \$7.99 - \$9.95. IKEA.

home solutions STARTER KIT



Everything you need to reupholster a chair

If you've ever gazed up at a guest set of kitchen or dining room chairs at a flea market or because they looked a bit worn out—and then regretted it the next day—you'll appreciate the value of this handy skill. Adding a new cushion and fresh fabric to a chair can bring it back to life like little else. And best of all, most wood-frame espouses (like those shown here) can be easily unwound, replaced, and re-covered with very moniesch, leaving the fabric of your choice, says Matthew Haly, owner of The Furniture Joins in New York City. Read on to learn what other tools and materials he suggests for doing your own furniture rehab—**ANNE'S STAMPS**

1. **Glue** After the foam's in place, you'll be gluing it to the board with fast-drying Pliantex Adhesive 24, which "seeps all the way into the place," says Haly. \$25. Amazon

2. **Fabric** For a start, Haly says that a lot of nice, heavy fabric is available for a very low price. If your chair has a curved seat, avoid light-colored fabric with a busy pattern. Instead, choose a solid color or a subtle pattern. \$40 per yard. Amazon.com

3. **Buttling** Haly recommends a layer of 1/2-inch Chenille polyester batting as a buffer under the fabric to prevent the foam from breaking down. \$5 per yard. Amazon.com

4. **Seat foam** Chenille is a long-wearing, high-density material at least 2 inch thick. \$23 for a 24-kg 60-inch-wide piece. Amazon.com

5. **Plywood** Replace worn-out boards with a piece of 1/2-inch plywood cut with a saw to fit the shape of your chair frame. \$12 for a 4-ft-by-8-ft sheet. Amazon.com

6. **Tool** If you need to replace your seat base, you may want to use a screwdriver to remove the old fabric before attaching the new fabric. \$5. Amazon.com



WATCH IT Scan this tag with your smartphone to watch a step-by-step video of how to reupholster a chair. For more information, go to thehousejoins.com/watch

7. **Seat cover** After attaching your upholstery fabric, use its raw edges and the plywood by stapling the fabric to the seat's underside. \$5 cents per yard. Amazon.com

8. **Staple gun** For a simple installation, use a heavy-duty gun with 16-gauge staples. Haly suggests a model that comes with a nose to get into tight corners. \$17. Amazon.com

TANK

OFF



Your old tank water heater wastes energy by heating water 24/7 even when you're not using it. Switch to a tankless water heater and heat will be there just when you need it. Choose Rinnai? Energy efficient. Endless hot water.

Switch now before it's too late.
Visit www.rinnai.us to take advantage of federal tax credits up to \$1500 plus other local incentives.

Rinnai
TANKLESS WATER HEATERS



home solutions

GREENER GRIME-BUSTERS



Safer cleaners

When it comes time to clean house, new ecofriendly cleaners are coming on the scene to help you do the job done. Just like 12th-century monks' blood-purifying recipes, these new natural products combat home toxins, save you money and give you peace of mind. Here's how to choose the best one for your home. Not only do these cleaners have big dust-dirt-and-grime-busting power, they're safe for the planet, too. —D.P.



For the kitchen

- Counters.** While this made-granite-tile-and-stainless-steel job calling grease, it's essential to spot clean countertops with a cleaner like the Simple Green Cleaner. It's a mild, non-toxic cleaner that's safe for use on all surfaces. \$12.99 for 16 ounces.
- Dishes.** These keep their shape much better than rusty steel wool. Says assistant online editor Tiffina Suk, the best is the non-abrasive pads made from recycled bottles. Scotch-Brite Scotch-Lodged Scrubbers. \$2.37 for six.
- Sinks.** There's a reason you find the granite mineral-based sinkers a classic. In addition to shining up the sink, it also cleans dirt and food particles on soapstone, enamel, and cast-iron sinks without scratching. Bon Ami Powder Cleanser. \$1.25 for 34 ounces.
- Sealed stove.** Articles refer to these as "Bakelite" polishes, but many caution with this spray, which relies on chemicals made from coal and vegetable oils. Natural Natural's Granite & Marble Cleaner. \$7.99 for 12 ounces.



IF YOUR CARD HAS AN ANNUAL FEE, GET RID OF IT.

IF IT COMES WITH A REWARD REDEMPTION FEE, CUT IT UP.

IF IT COSTS TO ADD A CARD, STICK IT IN A DRAWER.

AND SWITCH TO DISCOVER.

Ranked #1 in customer loyalty.*
It pays to switch. It pays to Discover.



1-800-DISCOVER | discover.com
Discover® Marq® card

home solutions

GREENER GRIME-BUSTERS



For the utility closet

1 Multipurpose A longtime health food store staple (and a favorite of vegans everywhere) this dirt dissolving, biodegradable soap works on floors, in the laundry, "even on you!" says contributing editor Eric Heywood. "Try it on your hand towel." *Dr. Wonder's Pure-Castile Soap*, \$14.99 for 32 ounces

2 Laundry Every staffer who's had to deal with clothes in a hamper for weeks knows the only one to have received Gracile 2 Gracile certification (one of the most stringent third-party "green" labels). Method Laundry Detergent, \$20 for 30 ounces

3 Skins Chocolate grease and mud stains prove no match for this plant-based stain remover. We like its truly clean—and the fact that it represents a move by a major cleaning products company. *50 Johnson's "green up" wet & dry cleanser*. *Shout! Nature's Source Laundry Stain Remover*, \$3.40 for 26 ounces

4 Windows Use this all-purpose concentrate on grills, stoves, oven drainers—just a really clean-on windows. *Shout! Green Cleaners* fall down on the job when it comes to glass. "This one delivers a streak-free shine." *Basic 120 Gopher Super Cleaning Concentrate*, \$12.15 for 16 ounces. *shout.com*



For the bathroom

1 Hands Light and fragrant, this antibacterial soap kills 99.99 percent of germs without the chemical "fizzies"—and is gentle on hands. Plus, the large container would reward makers like *Method Antibacterial Foaming Hand Soap*, \$4.99 for 9.5 ounces

2 Tiles and porcelain (Yes, we mean) *shout! spray* gets into the grout, too. *shout! spray* gets into the grout, too. *shout! spray* gets into the grout, too.



which eliminate odors and disinfect, thanks to a plant-based formula. *Method Antibac Wipes*, \$3 for 35

3 Drain Move that one staffer who's tried to fix it. For a fast-acting antibiotic that dissolves clogs, use this nonchlorine powder bleach with a little water and scrub with a stiff-bristle brush. *Oxi-Clean*, \$7.99 for 36 ounces

4 Toilet paper This bleach-free liquid is endorsed by the Green Club and the National Product Association. Just as important, "It removes lime and rust stains in only a few minutes," says associate editor Melissa Rodriguez. *Green Works Natural Toilet Bowl Cleaner*, \$2.79 for 24 ounces

MASTER OF ALL THINGS HARDWARIAN

Tools, products and expert advice for all your project needs.

True Value
START RIGHT. START HERE.[®]

startrightnowhere.com

ASK THE Designer

thought to you by **KILZ**



Lisa LaPorta
Host and Designer for HGTV

Q How can I creatively update my bedroom in an environmentally responsible way?

A "A great way to inspire creativity in design is to imagine your home as an evolving environment. Take an active role in your room's decor by selecting paint colors that speak to you, whether they are bold and bright or neutral basics. Begin by using a zero VOC[®] and low odor primer like KILZ Clean Start[®] and finish with a high-quality paint for the most professional-looking finish."



For more information, visit
www.KilzCleanStart.com or call
1-866-PRIMER1 (866-774-6371).

Formulated without solvents at 100% solids by Kilz, Inc.
©2010 Kilz, Inc. www.kilz.com

home solutions

COMBAT DRY AIR

1 HEALTHY HOME

Find the right humidifier

It may only be fall, but soon your furnace will be pumping chilly air into your home, humidity levels cranking down to a comfy 40 percent to a quarter of that. In addition to aggravating allergies, this lack of moisture can cause wallpaper to peel, wood floors to crack, and carpets to become static. Luckily, a humidifier helps solve these problems—just check out our guide below. —NATALIE CORCORAN



Type	Best for
evaporative	Living rooms and dens, where you likely won't mind the machine's low hum. Just note that these lower-energy models, which release a cool mist, use a fan to blow an unscented filter or wick, which you must clean or change regularly. Try Honeywell Cool Mist Humidifier HMT200, \$25; home depot.com
warm mist	Your bedroom or small spaces where it can also act as a heat source. Allergy sufferers should try this type, since the boiling process that evaporates the water kills most of the mold and bacteria that can clog other humidifiers. Try Vicks Warm Mist Humidifier V345A, \$30; walmart.com
ultrasonic or impeller	Bedrooms with soft water. The pieces that these quiet, low-energy noise machines use to form droplets fine enough to float through the air—ultra-fine minerals and impurities present in hard water—take a low white cast. Try Air-O-Swiss Cool Mist Ultra Sonic UL3, \$200; airswiss.net



1 YARD CLEANUP

Banish invaders

With its plump berries, this Oriental bittersweet looks lovely—until it chokes every other plant in sight. To save your yard from this pest, start digging come new, days horticultural Susan Littlefield. Slice vines down to their base, then paint the stubs repeatedly with a brushy herbicide. If you decide to wait until winter, when the plant is dormant, you can also cut the vines down to the ground and burn the plant to prevent the seeds from germinating.

2 COATS OF PAINT

(over water stains)

1 COAT OF KILZ® PRIMER

1 COAT OF PAINT

(over water stains)

Joel Westerman,
KILZ primer user and
pro painter for 18 years

Disclaimer: Actual results may vary with the choice of paint.

"I NEVER ASK A PAINT TO DO A PRIMER'S JOB."



Side by side demonstrations show that one coat of KILZ® Premium primer and one topcoat of paint typically performs better than 2 coats of paint when it comes to covering stains. Its powerful, problem-solving formula is also ideal for tackling all sorts of other challenges including drastic color changes, masking odors and prepping unfinished surfaces.

KILZ® The perfect start to a great finish®

www.kilz.com



KILZ® brand primers ranked 1st
Quality for the 10th year in a row

KILZ® brand primers ranked 1st in quality
for the 10th year in a row. Harris Poll® survey.
Please go to www.kilz.com for details.

Wash the day away.

THE INFINITY® TWO-IN-ONE SHOWER

Use the integrated showerheads together or separately to get water where you need it most. Another way Delta is more than just a shower.

For a demo, visit deltafaucet.com/infinity



Remove a wall, gain one-of-a-kind style

A savvy blend of salvaged wood, current tile, and stainless-steel gives a circa 1900 kitchen a 21st-century edge. by JILL ORENBERG • Photographs by JACOB VORSEY



before the kitchen was shut on counter space, benefit of chairs, and energy in water. After: bigger profile and bigger fire. It gets a updated look from handmade tiles salvaged wood, and gleaming energy efficient appliances. Photo: G. Range (credit: Veri-House, Photo: Veri-House)

Sometimes the best way out of a bad kitchen is to salvage what you can and rebuild the rest. So says Ken and Keri Goode, who ran an eco-oriented design-build firm out of their Victorian-era rowhouse in Philadelphia, before the bare-bones kitchen's big windows and the breakfast room's built-in hatch but couldn't wait to connect the two spaces to make a single, more stylish, more functional space. Grafted onto the house circa 1900, the kitchen was no fun to enter ("You could feel cold air blowing through one of the cake nets," recalls Keri), and its access was slow and lack of counter space inspired odd daily rituals—like setting the coffee grinder down on the radiator to plug it in to a one-of-a-kind two outlets. So, working as a team, the couple tore out the cabinets, sink, appliances, and dividing wall—selling what they could on Craigslist and taking the rest to a recycling center—then opened walls as needed for installation, plumbing, and wiring. In went paneled cabinets that echo the corning hatch, black walnut floors, a concrete range wall, soapstone counters, a table island topped with reclaimed fir, energy-efficient appliances, and LED lights. Says Keri, "In the end, we got period charm and contemporary function."

before + after kitchen



before

The kitchen, circa 1900, was on its last legs.



more salvage ideas
Find unique reclaimed wood and more at thefurniture.com/salvage

after

Removing the breakfast room's wall opened the kitchen and counter space along the wall of the new spacious galley.

1. Removed the wall separating the kitchen and breakfast room.
2. Added an island measuring 3 by 8 feet for extra prep space.
3. Moved the sink to the rear wall, under a new energy-saving casement window with views of the backyard.



4. Decorated the basement door to make it more modern, and sent it to the large window.
5. Exposed rafters in the ceiling kitchen space, adding 2 inch thick rigid foam insulation and drywall between them.
6. Relocated the range to a side wall, enclosed a hood with a stainless-steel range hood, and added a hood vent to the back wall.

CUT YOUR HEATING AND COOLING COSTS UP TO 80%.



Cut your energy bills. ClimateMaster geothermal systems tap the constant temperature of the earth to provide heating, cooling, and hot water. Your home stays comfortable year round while turning your energy use by up to 80%. And now with new federal tax credits, you will save an additional 30% on the total installation. Best of all, ClimateMaster systems are not only a good investment, they are a cleaner choice for the environment. To learn more about how the geothermal technology leader can help you cut your energy bills, visit climatemaster.com or call 877-436-6263 today.


CLIMATEMASTER
 Geothermal Heat Pump Systems
 An US Industries, Inc. Company (NYSE: USI)

before+after kitchen

• the key details

↑ the original hatch was updated with low VOC paint and new latches and pulls. Paint: Benjamin Moore • Caring City

↑ black walnut planks in random widths, laid with the space underfoot. Floor: ThermalPerformance Timber Fresh • Salvant Polymers



↑ the paneled door to the dining room was changed to one like a glass-looked-in cabinet.



↑ The island gets its character from the reclaimed fir's rich patina—it's finished with mineral oil.



homeowner tip

KENT GORD, PHILADELPHIA

"Salvage interior doors whenever you can. They generally have lots more character than new ones."

↑ display shelves in the upper part of the fridge cabinet hold wine, cookbooks and decorative items. (page 22)

BENSONWOOD THE OLD **House** collection

ADVERTISING

**ASK
ABOUT OUR
NEW HOUSE
LOTS**



3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath
Total Living Area: 2,224 Sq. ft.

Five for 2010: The Eisenhower Five Cent Motor Collection has been remastered throughout, with thoughtful features most sought after by today's discerning homebuyers. More spacious first-floor masters, larger closets, dramatic new timbered entry, and attached 2-car garages are just a few of the touches in demand throughout our redesigned signature collection.

Perhaps even more exciting, each of the four Collector's homes is now being offered at a wider range of price points, from whole houses to house kits, making owning one of them more attainable than ever!

Unchanged is Serenowood's legendary quality at the care of these beautiful and durable energy-efficient homes.

Call or click today to see just how close you may be to realizing the home of your dreams
BENSONWOOD.COM or call us at **877-203-3562**

Best is, Lisa Product and the old va Models, the famous the Old House Collection.

GENERAL

PLAYWRIGHT 

110000

It's not just a wall.

to win the race, heads turn

an ancient glow in

See how the Volvo, including Volvopark, has been designed to be the perfect car, making quality our Chief Air Priority™, we set it all patent and drive we see, observed as you are. Start your search at volvopark.com

valspar

Source: *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 1997, 92, 1037-1046.

LOWES

Stamp on a custom wall pattern

Use a ready-made stamp and metallic paint to give walls a unique finish

By MERRILL HUGHES

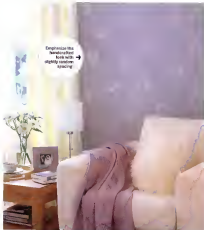
After the style of a room is a done—all it takes is an off-the-shelf stamp. Here, a field of lilac took on the appearance of a high-end wall covering, thanks to the addition of stamped-on silver medallions.

Start with a wall canvas of flat latex paint in a color that will contrast with the shimmering pattern but not so much that a busy blip will stand out. Then choose a stamp, these medallions were made with the 4-inch Fairly Stamp (about \$10; english-stamp.com).

To get started: (1) Gather your stamp, an acrylic craft paint, such as Folk-Art's Metallic Silver, a dense foam roller, and a plate with a flat center. (2) Pour paint on the plate and load the roller. (3) Roll on the paint evenly across the stamp. (4) Start stamping. Before tackling the wall, practice on paper or posterboard. "Tape it on the wall and practice stamping winding up," says Jo Praxson, manager of creative services for Michaels Arts and Crafts. The Fairly Stamp, with its slightly curved base, calls for a firm rolling motion.

To avoid rigid rows while creating an evenly spaced pattern on the wall, tie a pencil to a string and knot the ends; the one end fits the design's width about 12 inches from the pencil. Place the knot in the center of your first medallion and mark the next center with the pencil, and so on. Let the medallions bump up against windows, curtains, and doors.

The payoff? "Stamping gives a room a personal look," says Praxson. "And it's a whole lot quicker than putting up wallpaper." ■



Emphasize the handstamped look with slightly random spacing →



You could still buy slippers as a fashion statement.

Uponor radiant floor heating provides a nice, even heat that takes the chill out of winter floors. Unlike forced air, it reaches every corner of the house and eliminates cold, drafty rooms. What's more, it offers significant energy savings. Warm, cozy, efficient and reliable. You'll wonder why anyone would ever wear slippers. To find out more, call 800-321-4736 or visit www.uponor-usa.com

uponor

Trees and shrubs for fall color

Ten additions that will brighten your yard with fiery red and yellow autumn foliage. by Susan Sponaughey



Even a single Japanese maple can offer a dramatic dose of red foliage.

Cooler nights, fresh-baked pumpkin pie, and those brilliant red and yellow leaves overhead. Even summer's most vibrant trees have to admit that fall offers some of nature's most beautiful pleasures. Luckily, you can enjoy nature's signature foliage show even if you live where summer vents gently into a mild winter and many leaves simply go brown before they fall. Just plant some key trees and shrubs that produce reliable color whenever they grow.

Maple, dogwood, and gingko trees are among the fall standouts that light up yards with their gold and reds long after summer is past. But it's worth noting that unless you have a large property, some of the season's beauties are best enjoyed while driving through the countryside rather than planted near your home. Quaking aspens, a star of the western landscape because of golden leaves that seem to shimmer as they flutter in even a slight breeze, sends out aggressive surface roots and occasional tickles, which can create havoc with pavement and underground pipes. Similarly, the below-the-radar samples of the Norway spruce can lift a concrete sidewalk if planted too close to the curb.

On the following pages are some generally well-behaved plants that do well in a range of climates. All of them dazzle in the fall, and, as a bonus, many also put on a show in other seasons, too, with flowers in the spring or summer, fruit later in the year, and interesting bark in the winter.

a glorious blaze

Acrobatic white Ontario (Pendula) is the perfect fall tree for a pickier or larger yard.



1. Gingko biloba (Molina) Zones 4-9. Gingko pines are spectacular yellow show in fall. Considered living fossils because they are the last survivors of an ancient species that grew worldwide 225 million years ago, gingkos are widely cultivated and have the most spectacular fall color in the world. The leaves are fan-like, flat, and the smaller ones form a fan-like shape. The tree is a small tree, but the common name, "maidenhair tree," often refers to its delicate, fan-like leaves. It grows 20 feet tall, though many are 30 feet tall. It is a good tree for a pickier or larger yard.

2. Smoker bush (Ceanothus elegans) Zones 5-8. Also known as anisebush, this plant can be grown as a shrub or pruned to a small tree. Small white flowers appear in June. As they fade, long stalks with fuzzy pink hairs spring out, creating the appearance of the plant's leaves being purple. The leaves are a deep purple. This is a fast-growing tree, with the leaves turning yellow in orange-red. Small purple flowers that are a light red. Anisebush is a good tree for a pickier or larger yard.

3. Katsura tree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum) Zones 4-8. With delicate branches that become dense with round leaves, katsuras make great shade trees in summer. They put on a show of yellow or golden yellow in fall. Around the time leaves fall, the tree produces a fragrant smell that some call spicy, others call sweet. Most katsuras have a cylindrical trunk, which is a good thing because they are so easy to see when they are up to 50 feet. These trees also weeping forms, such as the Katsura Green. They look particularly beautiful when the branches are bare in winter. Full sun, moderate water.

4. White bark (Picea canadensis) Zones 3-8. If you have a large yard and flowers are not your thing, this is a good tree. It has a white bark and is a good tree for a pickier or larger yard. It has a white bark and is a good tree for a pickier or larger yard. It has a white bark and is a good tree for a pickier or larger yard.



check your zone
► For more growing zone information, visit www.thespruce.com/zone.

Put me into your Dream Home

Virginia Mill Works flooring contains the best of the old and the best of the new. The overlooked, time-honored elegance of handcrafting is joined with the benefits of modern engineering and prefabricating to create a floor without peer. And while a home's character is developed over a period of years and even decades, Virginia Mill Works flooring has character right from the start.



Virginia Mill Works
Jamestown Plant

hardwood floors for less
LUMBER LIQUIDATORS
www.lumberliquidators.com
1-800-HARDWOOD

Over 200 stores nationwide! Gift certificates available.
For a FREE catalog or a store near you call 800-253-0503
or go to lumberliquidators.com.



10013

landscaping

5. Pomegranate (*Punica*) Zones 7-10 When winter gardeners can delight in the bright yellow flowers of this shrubby deciduous tree, the pomegranate, including 'Wonderful' and 'Anjou', produce edible fruit the fall. It's red or pink, the more deeply colored variety is a bit pulp. Left hanging on the tree, the fruit resembles built-shaped Christmas ornaments. Other pomegranates are purely ornamental. Once, the orange-red double flowers that resemble carnations, but they're it despite its fruit. It has long, single orange-red flowers that last, but it is a bit and not just. Full sun, regular water.



6. Blueberry (*Vaccinium*) Zones 7-10 When the darkly colored berries of the blueberry of summer are just berries, blueberries continue to delight with leaves that turn yellow, orange or wine red in the fall. The types of well when winters are cold but don't fast fruit in warm winter areas. There grow different varieties, also known as rabbitears, all varieties types have to be full of color. Of the southern varieties, the hybrid 'Blue' and 'Jubilee' (V. corymbosum) are the best looking. 'Sunshine Blue', an evergreen, performs well nearly everywhere. About mid to late fall is the best, the next day is off water. Full sun to partial shade, regular water.



7. Red-twig dogwood (*Cornus*) Zones 2-9 Dogwoods growed twig dogwoods mostly for the color of the stems once the leaves drop. But the leaves of some varieties also turn brilliant red or reddish purple before they fall. For the reddish stems, look for 'Aristic' (C. americana) which grows to 4 feet tall and 'Belted' (C. paniculata) which is twice as big. Yellow-twig dogwoods, such as 'Flavescens' (C. sericea) also have reddish purple leaves in fall. Red twig dogwoods with variegated foliage are in full color. All types have beautiful white flowers in spring and white to red purple fruit that birds enjoy. Full sun to partial shade, regular water.



pro advice ROGER COLE, LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR
The colorful fall trees you really notice stand by themselves, so don't bury them in a bunch of shrubs. Group a few together if you want a really big show.



8. Maple (*Acer*) Zones 3-6 Most of fall foliage plants would be complete without maple trees. Super maple (A. saccharinum) is the go-to ornamental deciduous tree. Engledale where foliage of Bismarck poplars shades red orange and yellow. Super maples grow up to 75 feet tall and 40 feet wide. If you want a small tree, consider other kinds of maples that are more strongly colored. The new fall foliage color is full including new maple (A. coronarium) and the 'Northern' and the 'red'. Super maple (A. palmatum) is perfect. Good tree types, including 'Aristic' (A. ginnale) and 'Honey' (A. palmatum) maples. Full sun to partial shade, regular water.



9. Redbud (*Cercis*) Zones 4-9 Despite its name, the small tree bears bright pinkish-purple spring flowers before its heart-shaped leaves appear. Most varieties turn yellow in fall. The eastern redbud (C. canadensis) is the most colorful of the few with reddish purple fall foliage. In early fall, many redbuds are just getting to have branches. The eastern redbud is more common and adaptable than the white redbud (C. occidentalis) and C. canadensis, though the latter is very drought tolerant. Due to its rapid seasonal interest and healthy growth, bright shade, redbud provides a great contrast to its evergreen. Eastern redbud grows to 35 feet, western types to about half that. Full sun or light shade, moderate to regular water.

Recycled, reclaimed, repurposed products

Here, 10 standouts that are as easy on the eyes as they are on the earth

By DANIELLE BUNDELL • Photographs by ANDREW MUEHL

There's more to remodeling your house with sustainable products than going green with modern-looking bamboo and LED lighting. To prove it, we embarked on an extensive search for great goods—from mirror frames salvaged from old Thai fishing boats to cabinet knobs hand-carved in India from fallow orange trees to made-in-the-USA recycled cotton fibers—to find a handful we felt would be worthy additions to any classic. The Old House-style home. Our final selections here to that new-homed DIY craftsman of going old things new like, as they're made from recycled, reclaimed, or repurposed materials. To find something that fits with your old house, read on.

01 color-washed mirror

DIANA BROS
Made of: Wood reclaimed from deconstructed Thai fishing boats; some pieces still carry the original paint. Use it: To add a splash of coastal charm to a white bath. Eco bonus: The company employs local craftsmen. \$179. dianabros.com

WORTH



02 copper basin

COBIS
Made of: Recycled scrap copper. Use it: As a vessel, vanity for a bathroom, or in a garden. Eco bonus: For Trade Mission craftsmen, every old-fashioned hand and hammer technique to shape the skin. \$225. cobis.com

WORTH



03 mosaic tile

STANGL GLASS
Made of: Recycled pre-consumer glass. Use it: To give up-to-backsplash or as a centerpiece in the bath. Eco bonus: Kiln-firing recasts less energy than standard and fewer emissions than furnace firing. From \$27 per square foot. stanglglasstiles.com

04 fabric wastebasket

ARCHA HOME
Made of: Cotton for cotton bags left over from apparel manufacturing. Use it: To the corner of a child's bedroom, or under a desk. Eco bonus: Folds flat for shipping, while Quilt Classics items portion in sections. \$20. archahomegoods.com

WORTH

shopping

KEY

- 0 Recycled
- 1 Reclaimed
- 2 Repurposed



05 patterned ceramic tile

TRICLAY TILE

Made of: Clay made with recycled materials such as glass, leather, and granite that melted with heat and VGC-free glaze. Use it: To bring a splash of color and sparkle. Reveal style to your fireplace surround. Eco bonus: Made in-day 10, sustainable factory. From \$14 per square foot. triclaytile.com

06 all-weather table

POLY WOOD
Made of: Recycled high-density polyethylene plastic processed into lumber. Use it: To give up a dull patio or porch and keep a great read or nap of the family. Eco bonus: Though some plastics can't be reused, these look like bottles polymers are infinitely recyclable. \$69. polywood.com



07 window feeder

FOR A \$50

Made of: Handblown recycled glass and brass. Use it: Delicate your letterbox window, where its design two look will improve the view. Eco bonus: All the metal parts are lead and cadmium-free. \$44. tracelens.com

WORTH



08 wood mosaic tile

EVERE MOSS
Made of: Teak reclaimed from old Chinese Exchange vessels. Use it: To adorn up the walls, but playfully as a modern-art centerpiece in a den. Eco bonus: The antique patina is rich—mosses or skins used. From \$25 per square foot. everemoos.com



09 storage cube

NATY BASCO

Made of: Thick consumer paper, cornstarch, and VGC-free. Use it: To store a play room full of toys, books, or DVDs in the laundry room. Eco bonus: Comes flat-packed; reflective-lined edges stick together. No glue is needed. \$30 each. natybasco.com

WORTH

o | tiered serving tray
RESTORATION HARDWARE
 Made of dark teakling
 Use it. As a space-saving
 way to serve cold drinks,
 olives or food on
 a buffet table.
 Eco bonus: It comes apart to
 individual trays for
 multipurpose use. \$495
 restorationhardware.com

RH001



o | cozy throw
PERKLE'S
 Made of domestically produced
 cotton and acrylic yarns, you'll
 never want to part with it.
 Use it. To curl up on a couch
 the card pattern will inspire
 visions of warmer locales.
 Eco bonus: A portion
 of proceeds is donated to
 environmental organizations.
 \$150 perkles.com

PERK01



o | birdhouse
WOLF
 Made of salvaged driftwood.
 Use it. On a porch post or in a
 nearby tree, where you can enjoy
 its rustic charm.
 Eco bonus: The wood is natural
 and untreated, so it's perfect for
 birds to turn up their heads at.
 \$60 wolfstudiohanddesigns.com

o | folding chair
WILLIAMS SONOMA

Made of white oak, these salvaged
 from 70 prime wine barrels.
 Use it. As extra seating anywhere from
 the den to the deck. Its slatted form
 adds that hot style/going-out-at-night
 Eco bonus: Salvaged wine
 machinery made from scrap parts.
 \$245 williams-sonoma.com

WSON01



o | house number
MISSION METAL WORKS
 Made of recycled copper or brass.
 Use it. To lend your address a touch of
 Eco bonus: Lined used with domestically
 produced alloys. \$20-\$35 each.
 missionmetalworks.com



o | cork carpet tile

MO CULTURE
 Made of cork, a byproduct of a manufacturer of wine bottle
 stoppers in Portugal.
 Use it. To fashion a graphic runner for a long hallway.
 Eco bonus: The puzzle-piece-like tiles extend the
 flooring's life. Re-use a cork tile? Just pop it out and replace
 \$85 for 12 square feet. moculture.com

GET READY TO

SWING AWAY

INTRODUCING



HT50i R.E.D.
 PROFESSIONAL
 HAMMER TACKER

Check out these other
 great R.E.D.® Tools



Arrow Fastener's R.E.D.® Products: Ergonomic. Durable.
 Tools are built with one thing in mind: Building tools that
 work when you work, no matter the size of job or the
 condition of the job.

Arrow builds them right so you can build them right.

✓ **EASY BOTTOM LOAD SYSTEM**

More convenience

✓ **HOLDS 2 FULL STRIPS OF T50® STAPLES**

More shots between loading

✓ **DIE-CAST HOUSING**

Lightweight toughness

✓ **JAM-RESISTANT MECHANISM**

Less downtime

✓ **BALANCED WEIGHTED HEAD**

Improved driving power

✓ **ERGONOMIC SOFT RUBBER GRIP**

More comfort, less fatigue



MISSION METAL WORKS

www.arrowfastener.com/TQH



For more information, please visit
 MissionMetalWorks.com or call 800-448-7464

Fixes for your remodeling goofs

Nine readers sheepishly share their "If I only knew!" renovation regrets, and This Old House offers coping tips BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • ILLUSTRATIONS BY TOMMY LADAM

The new high-gloss cabinets show every fingerprint, the handsome farmhouse sink is a wine-glass graveyard. You spending for the best your money could buy. So why aren't you totally stoked? Here, readers reveal the downsides of some of their upgrades, while TOH offers short-term fixes—and longer-term advice.

1 Deep china sink breaks dishes and glassware

"Our porcelain farmhouse sink has the right vintage note, and it's deep and wide enough to hold stacks of dirty dishes when we entertain. The problem: Within a week we dropped, and broke, two nice glasses while washing up. And the garbage containers."

How to cope: Carbine talis—sand shrouds them—with a thick plastic sink mat. And start saving your skin and your cash by donning a pair of nitrile rubber gloves.

Next time: Get farmhouse style with out-there cold, hard linings. Think about buying a basin in more forgiving Corian, copper, or stainless steel.

2 Chef-style shelves scratch way too easily

"Now that we have open stainless-steel shelves around the eating, when I need a pan I can put much for it. What I don't anticipate: Ugly scratches reflect my equal love for cast-iron cookware."

How to cope: A cleaver-like Ben Ami can reduce the scratcher's appearance, but never use an abrasive cleaning pad. If the steel is brushed, you can try a so-called Scotch-Brite Grits, which has "regulating" pads and an oiling liquid (scotch-brite.com).

Next time: Protect steel shelves with clear plastic liners. Or consider wire mesh shelves (see sidebar). The wires are thin, so scratches don't show.



3 Pro-grade range heats up the whole room

"I finally bagged a trophy stove with high-line burners. It looks great! Unfortunately, it costs so much that I charged our utility room during winter heat. Now when I'm mulling onions on one burner and boiling

pasta on another, our small kitchen feels like a hot oven."

How to cope: Open a window and plug in a table fan. Seriously, just direct any heat away from those high-Btu flames.

Next time: Invest in a vent hood that sucks up hot air and moves it outdoors. Figure

that for every 100 Btu it should move 1 cfm—roughly for "cubic foot of air per minute." Look for a model that puts the noisy motor outside, too. (See range board accessories at rustic.com.)

4 Stylish gravel patio is unstable

"I put in a pea-gravel patio with flower beds around it to acquire a Puritan garden. I love to host the atmospheric crunch of the stones. Then I put on a big party. All the women complained that they couldn't walk in their heels—they just would! And it isn't so comfy on bare feet, either. Plus, pebbles pop up all over the stone beds."

How to cope: Try setting flat pieces of limestone in the gravel at strolling intervals.

Next time: A hard surface is not only easier on heels but also easier to sweep clean of leaves, snow, and debris—and big stones don't roam into adjacent lawns or flower beds. (For tips on paving down a small limestone patio, go to thisoldhouse.com/stone.)

5 Marble countertops stain like crazy

"Our Carrera countertops are great for rolling out pastry dough. But most of all, they're just so beautiful. Unfortunately, every time someone sips on a lemon or pours a glass of red wine, I find myself wiping up behind them with a wet cloth before spots or rings have a chance to form."

How to cope: A food-safe sealant under can provide a barrier, but you still need to blot up acidic spills pronto and follow with a soapy sponge. If the red wine ring is there to stay, try applying a bleaching powder. (Find the how-to at thisoldhouse.com/stone.)

Next time: Consider engineered stone or solid surfacing. You won't really mistake the look or feel for marble, but you also



won't have to wear around a sponge every time someone wants to take a knee.

6 White floors highlight every speck of dirt

"My old wood floors needed a new look, so I painted them glossy white, and now they are so beautiful they could appear in a magazine spread. But minutes after French walk in, I feel a need to mop."

How to cope: Ask visitors to park their shoes at the door to keep our dirt and allergens.

Next time: Opt for a more muted (read: less demanding) effect by color-washing the floor with diluted white paint. You could top it if you like with a stenciled pattern, also in a muted, diluted color. There are color books devoted to the art—*Decorative Floors in a Weekend*, anyone?

7 Counter-depth fridge isn't flush

"Our new counter-depth fridge has the stainless-steel look I love and cost much less than a built-in. Who knew it would still stick out? It makes me cry, since counter depth means giving up tons of storage!"

How to cope: It's easy to overlook the small things that can make a counter-depth model a bit more than counter depth. The plug, the ice maker's water line, or space for the coils, and that hefty handle. You

might be able to gain a half inch by recessing the electrical box into the wall, ask for a clock receptacle when you go to the home center.

Next time: If your cabinets are stock, have a carpenter bore in the fridge—wherever it is—while leaving room next to the hinge side for the door swing. It's the only way to cover the sides completely.

8 Cabinets show every smudge

"Our contractor told us on a durable, European-style, lacquer finish. But our sleek cabinet door is so shiny it's like a mirror, and it shows every smudge and fingerprint."

How to cope: Buff the cabinets regularly with a microfiber cloth—while you're talking on the phone, perhaps.

Next time: Top a tough, high-gloss finish with a clear coat that has slower sheen.

9 Beautiful birdbath is a mosquito magnet

"I fell for a hand-hammered copper birdbath at a museum gift shop, and it costed a local point on my yard. When summer temperatures hit, though, it earned me a fairly mosquito infestation."

How to cope: Empty it twice a week and throw out the future liters with the brewer. Can't be bothered? Add a weekly dose of a bird-friendly larval-control agent, like Mosquito-Lift BNC (moscolift.com).

Next time: Turn it into a gargling fountain with a recirculating pump to discourage mosquitoes and attract more birds—they'll clean up the water even more.

mistakes? sure, we've made a few...
so you won't have to. Learn from 100 others' goofs at thisoldhouse.com/learn

Your Home Is Filled With Hassles.



Your Smoke Alarm Shouldn't Be One of Them

Owning a home can seem like one long "to do" list. **Kidde's Hallway Smoke Alarm** offers 10 years of maintenance-free protection.

With a sealed battery you never have to replace, an alert that tells you when it's time for a new alarm, and an average savings of \$40 on batteries, this Smoke Alarm was designed to make your life easier.

For more information, visit www.kidde.com.



Rustic reclaimed workspace

Salvaged and repurposed materials give this creative home office a relaxed vibe. Here's how to bring its one-of-a-kind look to your home. By JESSICA DODDLE FERRER • Photograph by DEN TROLOAR

Outfitting a room alone is rarely easy with recycled or reused finds can prove a challenge. Too much salvaged, and your space starts to look like a junkyard—which is why interior designer Sally Bailey has nautical rigging in her home studio, shown here. Whitewashed walls offer a clean backdrop for her many rescued treasures, including a hand-made machine's wheel and a desktop crafted from boards once used as a potter's drying rack. "There's a sense of calm that comes from the room's amazing light and abundance of natural finishes," says Bailey. But the room also boasts plenty of personality, thanks to bright blue vases and vintage globes, plus some graphic industrial accessories, including a caged desk lamp.

Read on for more ways to create a similar space at your house. ■



zero-VOC paint

A chunky white hue is odorless, eco-friendly formula lends this office an airy feel while slight spray of reds on the desk legs add an unlikely dose of color. *Benjamin Moore Green Island Gray* (OC-65) and *Big Country Blue* (2066-20), \$30 per gallon. benjaminmoore.com





recycled-glass vases

Made the homeowners' collection of 350+ glassware with vessels made from recycled bottles. From 14 in. Hamlet vase, \$21. www.home.com. Cocktail vase, \$34. [worldofgood.com](http://www.worldofgood.com). Bud vase, \$18 for two and get it, \$4.8 for four. [greenglass.com](http://www.greenglass.com).

WIN IT!



iron cabinet

Amplify desk storage by keeping supplies (and books) out of sight and display case. This set costs \$275. www.ellie.com. Available for as little as \$100—just search for "display cabinet" or "glass case" at ellie.com.

industrial stool

Rescued from a commercial office, this vintage chair features a wood seat and steel footrest. \$285. www.ellie.com.



task lamp

Make this adjustable, factory-style fixture ultra-energy efficient by fitting it with CFL or LED bulbs. \$79. [photon.com](http://www.photon.com).

WIN IT!



vintage typewriter

Swap out your modern Swingline for a hefty 1930s model easily found online or in vintage shops. \$15. [vintage.com](http://www.vintage.com).



sawhorse table

Sturdy bench stools, which boast slatted shelves, give this large desk the ultimate look—and functionality—at a steal. Table top, \$39.99 and stools, \$30 each. [ellie.com](http://www.ellie.com).

WIN IT!



desk globe

A quick peek at this desktop globe from the 1940s offers inspiration during even the dullest work days. \$75. www.ellie.com.



WIN IT!



WIN IT!

Search online with your smartphone and use the results to win the 2011 Grand Cherokee. For details, see page 100. www.jeep.com.

get
this look

LUXURIOUS LEATHER BEAUTIFULLY TREATED, FINISHED, STITCHED, & CRAFTED IN AMERICA.



Every surface within reach is in it to the hilt. Premium craftsmanship demands with exquisite stitching accents in the dash and seats and a hand-repainted leather-trimmed 10-spoke steering wheel.



Now this trip to Rome seems almost like the 2011 Grand Cherokee and see the rest of Jeep's 2011 line up.

Jeep

INTRODUCING
The All-New
2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee

The floormaster

A skilled installer strives to restore respect and appreciation for the rare art of ornamental wood flooring. by KETH PANDOLFI • Photographs by VERONICA T. WEBER

Hire Charles Peterson to work on your wood floors and you'll never look at them the same way again. The 48-year-old owner of Cincinnati-based CP Wood Floors has gained national attention for his ability to transform plain-jane floors into works of art using little more than pieces of wood cut and precisely fitted into colorful medallions, mosaic borders, and geometric patterns. "To me, a floor is a blank canvas," he says.

Peterson's love for wood began when he was a kid building furniture alongside his grandfather. In college he worked for a curiously named flooring installer whose only advice was "Shut up and keep working!" Nevertheless, when Peterson quit his career as a teacher engineer, he decided he'd rather deal with floors than repeat perfect plans. At that point, he dedicated his life to learning the trade. "I read every book I could find on the subject, traveled all over the world, and studied with people whose families have been doing floors for five generations," he says.

Now Peterson teaches fellow installers how to improve their craft and jet around the country installing and restoring people's floors. One thing's for sure: The man relishes a challenge. "Right now I'm looking for woods to match the column in Michelangelo's 'Cecilia'." Yeah, that's right—he wants to re-create the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. On a floor! For Peterson, nothing makes him happier than a chance to make a floor the center of attention. ■



Working with a simple scroll saw (pictured) and carefully selected pieces of wood, Peterson hand-fashions borders and medallions.



WELL MADE IS FOREVER.
THIS IS THE 2011 GRAND CHEROKEE

Jeep

THE THINGS WE MAKE.
MAKE US.



Now That's Curb Appeal!

Last March, *The Old House* teamed up with Cub Cadet and invited readers to tell us why their front yard needed a serious makeover for the chance to win our first-ever Roast Your Curb Appeal contest.

Response from across the country was overwhelming, and choosing a winner wasn't easy. But the Weli family of New Haven, Conn., stood out. Having spent years renovating a neglected foreclosure, this family of eight had run out of resources and ideas.

Enter Andrew Brodman, owner and senior landscape designer of Twombly Nursery (www.twomblynursery.com), who over-seeded the dry, sparse lawn and rimmed the house with a row of evergreen boxwoods and holly interspersed with blooming hydrangeas, soft-colored roses and Clematis. A new path of stone pavers lined with dwarf boxwoods, plus hanging baskets of Scabiosa, Brillant® on the porch completed the look.

The results? A warm, welcoming entryway. Brand new Cub Cadet lawn equipment to keep the yard and new plantings tidy. And, most importantly, one happy family. "What a difference!" Mrs. Weli told us. "There's nothing like pulling into the driveway of a beautiful front yard to lift your spirits after a long day!"

Cub Cadet Makes Maintenance Easier:

"My husband loves mowing the lawn now!" Mrs. Weli says of their Cub Cadet prize package, which included:

- Series 1000 Lawn Tractor with Mulch Kit, Twin Blade and Poly-Cut
- Chopper/Shredder/Vac
- Backpack Blower
- String Trimmer
- Snow Thrower

Call 1-800-4-A-Cadet



For all your lawn and garden equipment needs, visit cubcadet.com.



Smart smoke alarms

All fire alarms work the same way, right? Not exactly. Here are two new models that take detection to a higher level—in different ways and with different price tags. By DEBORAH KALLENBERG • Photography by ANDREW McCALL

Every year nearly 3,000 people die in home fires, and about two-thirds of the time a nonworking or missing smoke alarm is to blame. People discover them, forget to replace dead batteries, or fail to buy enough units to have one per bedroom and one per floor. But how to choose from the baffling array of models? We sifted through the latest stick-on, plug-in, battery-operated units and found two contenders, both from Kidde, to round out your arsenal. The high-end model can dawn on-fiber alarms and detects carbon monoxide as well as smoldering and flaming fires. The budget one detects flames for smokers with 10-year batteries for peace of mind. Read on for more on how they stack up.

High-End

Intelligent Combination SMOKE, FIRE, AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM

Elemental 500 Series Lifetime Alarm

+\$39

\$20+

The 10-Year Smoke Alarm

Elemental 100 Series Lifetime Alarm

Elemental 100 Series Lifetime Alarm

IS IT FOR YOU?

If you hate fiddly alarms, smart three-in-one units do more, and can be connected on to replace the batteries in one place.

basic functions

Clearly good at detecting smoldering and flaming fires, and detects carbon monoxide. Different units communicate with one another to help reduce false alarms.

special features

IS IT FOR YOU?

If you hate fiddly alarms, smart three-in-one units do more, and can be connected on to replace the batteries in one place.

basic functions

Clearly good at detecting smoldering and flaming fires, and detects carbon monoxide. Different units communicate with one another to help reduce false alarms.

special features

If you hate fiddly alarms, smart three-in-one units do more, and can be connected on to replace the batteries in one place.

basic functions

Clearly good at detecting smoldering and flaming fires, and detects carbon monoxide. Different units communicate with one another to help reduce false alarms.

special features

If you hate fiddly alarms, smart three-in-one units do more, and can be connected on to replace the batteries in one place.

basic functions

Clearly good at detecting smoldering and flaming fires, and detects carbon monoxide. Different units communicate with one another to help reduce false alarms.

special features

If you hate fiddly alarms, smart three-in-one units do more, and can be connected on to replace the batteries in one place.

basic functions

Clearly good at detecting smoldering and flaming fires, and detects carbon monoxide. Different units communicate with one another to help reduce false alarms.

special features

If you hate fiddly alarms, smart three-in-one units do more, and can be connected on to replace the batteries in one place.

basic functions

Clearly good at detecting smoldering and flaming fires, and detects carbon monoxide. Different units communicate with one another to help reduce false alarms.

special features

If you hate fiddly alarms, smart three-in-one units do more, and can be connected on to replace the batteries in one place.

basic functions

Clearly good at detecting smoldering and flaming fires, and detects carbon monoxide. Different units communicate with one another to help reduce false alarms.

special features

If you hate fiddly alarms, smart three-in-one units do more, and can be connected on to replace the batteries in one place.

basic functions

Clearly good at detecting smoldering and flaming fires, and detects carbon monoxide. Different units communicate with one another to help reduce false alarms.

special features

price
wise



WON IT? Scan this tag with your smartphone and you'll win one of three \$500 Fire Safety Kits. Worth \$50 each. No data is sent over 3G or 4G just to be honest about it.

Heating Classic Homes the Modern Way



Gas and oil heat can be expensive, noisy 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 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 in 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 mix-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:

- ☒ Your upstairs is a different temperature than downstairs
- ☒ 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.

To find out why Halcyon is right for you, visit us at www.constantcomfort.com

FUJITSU

Small bookcase

Assemble a custom storage piece with plywood and decorative details already made optional by STEPHEN STANLEY • Photograph by JASON STANLEY

It's a shame to close your collection when open shelving puts those prized possessions on proud display. And it doesn't take much to build yourself a custom bookcase. A few sheets of veneer plywood and some inexpensive molding, and you're well on your way to creating a proper showcase for your hard-back favorites and treasured curios. Or you can find one that suits your space in a range of styles and materials, from unadorned models made of engineered wood to birchwood beauties with adjustable shelving and fancy molding. Either way, consider an attention-grabbing color to enliven the statement.

Get the Cabinet Craft's rich-veneer bookcase finished in Empire Red. \$139; getthecabinetcraft.com

cut list

Download a cut list and check out other bookcase designs at thishouse.com/ideas



build it •

Turn sheets of veneer plywood and several lengths of decorative molding into striking and functional storage

1. **Cut the pieces.** Using a circular saw and a straightedge, cut the assembly pieces based on the cut list at thishouse.com/ideas. Sand them lightly.

2. **Build the sides.** With the sides laid flat, position the shelf supports and use a strip of tape to block out a gap for the shelves. Glue and nail the supports to the sides.

3. **Assemble the sides, shelves, back, and top.** Fit the shelves into the side slots, using clamps to hold it all together. Use the back panel to square up the assembly, then glue and screw it to the sides' edges. Tip the cabinet upright, apply glue to its top edges, and set the top panel flush with the back and sides but overhanging the front. Screw the top in place.

4. **Attach the railings and trim.** Miter the base trim. Attach the pieces to the front and sides, flush with the floor. Install vertical lengths of fluted casing to the front edges, between the base trim and the overhanging top. Install a 2x3 crosspiece between the casings, up against the top. Miter and attach the chair-rail molding to the front and sides, flush with the top. Fill the fastener holes with wood glue, then sand and paint the entire piece. ■

Cost: \$130

Time: 6 hours

Difficulty: Easy. Cut the large pieces, miter the trim, and coat it with paint.



• buy it

Pick up a no-frills fiberboard model or choose a custom-built bookcase made of high-end materials

\$40+

basic

This plain and simple bookcase is made of medium-density fiberboard with a laminate finish, available in flat colors that require assembly. Target.com



\$199+

mid-range

Choose from one of six hand-rubbed finish options to spruce up this solid-wood bookcase. popmp.com



\$329+

luxury

Fluted details, dentil molding, and a seven-step distressed finish over hardwood set this bookcase apart. newtonandstone.com



Does your insulation keep your home warmer, cooler and healthier too?



Ours does.

Johns Manville is the only complete line of certified Formaldehyde-free* fiber glass home insulation. JM improves indoor air quality for the health and well-being of your family by reducing overall exposure to formaldehyde, enabling you to follow the EPA's recommendation to limit exposure to formaldehyde. Look for our naturally white insulation at Lowe's, or specify Johns Manville with your builder. For more information visit JMhomeowner.com.



Available at **LOWE'S**

Healthier: safer fiber glass insulation from JM. Greener: Living from the Inside Out!®
Plastic-wrapped insulation • Tear-to-fit insulation • Mold resistant insulation • Blow-in insulation

©2011 Johns Manville. All rights reserved. Johns Manville is a registered trademark of Johns Manville.



Build Beautifully with western red cedar

Western Red Cedar has unique natural performance characteristics that bring warmth, character and longevity to interiors and outdoor living projects around the world. Equally important, Western Red Cedar specifically has a low environmental impact and option for a green building project when composed with other building materials. But let's face it, its best feature is its stunning beauty that is unrivaled by any man-made material.

Western Red Cedar offers enormous versatility in styles and applications. Whether you choose to add warmth to an interior entrance, cut-capped or create that outdoor living space you always wanted, Western Red Cedar will help turn your house into a home.

Assure yourself of quality Western Red Cedar for your next project. Insist on Real Cedar from members of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association. Call us or visit the website to find suppliers near you.

www.wrcda.org 1.866.778.9096



Get the lead out

And the asbestos, and the termites, and any other hazards to health and home that an inspection can reveal. The owners of the new TOH TV project house tackle the cleanup

BY KATHY HANDELIT • Photos by ANTHONY TELLE

Baven and Allison Sharma thought they knew what they were getting into when they decided to buy and overhaul a handyman's special, circa 1940, in Auburndale, Massachusetts. Given that the house—the subject of *The Old House TV's* Fall 2010 project—was built at a time when asbestos was still considered a miracle fiber and lead paint was par for the course, they weren't surprised when a home inspection revealed the presence of both. And since termite damage is the bane of existence for many an old-house lover, they weren't exactly shocked to learn the front sill had been devoured. What the Sharmas weren't prepared for was the extent of these ills. The asbestos turned up all over the house, the lead paint coated the entire exterior, and the termites had already moved in from their appetizer of sill to the main course of walls. “We were just relieved that we didn’t have any mold,” Allison says.

The Sharmas faced some big decisions about how far they wanted to go—and how much they wanted to spend—to address all these issues. Their story may well help you tackle those decisions at your own old house.



ABOVE: TOH general contractor Tom Silva inspects a window frame for lead paint with homeowner Fawcett Sharma at the owners's TOH TV project house. LEFT: The 1940s Colonial Revival will undergo major surgery, including the addition of a gabled garage roof, sunroom, and arched, family-friendly kitchen.

TOH TV



RIGHT: Tom Silva uses a chemically activated work test for lead on the house's old windows. INSET: Cutting into the second oldest basement room to see whether lead is present in deeper layers of paint.

Lead

“If you live in a house built before 1978, assume it has lead-based paint,” says TOH general contractor Tom Silva. The question for the Sharmas, whose house was built decades before the 1977 ban, was: How much lead was there—and where, exactly? Lead abatement became a budgetary issue for anyone hiring out a renovation last April, when the Environmental Protection Agency introduced its Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) rules. Those require every contractor who comes into contact with lead paint to complete an eight-hour certification and follow strict new guidelines that make the work more time-consuming, labor-intensive and, as a result, expensive. Now, even a plumber installing a shower—or any project encompassing more than 2 square feet of lead-painted surface (20 square feet outside)—must wear a HEPA-filtered respirator and meticulously contain and clean up paint debris by sealing off the entire room with plastic and duct tape. The paint removal still has to be done in a way that eliminates dust, and, just to be safe, everything from tools to controls must be cleaned before leaving the contaminated space (ignoring the rules can lead to hefty fines).

Of course, lead is far more than just a cost concern for the Sharmas, who have two little children and

particularly susceptible to lead poisoning's effects, which can range from chronic headaches to brain damage. The danger occurs when they ingest paint chips or chew on “nonstable surfaces” containing lead, such as painted moldings, or inhale lead dust embedded in, say, floor cracks. If lead paint is in good repair, and not peeling away from surfaces, the EPA says it's safe and acceptable to manipulate it with special primers, such as Child Guard, which seal in the toxins and have a bitter taste to deter children. If you choose to undertake lead abatement yourself, be sure to follow the same precautions as the pros. (Check out epa.gov/lead for more information.)

Since the Sharmas were tackling a major renovation, encapsulation wasn't a viable option. To minimize the RRP work inside, they called in Corvus Environmental Associates, which used a type of X-ray machine to scan the walls. As in many old houses, which were often well-preserved, lead paint was discovered only in the kitchen and bedrooms, where moisture was a concern. Once Tom and crew removed that paint, the renovation could continue unimpeded. Outside, Tom identified lead paint on the windows and wood shingles with Lead Check, a DIY testing kit. That meant they were going to need an awful lot of plastic and duct tape to replace the windows and repair the house. “Smoke old days, guys would group them in shorts and T-shirts and start sanding away,” says Russ Peck, owner of Alpine Environmental, which helped with the Sharma's abatement. “Lead is the new asbestos.”



RIGHT: After asbestos was found in the basement's ceiling, the end-wall and subfloor, the Sharmas had a choice. They asked behavior Ties to rip out everything down to the aggregate subfloor & then concrete subfloor rather than cover the contaminants.

BASEBALL
A FILM BY KEN BURNS
THE COMPLETE SERIES
DVD-9
10 DISCS
1994-2009



Your purchase helps
support PBS and
programs you love.
Thank you!

© 2006 Blackwell Publishing Ltd Journal of Internal Medicine 260: 391–400

NEW from **This Old House**

This Old House
EASY UPGRADES
BATHROOMS
DAILY PROJECTS FOR THE HOME

Available
wherever
books are
sold

Get the Bath You've Always Wanted

What's Inside:

- Over 200 pages of bathroom makeovers, including before-and-after photos
- Layouts designed to maximize comfort and functionality
- All the right details to create the look you want
- Inspiring photo galleries of a variety of finished rooms
- Tips and advice from This Old House experts

15 Great Ideas That Mom, Dad, and Kids Can Build and Enjoy!

what's inside:

- Easy step-by-step instructions and full-color photos
- Valuable building skills and safety tips
- Great pro advice from This Old House
- Special access to templates and step-by-step videos on thisoldhouse.com
- Bonus pages with fun ideas and helpful tips

**Outdoor
House**
PROJECTS

One way to clean your energy bill.

Green
Technology
made

The Bosch Vision™ washer is the most energy- and water-efficient brand of full-size front-load washers in the U.S.*



Use your way to cleaner clothes. That's the smart thinking behind the new Bosch Vision washer and dryer. Using fewer resources is the hallmark of Bosch engineering—a commitment to efficiency that doesn't mean skimping on performance. In fact, our stain removal technology automatically sets the optimal temperature to clean multiple stain types in a single cycle. Giving you more, while you use less. It's what we do best. www.bosch-home.com/us



BOSCH
invented for life

ENERGY STAR
PARTNER OF THE YEAR

© 2012 Bosch Home Appliances. *Energy Star® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. See www.epa.gov for more information. Bosch is a registered trademark of Robert Bosch GmbH. All rights reserved.

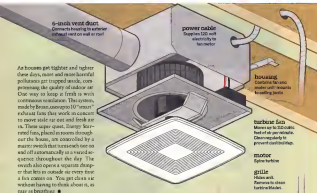
Lowe's

Sears

BUY

Your own clean air act

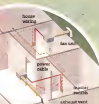
by NUTTHA SAKUNKULSI + Illustrations by JIM KIRBY



how it works

Relying on electronic signals sent over the fuse wiring, the master control switch senses when a fan turns off, then determines which other fans the system to turn on next. It happens any fan that has recently been switched on manually to avoid wasteful over ventilation. Because of the systematic but flexible way the switch activates switches, state drivers have a chance to build an

MASTER CONTROL
Starts and stores each fax in the system via signals sent over Facsimile's adaptive local network. Prices.



Downloaded from <http://ajphaphysocpharm.sagepub.com/> at 00:00 11 July 2015

October 2010 REFUGELIBRARY.COM 79

A silver sedan is parked on a street next to a pile of cardboard boxes and debris. The car is a four-door model, and the debris includes several flattened boxes and other unidentifiable items. The scene is outdoors on a paved surface.



My Quail is the first quail I've purchased.
So it was a huge deal for me. It's the biggest investment
I've ever made.
It's just feels like a really elusive, delicate
after I bought it, I drove the four-hour trip from
my parents' house to my place in L.A.
It was very precious, and I felt like I'm actually
treating this thing. You know what I meant?
(like a bit of attention)

2006: American
 2006: David, Daniel



Every Toyota has a story.
The 2010 Corolla – a 2010 Top Safety Pick from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.
Share your story at facebook.com/toyota

Thanks for your letters, David

[illegible]

Build a cold frame

Use rot-resistant planks and a salvaged window to build a protective box that extends the growing season

By STEPHEN STRECHER • Photographs by MATTHEW BUSTON

Cost: \$75

Time: 10 hours

Skill level: Moderate

Cutting the angles on the sides requires planning and finesse, but attaching the framed glass is fairly simple

Not all gardeners have the luck to live in temperate climates. Instead of basking from a mild greenhouse, its exterior screens let you foster seedlings as early spring and keep veggies going through fall and even into winter. This Old House senior technical editor Mark Powers shows how to build the box from rot-resistant wood and a salvaged window. Once it's finished, choose a south-facing spot in your yard where water won't pool, and enjoy all that extra gardening time.

London Trail Center has many materials available by donation. All you have to do is provide a note from a local business or church. For more information, visit www.londontrailcenter.com



The vintage's aluminum frame fits snugly

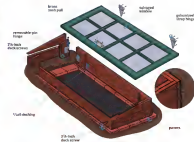


Project timeline

FRIDAY Size and cut the planks

SAUNDAY Assemble the frame and attach the window

SUNDAY Prepare the site and install the cold frame



tools

miter saw
square
drill/driver
string/wire
clamps
cable gun
garden roller
garden spade

materials

Welding: Get all wood three 8-foot boards
salvaged window unit: Get enough to fit beneath each side of the frame
construction adhesive: 150-inch deck screws
2x4-inch deck screws: 160-inch deck screws
4-inch galvanized strap hinges: Get two for the front and two for the back
4-inch removable-pin hinges: Get one for the middle of each corner to make the frame collapsible
1x4-inch boards: Get at least 10 feet to make venting poles of various lengths

1

1. Size the pieces

A. Measure the window. The window will be hinged along its length and closed to let in maximum sunlight. Measure the window's long edge to get the length for the front piece and the two back pieces. Sandwiched between the sides later back to front, which means they'll be shorter than the window's width. To determine their length without resorting to geometry, slice one end of the frame two dimensionally. Build two boards end to end. Then put up a thin board with a line of three to mark the height of the hole. Slide the single board away from the pair and open a gap incrementally as wide as the window. Then stand the window on end, angling it from the "back" to the "front" and adjust the gap until the window just overlaps the boards at either side, as shown. Now measure the gap to determine the length of each side piece.

B. Cut the pieces to length. Using a miter saw, cut to length the front board, two back boards, and four side boards.



2. Angle the sides

- A. Mark the angle.** The top board of each side needs to be tapered. To get that angle, run a string taut diagonally from the top corner of one end of a board to the bottom corner of the other end, and mark the line, as shown.
- B. Cut the angle.** Clamp the board to the work surface and cut square to cut the angle. Now you have your two tapered pieces.



2



3

3. Assemble the side pieces

A. Mark and cut the tall battens. The tops of all the frame battens must follow the side taper so that they'll cavewall. For the tall ones at the top of the sides, cheat them using a board or edge to block out space for a back batten. With the tall batten flush at the bottom, transfer the taper angle to the board, as shown. Using the miter saw cut that angle. Repeat.

B. Mark and cut the short battens. Cut two more battens at the same angle. Since they taper down to a angle based in front, you can mark each batten a bright with the width of a board, as shown. Cut both battens.

C. Glue and screw the battens. Using construction adhesive, glue the battens in place, making sure to leave space for the back batten. Using a drill/driver and four 1 1/2-inch screws secure a side batten.



4

Tip If the plants you want to grow are taller than what would fit in this frame, you can make your venters higher by adding a plank in each side and nailing the battens accordingly.



4. Assemble the back

A. Cut the back battens. The battens joining the back boards together must be beveled at the top to match the side taper. Using the miter saw, cut a scrap block to the angle of the taper. Then loosen the ignore footplate, hold it flat against the side edge, tilt the blade to match the taper, and set the saw as shown. Cut to the level. Now cut the battens long (so that it's flush with the frame height) from the peak of the level to the bottom of the board. Repeat for a second batten.

B. Position the back battens. To allow room to sandwich the sides between the front and back of the frame, set them on edge as a spacer. Position the battens against the spacer, flush at the top and bottom.

C. Glue and screw the back battens. Using a caulk gun and construction adhesive, glue each batten in place. Then sink four 2 1/2-inch screws through the battens and into the back boards.

5. Assemble the frame

A. Screw the four sides together. But a safe assembly sets the back as far as a corner. Drill a counterbore, and drive two 2 1/2-inch screws through the side into the edge of the back batten, as shown. Repeat for the second side. Attach the front board with two screws through its ends and into the edge of the short battens.

B. Attach the hinges. Screw removable pin hinges into the battens on the no. 2 corners. This lets you remove the assembly screws, take out the pins, and easily break down the frame for storage.



5



6

6. Prepare the site

A. Raise the soil. Using a garden roller, loosen and turn the soil, creating a levelbed for the frame.
B. Install the pavers. Set the frame in place and lift each side to slip pavers beneath to create a sturdy foundation. The bottom edge of the frame should rest on the center line of the pavers, as shown.

7. Finish the frame

A. Attach the lid. Refurbish the window as necessary, coat it with an exterior paint, and let it dry. Set the window in place so that its edges are flush with the frame. Screw two straps/bands to the back edge of the window and the back of the frame, as shown.

B. Install the handle. Center the pull strap to the front edge of the window and screw it in place.
C. Cut the vent rods. Cut several pieces of 1/2-inch diameter of varying lengths. They can be used to prop up the window for ventilation or to keep plants from overhanging or falling steps. To help prevent moisture buildup.

D. Finish the frame. Set the assembled unit in place on the paver foundation. With the lid propped up, use a garden spade to dig holes for your seedlings or plants. Then watch them flourish regardless of outside temperatures. ■



7

weekend remodel

MY CARRY TREE

Once I got pregnant with my son, we wanted to upgrade to something bigger for a family of four. We bought the 2005 Toyota Camry. We called it "Silver Bullet." kinda felt like a step up for us. A little bit of luxury, but in our price range. ☺



Los Angeles, 2006

I brought my son home from the hospital in my first Camry. My son is those new and I used to have to drive home in a class that was almost an hour away and she always got me there.

A lot of good memories in that car. Family outings, weekend trips, stuff like that. Silver Bullet was hard to let go of but it was funny - actually, my daughter had the hardest time letting go! She didn't understand that we were getting a new one. She loved the sound system and didn't know how we would listen to all our music!

Every Toyota has a story. And with 90% of all Toyota Camrys sold in the last 15 years still on the road*, we want to hear yours. toyota.com/seedbox



Arizona, 2007



Halloween, 2008



Oh, by the way, my mother lost ours so much she ended up buying a Camry too. Now we both have a 2007. It's a whole family experience.



Malena Rosenkranz
2007
Toyota Camry
Owner



Based on T.C. Poll & Co. Q3. National Household Transportation Survey (NHTS) 2007 as of January 2007. Includes Camry Owners. ©2007 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

100-year-old cottage, 21st-century remodel

How one family is turning their 1910 house into an energy- and resource-saving pilot project



SAVINGS PLAN A spin-by-noon rule put the vintage cottage OFFGRID, an entrepreneur that helped by a wind turbine and growing vegetable greens. **REDLIVE** Homeowner Curt Mann and daughter Foster, 9, prep for dinner just steps from the family's secondhand range.



Was a quirky old cottage comes on the market, not everyone sees it as an irresistible living ground for the latest thinking on how to save the earth. What's more, though—was a wind turbine and a gray-water recycling system—not necessarily. But then, Curt and Christine Mann met their typical home buyers. When they went shopping for a house in Atlanta five years ago, they picked not a McMansion but a Pygmalion with more personality than polka, one that would allow them to experiment with ways to save energy, water and, in the long run, money, too. As Curt likes to say, "What's good for the environment is also good for the pocketbook."

After moving in on a neighborhood with a good school for their kids—Foster, now 9, and Rivers, 12—they found their ideal subject: a circa 1910 shingled house in one need of renovation, sitting on a rare double lot rather than a double lot of historic Grant Park. The property had a nice side, inviting Christine to imagine family meals prepared with the help of a big garden. Curt, a green building consultant, noted the width of the lot and pictured anchoring all the good with the help of solar power.

Because the house fell within a historic district, they would have to keep the street-facing facade intact. But there was nothing stopping the couple from altering the interior to meet their needs and satisfy their curiosity. Could a reconfigured, beyond-plus-green foundation air-conditioning help? Could the old house be taught the new trick of collecting, filtering, and pumping shower and sink water into low-flow toilets? In Atlanta, where water rates are among the nation's highest, "that system could

pay for itself in less than three years," Curt recalls thinking. Although the couple was pretty savvy about waste big and small to conserve here and there, they knew they couldn't do a major renovation without the help of pros. Local architect Keith Summerour arrived to help reshape the layout, including the cramped second floor with its small, knee-high, and mismatched plans for a porch to shade the back of the house from the western sun. He was followed by general contractor Scott Nagy, who specializes in bringing vintage houses up to speed. The framework started peeling into walls and under floors, asking ways to reuse and reduce.

At the top of their list was upgrading the HVAC with high-efficiency equipment split into two zones governed by programmable thermostats. Next: a tankless water heater, which would cut down on gas bills by supplying hot water only on demand. But "the house had no basement, just back porch holding it up," says Nagy, so to create a mechanical area the Manns had to dig out a crawl space and pour a foundation for a below-grade entry room.

More hard work was required on the first floor. Renovated over the years in a wily-eclectic fashion, it held "a delightful variety of funny spaces," says Summerour, whose plan called for demolishing two interior walls to create what he calls "one huge hall." Running from the front to the back of the house, with the kitchen at the center and gathering space at right end, this open-plan area helps circulate light and air. Glass-paned pocket doors provide a single line from the kitchen to the TV room, while solid pocket doors close off a sitting room-turned-home office.

The gas flooring was beyond repair, and walls needed to be opened for new wiring, plumbing, and insulation. This allowed Summerour to insert French doors on the living space's exterior south-facing wall to bring in the sun's warmth in winter and connect the public spaces to the outdoors.

Curt and Christine built a flagstone patio along that side of the house and began planning their lush vegetable garden. They also helped design and equip the busy working kitchen, mixing custom cabinets and adding a wood restaurant range and hood. "Most people overthink the kitchen and lose the spirit of what it's about: cooking and living and laughing," says Summerour. "This kitchen captures the life they have."

On the second floor, the plan called for breaking up the insulation and carving out two proper baths. But as the design-build team contemplated the challenge of opening up walls and ceilings, it became apparent that it would be easier to replace than remove. They were able to raise the old parlor floor while existing walls filled with spray-foam insulation. And once they got that far, they realized, it would be easy to cap the second floor with a low-sloped attic plywood.

That's when Christine and Curt realized how pleasant it would be to step out of their bedrooms and onto a covered outdoor porch. Summerour went back to the drawing board, adding a second, nearly identical porch over the first. Today, both porches are outfitted with coffee bars to



ADDING LIGHT AND AIR

The front face of the house's original ceiling had to remain intact. Inside, two walls came down and a bath room got its own first floor living space and a new kitchen. Opposite the kitchen is a new bedroom. The second floor has a master bedroom and a full bath. Porches connect up front and down the side the house while adding several living spaces.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



By Deborah Baldwin
Photographs by Deborah Whitlow Llewellyn
Produced by Colette Scanlon
Styling by Arnette Joseph



family gather The Maas family. **THIS PAGE** shows the couple's kitchen, which is a mix of modern and rustic. **OPPOSITE PAGE** shows the couple's living room, which is a mix of modern and rustic.



a colorful mix downstairs. **ABOVE:** The new 2011 Bear brand has a fireplace to allow dining outdoors six months of the year. **RIGHT:** In the TV room, a built-in fireplace surround was added for style and an old-fashioned ceiling fan for comfort. **BELOW:** The eating dining room is finished with a fireplace surround, one ceiling beam, and a vintage pendant fixture.



Ways they save

Here are some systems the Maases are putting to the test.

Wind power: Whirling blades atop a 56-foot pole generate a small, untethered portion of the household's electricity needs. In hindsight, they wish they'd opted for a 70-foot tower. The power generated rises with greater wind speed, which is affected by height.

High-efficiency HVAC: Heating and cooling account for 46 percent of energy costs in a typical home, says the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Maases upgraded their decades-old systems with a 95-percent-efficient furnace and central air with a rating of Green 13 (equivalent to energy star).

Ceiling fans: In summer, these air movers allow a 4-degree increase in temperature with no loss of comfort, says the DOE. The Maases added seven inside and reverse the blades' direction in winter to lessen the need for heat.

Tube skylights: Two reflective

pipes channel light into a windowless bath and a closet, reducing the need for artificial light, which typically accounts for 10 percent of the household energy.

Tankless gas water heater:

About 25 percent of a home's energy costs go toward heating water. Their on-demand system cuts out costs up to 30 percent.

Dual-flush toilets: Filters

typically account for 30 percent of indoor water use. The Maases' dual-flush models should save about 18,000 gallons a year.

Gray-water recycling: The

Maases spend \$1,000 and install bath-sink and shower wastewater then pump it into toilet tanks.

Filter maintenance has been a problem, so they never saw they'd do it again. And with their ultra-efficient toilets, there's a gray-water surplus—they'd like to find a way to use it outdoors.





WORTHY AND DUTY VESTICES
LEFT The master bath has its original pine floor, a vintage table vanity, and pendant-filled for LED bulbs. BELOW The upstairs porch connects two laundry areas as well as the master bedroom and offers a place to read, relax—or reduce the green bill by hanging clothes for dry



counter heat and mosquitoes. As the couple contemplated the ways they'd put their porches to use, it occurred to them that they could also add fireplaces to extend porch season.

After six months in a nursery rental, the family was eager to move in. Christine, an artist, looked for ways to salvage sofa and chairs and opt for low-VOC paints and finishes. Her mother, Alice Wilkins, also an artist, contributed paintings and her skills as a decorator and garden planner.

Some decisions worked out better than others. The penetrating varnish chosen over polyurethane for the kitchen floor hasn't quite cut it—blame an emphasis on netherers over kids and pets (three dogs, four cats, and two chickens). And Curt began to notice that the gray-water recycling system required an awful lot of attention to keep the filters clean.

Still, an associate who helps clients save money by switching to energy-saving cooling, heating, and lighting systems, Curt was eager to test the feasibility of renewable energy. So far power didn't seem realistic—too many times. So he held up a theoretical wet finger. Maybe an elegant SkyScreen wind turbine could do its job within city limits.

"We chose one only 50 feet high to be sensitive to our neighbors, so if it ever fell over it couldn't hurt my house but ours," says Curt, who had no trouble obtaining a city permit and three years later still seems surprised by the upstart clearwind. Another lesson at the Main Family Living Lab: Don't assume everyone sees a sleek little windmill as a neighborhood asset. "It was a visual lesson for our kids," Curt continues. "A handful of people had misperceptions. Once the truth surfaced"—and the TV crews were away—"we had people profusely apologize." The turbine also turned out to be a lesson in wind dynamics. At only 50 feet, before the fastest winds, the SkyScreen has been a helpmate but not a replacement for their grid-supplied kilowatts.

Smaller experiments continue. Energy-saving ceiling fans are getting a thumbs-up, as are tubes that channel light from the roof to a windowless bath and a large closet. Good-looking LED fixtures were hard to find, so Curt and the kids rewired two pendants for pronged LED bulbs.

Today, family members supply the fireplaces with fallen fern and the dinner table with fresh produce, eggs, and fruit from our back. Instead of TV Guide, they read online bills out loud over dinner. "The kids know that gas comes in chains and power in kilowatts," says Christine. "We say, 'Here's the bill. When you leave a room, turn the light off.' They will measure, they really play a role."

The living lab also has been an eye-opener for friends and visitors. Three years after those neighborhood protests, people still ring the doorbell and ask about the windmill. Only those days it no longer seems as a folly, Curt says, but "a source of pride."

The same might be said for the house. It may look like a well-preserved circa 1910 cottage, but in spirit, no particular to proud owners, it's pure 2010s. ●

Vintage bath on a budget

A couple of savvy DIYers share how they created a luxurious, wallet-friendly master bathroom so that you can too



IF THE BATH OF YOUR DREAMS seems out of reach, you've typically got two choices. Get owners or compromise. Or, you could follow Susan and Mark Nachman's lead and get creative—on a little debt.

For this couple, affording a spa-like retreat for their 1876 Queen Anne in St. Charles, Missouri, started with holding their contractor farewell once the drywall and sub floor were in. Susan and Mark resolved to do the finish work themselves to stay under the \$6,000 cap they'd set for completing their master bath addition. Filled with high-end fixtures and finishes, such as a claw-foot tub, marble tile floors, a greens-glassed-in shower, and a farmhouse-style vanity. And because there were no existing materials to preserve, they also knew they'd have to be resourceful—shopping garage sales, building all the cabinetry, even making the e-own items.

To get the job done in six months, from blueprints to celebratory candlelit soaks, the couple divided up the labor, with Susan doing the design and tile and Mark registering himself in the garage-turned-woodshop. Read on for the hackwork on each of the charming details that make this space shine—and to see how imagination, elbow grease, and old-fashioned teamwork helped the Nachmans get the bath they'd fantasized about.

By Amy B. Hughes Photographs by Alisa O'Brien
Produced by Collette Scanlon Styling by Tishara Chantrea



Glaze-front cabinets

The divided eight doors came from a discount bed display at a kitchen and bath showroom. "I was able to take them, they were going to be trashed," says Mark, who built glass-front cabinet casework to match the doors' dimensions. White 100 percent acrylic paintlines enamel under the parts. While set, freestanding doors go for as little as \$10 each at Habitat for Humanity ReStore online (habitat.org).

Chrome clawfoot

By using with a salvaged tub—all it needed was new paint—that affordable and fellow old faucet lever gave them as a gift. The couple could splash on a new \$1,000 chrome tub faucet. Matched white oil-based enamel on the tub sides, and silver on the feet. Find your own tub-topper idea for as little as \$200. elbowdeparts.com

GET A NEW SOAP DISH



ENTER IT



WIN IT! To take home a better free Weekend Home Bath with Bath and Claw Foot and a vintage-style tub-topper faucet worth a total of \$6,700 (\$500). Simply scan the tag with your smartphone for details, see page 12. Or enter by hand at homebath.com/contest



▲ Acacia window
Susan's design originally called for a rectangular window, but this waning style octagon, which opens out from the bottom, worked for shape of the marble mosaic floor tiles. Century Specialty Windows 26-by-26-inch dual-pane insulated glass insulating window, \$160.50, www.csw.com

▲ DIY drapery
Mark created this free-standing storage unit almost entirely out of recovered components. The marble slab, which once topped an antique table, was a 22-gallon-size screen. And the plaster over the toilet seat from the upper bathroom was just \$2.26 each. The trim matches carved detailing on the lower portion of the drapery—a place the couple once wanted to replace kitchen glass.

▲ Tub shelf
To keep soap moist, Mark built a pedestal to hold the tub's soap and water bins. His marble-tile-top clad in a shelf is set on casters so Mark can move the housing to serve the plumbing.

▲ Marble top
Susan and Mark's floor tiles, instead of plain white, to create the counter. Curvy border tiles make a nice edge. Limestone Carrara 12-inch tiles, \$9 per square foot, and Limestone Carrara Borders 117 each, tiletop.com

▲ Shapely sink
To save with a \$100 faucet (an open box return), Susan used



Susan's plan: Fitting it all in. By angling the tub and shower entry in the larger corner, Susan made enough built-in space to add a shower. She tucked the toilet out of sight in a niche created by a bump-out for the master bedroom's walk-in closet. And to leave enough counter space for toiletries, she designed a double-sink vanity for just a single sink.



"Mark turned me on to power tools, and I've been a demon ever since. Now I'm not afraid of anything."

—SUSAN NITCHMAN, shows here preparing to cut marble tiles with a wet saw

more bath bargains
Get additional tips to save on a vintage look at thisoldhouse.com/bath

▲ Custom crown
Mark built the valance, using beadboard plywood for the sides and MDF for the crown molding under upper cabinets and decorative pilasters on the vanity. The valance has frames, including long of doors and shower fronts, were decorated samples from a kitchen and bath showroom. "The profiles matched, but I had to sand the doors down and repeat them because they were all 48-inch-wide and 48-inch-tall," says Mark. 75-lb beadboard plywood, \$23.42 per 4-by-8-foot sheet, and 1/2-inch MDF, \$9 per 4-by-8-foot sheet, www.csw.com

▲ Vanity mirror
An upgrade over the wood-framed mirror originally planned for above the sink, Mark and Susan found Gas Vintages' style reflects glossier site garage sale for just \$25. It was such a steal, Mark admits to buyer's guilt for not offering the mirror more. Similar to others, Luster Glass Vintages, 17000, www.vintages.com

▲ No-said-much all-star
When Susan couldn't find the perfect light to flank the vanity mirror, she considered her own using parts from two different sets bought at a home center and online for a total of \$225. To make your own unique assembly, try subbed to work better, or to get more on www.thisoldhouse.com, which also contains to choose among various finished shade options.





"You really appreciate something when you craft it yourself. I can say to my friends, 'Hey, I made that.' It's a lot better than just handing over your credit card."

— MARK NITCHMAN, shown here cutting a sheet of MDF on his table saw



1 Pull-lengthenize

A full-wall mirrored mirror gives the impression of a doorway into another room, making the narrow corridor in front of the vanity seem larger. Mark ordered the mirror, bought at a local glass shop for \$345, to the mill and finished it with fluted cutting and mirror blocks that he made out of MDF.

2 Glass shower panel

Seven decorative fluted frosted glass partitions let natural light from the room's only window into the tiled shower stall. As open entry reveals the rest of a matching door. While States holds the shower pan and double-tilting handle, she ordered the glass installation from a local pro, who charged \$350 for materials and labor.

3 Decorative brackets

The curved metal brackets on the glass-front wall cabinets were custom-jacketed style wall shelves. "MRB did you paint them and put them up," says Mark. "Second I will improve just about anything." Includes a shower kit from Home Depot. Photo: Corbinia and the photos, \$300, readyfor.com ■

Slash your Utility Bills with a DIY Energy Audit

by John Merrell
photographs by Laura Moss

This Old House tells you how to find and fix 12 potential trouble spots to boost your home's efficiency and save you money

SO YOU'VE SWAPPED YOUR INCANDESCENT lightbulbs for CFLs, turned down the thermostat, and only wash clothes on colds. Then why are your utility bills still so high? Air leaks are likely culprits, but so are "phantom" power suckers, such as flat-screen TVs, which draw energy even when they're off. To help pinpoint exactly where you are burning through resources—and cash—we pulled energy specialists across the country. The simplest route, they agree, is to have a professional auditor do a walk-through with sophisticated tools, such as blower doors and infrared cameras. "Your local utility may offer this service for free, but if it doesn't, the cost is typically \$400. Or you can do some easy tests yourself and put your money toward addressing the problems." There are many steps homeowners can take before calling a pro, says Jeffrey Gordon, spokesperson for the New York State Energy Research Development Authority. "With a little knowledge and determination, you might be surprised by your next power bill." Read on to learn how to spot and stop some of the biggest energy wasters.



1. Drafty windows

The problem: Outside air comes in and warmed air escapes through leaky frames, accounting for 30 to 25 percent of your heating costs.

How to spot it: On a blustery day, close all windows and exterior doors and the chimney flue damper. Light a stick of incense, move it around the perimeter of each window, and watch for air that disrupts the delicate rise of smoke.

How to stop it: First, check the window from the outside, paying close attention to where its casing meets your home's siding. "There are areas that often don't get the kind of attention it needs," says Ted Ridd, an energy consultant in Rochester, New York. Scrape out any cracked or dried caulk, and apply a fresh bead of paintable acrylic latex, such as DAP's Alex Plus. On the inside, add new weatherstripping. For a few hours work, you can make an old wood double-hung airtight using a kit like the Easy-Strip Weather Stripping System (\$14 per window, advancedseal.com). The kit contains a silicone flap for the bottom rail of the lower sash and a pleating for its top rail (optional). Also included are new paintable cellular PVC parting beads (narrow beads that separate the upper and lower sashes) with built-in insulation.

The payoff: Save up to \$20 off your annual energy bill for each window you seal.



2. Mystifying utility bill

The problem: Most bills don't break down energy consumption by category, such as heating, cooking, and lighting, making it almost impossible to target where you are overspending.

How to spot it: Sign up for one of the dozens of new pilot programs

offered by regional utility companies to help homeowners pinpoint and control their usage with a digital energy-management system.

How to stop it: Hook major appliances and electronics up to smart plugs or relays, which transfer information to a Wi-Fi-enabled control panel that sits at a central location in your house, such as the kitchen counter. This

device can also switch appliances on or off and adjust a programmable thermostat from home or remotely via a computer or smartphone—gives you a real-time look at how much energy you're using, in kilowatt hours and dollars. "You can determine immediately what's costing you the most money and decide if it's worth keeping that [device] plugged in," says Paige Layne of Duke Energy, which is currently supplying customers with Geico's Home Energy Controller (shown at left) free of charge in select markets in the South and Midwest. If your utility isn't offering such tools, you can buy a monitoring kit at an electronics store, such as Best Buy for as little as \$300.

The payoff: Save 10 to 25 percent on your electric bill by tracking down unwanted energy hogs and using the consumption data to change your habits.

3. Damaged fireplace damper

The problem: Ten to 20 percent of warmed air flows out a home can be drawn into the chimney flue, passing around a rusted, stuck, or nonsealing damper.

How to spot it: With the damper closed, hold a lit candle inside the fireplace and watch the flame. If it gets bent over and blown out, air is flowing up the chimney.

How to stop it: Hire a chimney sweep. In addition to giving the chimney a good cleaning, lubricating and checking the damper is usually part of the \$90 to \$200 service call in the off-season, when the fireplace isn't in use, you can seal the flue completely with a balloon-like plug, such as the Fireplace Draftstopper (\$35, ballroom.com), that you inflate and insert up the chimney just in front of the damper. When cold

weather starts again, simply delete the plug for easy removal.

The payoff: Reduce your annual heating bill by up to \$500.

4. "Phantom" appliances and electronics

The problem: Devices with so-called "standby" mode that sap power even when they aren't in use can account for 10 percent of your electricity costs.

How to spot it: It has an indicator light, a charger or AC power adapter on the cord, or a digital clock. It's a phantom. When in doubt, plug the device into a Kill A Watt detector (shown below, \$29, amazon.com) which measures exactly how much power is being drawn from the outlet when the device is supposedly "off."

How to stop it: Put phone chargers, the flat-screen TV and

computer and stereo equipment on power strips. "That way you can easily flip a switch and cut power directly from the outlet before going to bed," says energy consultant John Meleo of AppleBlossom Energy in Concord, North Carolina. Plug devices that are best left on 24/7 directly into dedicated surge protectors, he says; your DVR, for instance, needs power to record programs when you aren't around to watch them. And if you get home services through the Internet, you'll want to keep your router juiced. too.

The payoff: Save \$55 a year just by cutting standby power to your DVD VCR player, stereo tuner and CD player, and video game console.

5. An old tank-style water heater

The problem: Heaters that are more than 10 years old tend to be lined with flimsy insulation, which is less effective at preventing heat loss than the foam used today.

How to spot it: Check the heater's date of manufacture printed on its sticker or metal plate on the side of the tank. Next, touch the tank. If you feel warmth, it's leaking insulation.

How to stop it: Wrap the tank in a pre-cut blanket with an insulating value of at least R-6. Some utilities offer rebates of the \$30 to \$200 jobs and will even install one for free. To further boost efficiency, MC Ruan Insulation or insulating tape around pipes. "If your hot water lines are exposed, that's a lot of energy lost as water travels through them," says Logan Brown of Efficiency Vermont, a nonprofit energy advisory agency. Covering cold lines keeps condensation from beading up on the pipes, helping to prevent mold and mildew in your basement, says Brown.

The payoff: An insulating blanket

alone can reduce annual water heating costs by up to 9 percent.

6. Under-the-door air infiltration

The problem: When most homeowners walk upstairs around the joint, they often overlook the under-the-door infiltration door.

How to spot it: Close the door on a piece of paper placed on the threshold and give it a tug. If it pulls out easily, air is passing through.

How to stop it: Install a sweep seal. The most snug with a piece of vinyl attached uses spring action to close the space between the threshold and door. There are also foam vinyl and felt seals that fit under the door or on the threshold to prevent air transfer. Whichever type you choose, it can save 10 percent of the energy that it cost just \$10 to \$20.

The payoff: Coupled with weatherstripping, a sweep seal can prevent 10 percent of the outside air that typically seeps in around exterior doors from getting into interior spaces.

7. Leaky ductwork

The problem: After years of service, the adhesive on tape that seals joints between duct sections can dry out, allowing heated or cooled air to escape. Damage can also occur when homeowners or tradespeople access or work in areas where ducts are installed, such as crawl spaces, attics and basements.

How to spot it: With the furnace or AC on, turn a high-powered flashlight on ducts, especially at junctions where they connect with registers. "If you see where dust on the exterior of the ducts has been

blown away, that's usually the sign of a leak," says Meleo.

How to stop it: Patch small holes or misalignments with a water-based acrylic sealant and mesh tape. Use HVAC foil tape to seal joints between sections.

The payoff: Cut your heating bill by 3 to 10 percent by reducing air leakage by up to 20 percent.

8. Overworked fridge

Problem: Your fridge never gets a day off. Over time, wear and tear on the door's rubber gasket, as well as built-up dirt and dust on coils

erode its efficiency and make it more expensive to operate.

How to spot it: Close the refrigerator door on a piece of paper. If you don't feel resistance when you pull it out, the gasket seal is broken and cold air is escaping. Mold or moisture on the gasket is another telltale sign, says Brown.

How to stop it: Order a new gasket from the fridge manufacturer for \$40 to \$30, depending on the make and model. Remove the damaged gasket and install the replacement yourself, following the manufacturer's instructions. While you're at it, use a long-handled duster to clean the exposed coils located underneath or on the back of the appliance. For a

fridge more than 20 years old, no amount of maintenance will bring it up to today's efficiency standards. It's better to invest in a new, Energy Star-qualified model. KitchenAid's new Architect Series II French-door fridge, for instance, has an efficiency rating that's 20 percent higher than the U.S. Department of Energy standard.

The payoff: Replacing the gasket and cleaning the coils can improve your fridge's cooling abilities by 25 percent. Swapping a 2000s fridge for a new, Energy Star one can shave more than \$200 per year off your electric bill, and another \$200 annually if you have a 1970s model.

9. Exterior wall openings

The problem: Holes for sewer and water lines, exhaust vents and cable and phone lines are typically rough cut and uninsulated, so warm or cooled air from inside your house escapes and outside air seeps in.

How to spot it: Use a handheld infrared thermal leak detector, such as Black & Decker's TL0000 (\$49.99, blackanddecker.com). Press the device over the hole; it will heat the hole, then the hole itself. If you see a significant difference in temperature, you've got an air leak.

How to stop it: Fill minor gaps of less than 1/4 inch with silicone caulk. For larger holes up to 1/2 inch wide, use expanding polyurethane foam insulation. The long applicator straw in cans of spray foam is useful, especially handy for accessing hard-to-reach areas inside sink cabinets and behind heavy washers and dryers. "If you're dealing with a gap near a combined sink device, like a fireplace, make sure you're using

Tip: To cut your dishwasher's energy usage in half, pull out the racks after the final rinse cycle and let your dishes air-dry.



products approved for high temperatures," says Brown.

The payoff: Prevent 27 percent offshoots air from escaping your home by sealing gaps around exterior penetrations.

10. An attic hatch that's not airtight

The problem: Let's face it: more than a thin sheet of plywood (so that it can easily be pushed up and out of the way), an uninsulated hatch can suck as much heat out of your living quarters as a fireplace chimney.

How to spot it: With all windows and doors closed, turn on the air conditioner or furnace and do the "insect" stick test around the hatch: watch for insects seeking between the access panel and the wood trim frame it rests on.

How to stop it: Secure rigid foam insulation to the back side of the hatch with duct tape, and after foam tape around the edges of the panel to create a gasket-like seal. For pull-down stairs, add insulated felt chocking, such as the Attic Tent (starting at \$200; efficient.com). Secured to the attic side framing with staples, the tent has a zippered hatch for easy attic access.

The payoff: An airtight hatch leading to a well-insulated attic can save you 30 percent on your heating bill.

11. Uninsulated switches and outlets

The problem: A thin metal or plastic plate isn't enough to prevent air from getting through what's basically a big hole in the wall.

How to spot it: Remove the plate and cover the opening with a piece of blue-faced tape to the wall of the top

with painter's tape like a curtain. If the house billows, you've got a leak.

How to stop it: Insulate the opening with a pre-cut foam gasket about 30 cents each at home centers. Just fit the gasket over the opening and replace the cover. For extra protection for outlets when they aren't in use, insert plastic child safety plugs.

The payoff: Two percent off heating and cooling costs.

12. Outmoded furnace

The problem: While gas-fired furnaces can last 20 years or more, ones made before 1990 are only 55 to 70 percent efficient, compared with up to 97 percent for today's.

How to spot it: If your furnace has a pilot light, it's likely more than 20 years old and only about 60 percent efficient. If the telltale sign isn't present, ask an HVAC pro to inspect the furnace and assign it an annual fuel-utilization efficiency (AFUE) rating based on its age. An AFUE of 80, for instance, means that 80 percent of the fuel burned is converted into heat for your home.

How to stop it: Replace an old furnace with a properly sized modern unit with a high AFUE. Manufacturers now display the rating right on the furnace so that consumers can easily compare the efficiency of various models. Expect to pay \$2,000 to \$4,000 including installation. On the high end are ultra-efficient furnaces with a rating of 90, such as Trane's iX95. Its variable speed fan motor adjusts to provide a consistent flow of warm air, making your home more cozy and saving you extra cash over the long haul.

The payoff: Cut your heating fuel bill by more than 30 percent by replacing a 60 percent-efficient furnace with one that's 92 percent efficient. ■



BONUS ENERGY SAVER!



WUFI IT ▶ Get ready to win the featured appliances to help reduce your utility bills over time.

1. A high-efficiency Trane gas furnace and whole-house air filtration system (previously featured) at \$4,999.99.

2. An iX95 Trane-rated 30 cubic feet furnace (previously featured) at \$2,999.

3. One of the Black & Decker Cordless Tools (previously featured) at \$49.99 each.

4. One of the prices of the one of the One Great Thing (previously featured) at \$49.99 each.

Simply enter this code with your smartphone. For rules, visit www.1gt.com.

ALL ABOUT

Gas fireplaces

Wood is good, but you can't beat the ease of a fire that lights with the push of a button. The experts at This Old House explain what it takes to put a gas-fueled hearth in your home. By Josh Gershaft

There's only one thing better than a roaring fire on a wintery night: a roaring fire that needs no tending, requires minimal cleanup, and doesn't leave the rest of the house freezing cold. That's what you get with today's gas fireplaces. Long gone are the smoky blue flames and annoying "logs." Modern versions burn much more realistically, with glowing red embers and tall orange-yellow flames that dance and flicker around ceramic-fiber logs modeled from the real thing.

Gas fireplaces come in three types: inserts, for folks who want to retrofit a wood-burning fireplace with something more convenient and efficient; built-ins, for those who want a fireplace where the fire isn't too new, and log sets, basic burners that sit in existing open fireplaces. Both inserts and built-in fireplaces are reliable heat producers, filling your room with a mix of warm air and radiant heat. Log sets are usually meant for looks that warm up. With each type, you have a choice between models that vent the flames' fumes outside or vent-free versions that discharge all their heat, and exhaust, into the house.

On the following pages, we'll help you pick the fireplace that's right for you. We'll also walk you through the key features to look for and explain how to get a unit that performs enough heat for your particular space. So when the first icy night of winter arrives, all it will take is a click of a remote control for you to cozy up on front of your blazing hearth.

80%

The amount of fuel that a typical vented gas fireplace converts into heat for your home, compared with about 20 percent for wood.





A Craftsman-style mantel and tapered chimney chase make a gas fireplace the architectural focal point of this Seattle living room. Similar to others, Majestic's Log Series 33 has direct vent, 36,000-Btu output (maximum), \$900, majesticproducts.com

VITALS

How much do they cost?

Expect to pay \$2,000 to \$5,000 (including installation) for a heat-producing insert or built-in fireplace. Direct-vent log burners about \$400 to \$1,000. Natural gas or propane?

Gas fireplaces can burn either fuel. Natural gas is less expensive and produces about 5 percent more heat. Choose propane where only it gas isn't available.



DIY or hire a pro?

For the safest, most efficient, and best-looking installation, hire the pros. Hire a local National Fireplace Institute-certified technician.

How much care?

For best \$200 have your certified technician come once a year to clean inside of the burner, ensuring that you have reliable, safe fire flames.

How many Btus?

A gas fireplace's heat output, or Btu, should match your room size, climate, and your house's insulation level.



Why choose gas?

Wood-burning fireplaces provide great ambience, but they can't beat the easy, no-fuss efficiency of gas.

- You don't have to split, stack, season, or haul logs.
- There are no ashes to bag, so smoky smells, no chimney to clean.
- You can start, adjust, and snuff out fires with the touch of a remote control.
- The fire needs no tending and won't die out from neglect.
- A wall thermostat can control the flame size—and therefore heat output—to maintain a specific temperature setting in the room.
- The fixed glass panels covering direct-vent fireboxes ensure that the furnace or boiler heated air in the rest of the house doesn't escape up the flue, as it does with a wood fire.
- You can get as much as 75 to 99 percent of the fuel's energy back as heat, instead of the 30 to 35 percent for wood fires.
- Gas fireplaces can go almost anywhere—in an upstairs bedroom, in a basement, or outdoors—without needing a chimney.

How much fire power do you need?



CLIMATE ZONES
1 2 3

Gas fireplaces have a wide range of heat output, from about 20,000 to 60,000 Btus. Use this formula to determine which model generally is rough best to warm your room. The formula assumes that your house is well insulated and has tight windows, and that you like the temperature set at 70 degrees F.

$$\left(\text{FLOOR AREA OF ROOM (square feet)} \times \text{CEILING HEIGHT (feet)} \times \text{YOUR CLIMATE ZONE} \right) = \text{IDEAL FIREPLACE HEAT OUTPUT}$$

To vent or not?

A gas fireplace doesn't produce smoke or odors, but it does produce air pollutants, such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen and sulfur oxides. Venting fireplaces send these emissions outside, while vent-free ones direct the minto your living quarters.

Vented

The safest, most efficient venting method is a two-pipe system known as direct vent. One pipe feeds fresh outside air for combustion to a sealed firebox, and the other takes away the combustion fumes. The pipes can go up a flue or a straight through an opening in an exterior wall, as shown. These units are 70 to 85 percent efficient. A less common option, called B-vent, has a single pipe to carry away exhaust; the flames get combustion air from inside, making them about 50 percent efficient. B-vents should have a sensor to close the fire if exhaust gases ever reverse course and come down the flue. Direct vents eliminate that risk.



Vent-free

These units have no flue, so they can be installed anywhere—even hung on a wall like a flat-screen TV. They're up to 99 percent efficient because all their heat stays in the room—as do the pollutants. Because of concerns about air quality, indoor units are fine-tuned to burn extra clean, and their heat output is limited to 40,000 Btus. They have an oxygen-depletion sensor that automatically shuts them off if an oxygen level dips below 18 percent (20.9 percent is normal). Even so, vent-free units are banned in California and some 12 U.S. states.



Which type is right for you?

It depends on your budget and heating needs, and if you have a fireplace to convert



Log set: The least expensive choice. It's just a stack of ceramic logs with a gas burner that sits inside your existing fireplace. Installation requires drilling access holes for the gas and electric lines. Some units are vent-free, others vent up the chimney. With vented sets, the danger has to be mitigated: vent up at least 10 times to prevent CO poisoning, so much off heat—your heater should take care of the rest. Price: \$400 to \$1,000 installed. *Stoves: Dura 3 vented 30-inch log set, 17-900-Btu output, \$533, mcmcohearth.com*



Insert: It's a log and burner set that sits inside a metal box surrounded by a larger metal box that fits inside an existing fireplace. An insert warms room air in the gap between the boxes and releases heat from the logs. Models must be listed for the gas and electric lines. Available either vented with a fixed glass panel at front or the Stoves, or vent-free with a fundamental vented or glass panel. Price: \$2,000 to \$4,000 installed. *Stoves: Modine 30-inch direct-vent insert, 21,900-Btu output (maximum), \$1,493, lennoxhearthproducts.com*

Built-in: Although they resemble inserts with metal boxes with a box construction, built-in units don't require an existing fireplace or chimney. Vented units with fixed glass panels cycle air and exhaust directly through an exterior wall, spacing (see *Stove/inserts* sidebar page). Vent-free ones, which exhaust into the room, have a fixed metal corner glass panel. Price: \$2,000 to \$4,000 includes installation but not the mantel or surround. *Stoves: Corona 42-inch direct-vent fireplace, 21,000-Btu output (maximum), \$3,808, heating.com*



LOG ALTERNATIVES

Depending on the desired look, you can choose a gas burner that'll send flames through colorful glass chips, glowing images of coal, even ceramic orbs made to look like stones

GLASS: Astonishing bed of fern-green glass chips, its nearly invisible fireplace. Price: start at \$4 per pound. 36 pounds for a 24-inch firebox. \$144, diamondfireglass.com

COAL: These black ceramic lamps generate a realistic heat of the coal-burned or incandescent pattern. 28 pounds for a 24-inch firebox. \$39, gascoals.com

STONE: Galco-colored ceramic look-alike a rustic feel that would fit right in a mountain cabin. 32 pounds for a 24-inch firebox. \$299, newhouse.com

ALL ABOUT + Gas fireplaces

What to look for

These upgrades enhance a fireplace's convenience, comfort, and good looks

- 1. Variable-flame height adjustment.** Allows you to dial in just the amount of heat you need, from a whisper of a flame to a roaring fire. (The best units adjust down to 30 percent of full output.)
- 2. Wall-thermostat control.** Automatically adjusts the fireplace's heat output to the temperature that you set manually or with a handheld remote.
- 3. Electronic ignition.** Eliminates the need for a pilot light, saving up to \$30 a month in fuel.
- 4. LED accent lighting.** Adds a realistic flickering effect inside the firebox.
- 5. Battery backup.** Ensures the fireplace will light during a power outage.
- 6. Built-in fan.** Pulls indoor air into the space behind the firebox and pumps it back out, heating passively.



For the traditionalist

At the height of the Victorian era, before the days of central heating, many urbanites warmed themselves with small, coal-burning fireplaces. Such fireplaces, with their decorative cast-iron surrounds, are still made today. Although most people now opt for gas over hard-to-start coal, these replicas fit neatly into vintage coal- and wood-burning fireplaces or can be free-standing. Some have open flames and send emissions through metal flues; others have fixed glass panels with more efficient direct venting. Similar to show Adam 211-inch-vent 7,300-Btu output \$1,900, gascoals.com

Where to use them

Gas fireplaces turn up just about anywhere you can run a fuel line, adding a cozy warmth without the fuss of a wood-burning hearth

4. In the bathroom: A fireplace above a bathtub? Yup, you can do it with gas. This see-through unit also shows the flames in the adjacent bedroom. *Stoves: Gasway 32-inch direct-vent fireplace, \$4,000 (Btu output [maximum]), \$2,750, heating.com*



Not only is it a fine romantic, you can use a remote to adjust flame-size and room temperature without lifting your head from the pillow. (Similar to show: Elite Series-40 inch-direct-vent fireplace, 20,900-4th output (maximum), 52-126, www.heatstovesdirect.com)



Out the evening chill with a flickering glow to your surroundings with a low-profile gas fireplace, no chimney needed. Outdoors, vent-free units have up to 30,000 BTUs and a 40" or 48" opening. Similar to those: A1 France 36-inch vent-free fireplace, 40,000-Btu output (maximum), \$2,276; optional sitting chairs, \$326. www.homedepot.com



Is this personally favored fireplace heat-free, gas creation better, you could never get before, such as this laser wall-of-fire burning up through a bed of glass? Shows. Harlem 5th Ave. direct vent fireplace. 29 060-Btu output (maximum). \$4,500. regency-fire.com



Direct-vent gas fireplaces are right at home in below-grade rooms, where wood-burning fires can smolder due to poor draft. Showers that & Gas Escape 25-inch direct-vent insert with decorative using cut screen doors covering the fixed glass panel. 20,000-Btu output (maximum). \$3,249. hazards.com



If you add up all the hidden air leaks in your home, they can equal a hole the size of an open window – and higher energy bills. Count on Lowe's for all the products you need to seal and save. Ask an associate or visit Lowe's.com/WeatherFinder.



Source: EPA. *Minimum savings based on replacing single-pane windows with double-paneled 16x24 100% double-paneled, 1/2-in.-average frame. Savings will vary depending on insulation and ability to seal frame edges. Tax credits for 20% of energy-efficient home improvements (including energy-efficient windows) are available through 2015. **Energy Star ratings range from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most efficient. All ratings represent lower energy use and increased indoor air quality. www.energystar.gov

askthisoldhouse

inside NO-FREEZE FAUCETS STORM-DOOR FIX PLUG LEAKS MORE ➔

34
tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home-
improvement
questions

Q When does it make sense to use a wood clamp instead of an all-metal C-clamp or pistol-grip bar clamp? —NICKI HOUT NEWYORK, N.Y.

A Wood hand screw clamps—used primarily by woodworkers and boat builders—don't mar wood surfaces the way an angled metal C-clamp might. And once tightened, they don't back off as their own knurled grip makes sometimes run, I use hand screw clamps all the time because their big hardwood jaws apply an even pressure over a relatively wide area. The antique clamps also have levered hand screws that allow the jaws to grip workpieces with parallel faces. However, you sometimes find hand screws that enable the jaws to be applied to hold oddly shaped pieces.

—NORM ABRAHAM, TOP MASTER CARPENTER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
VICTOR SCHMIDT

askthisoldhouse

➔ Our cast of veteran experts



TOM SILVA
Senior Contributor



NORM ABRAHAM
North Carolina



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating Expert



ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR
Editor

Q I have two anti-siphon frost-proof faucets on my home, and they both leak from the handle when turned on. Is there a solution to this problem?

—LARRY VAN LANE, WEST HEMP HARBOR, N.J.

Richard Trethewey replies: There is a fix, and it's probably an easy one. When a frost-proof faucet is installed on a water-supply pipe, the stem assembly—a long rod with a handle at one end and a washer on the other—has to be removed first. This prevents the heat from the track from frying the washer. But sometimes when the assembly is put back, the retainer nut near the base of the faucet handle isn't tightened quite enough and ends up leaking. To stop the leak, just give the nut a slight clockwise turn. That generally does the trick.

While we're on the subject of outdoor faucets, keep in mind that this is the "hoses off" season for folks up north. Temperatures can drop so freezing at any time, so always disconnect a hose immediately after using it so that the faucet can drain. If you don't and you get a hard freeze, even a frost-proof faucet can crack and leave water everywhere when it thaws out.

When connecting a frost-proof faucet with a threaded fitting, Richard always reminds the reader to the supply pipe before installing the faucet to prevent the faucet washer from leaking.



WATCH IT Scan this tag (available online) Richard Trethewey installing a frost-proof faucet. For details, see page 39. Or visit us at thisoldhouse.com/watchit

DISMANTLING A GLASS-BLOCK SHOWER

How do I safely remove a shower wall that's made of glass blocks set in mortar?

—HONEYCHAMPERS, MALE, IND.

Kevin O'Connor replies: It all depends on how well the wall was built and what can freeze it in. According to Nick Looney in Pittsburgh, Pa., a major U.S. manufacturer of glass blocks, if the mortar is weak and crumbly, you might be able to dislodge blocks by starting at the top of the wall, scraping away the mortar one block at a time, and tapping on the block with a rubber mallet to loosen it. Don't forget to put heavy tarps over the floor, including in the shower, to protect surfaces from grout and debris.

But a well-built wall with strong mortar and embedded metal reinforcement at every other horizontal joint calls for a different approach. Looney suggests using a circular saw fitted with a masonry blade to cut partially through the mortar joint from each side. This will knock up a lot of dust, so connect the saw to a vacuum and power yourself with leather work gloves, a long-sleeve shirt, goggles, and a dust mask. Work from the top of the wall down, and cut out sections that are easy enough to handle. "The combined weight of glass blocks and mortar is about 20 pounds per square foot," Looney says. Demolishing that load of wall will go a lot faster and safer if you have someone to help you.

There will probably be some metal anchors embedded in the mortar where the block wall connects to an adjacent wall or ceiling, he says. If you can't pull the block free, cut through the anchor with a hacksaw or reciprocating saw.

WHAT IS IT?



A • Watering-can attachment

B • Paintbrush cleaner

C • Hanging bird feeder

D • Or...

FOR THE LATEST ON WHAT'S HOT

WHAT PRODUCT WHEN

Worm-drive vs. sidewinder saws



I'm ready to buy a new circular saw. What are the differences between the various types? —CHWABROENSON, LAMHETVILLE, TX

Norm Abram replies: There are really only two basic saw types: worm-drive saws and direct-drive, or "sidewinder," saws. Both have circular blades, but their drive mechanisms are different. A worm-drive saw has a pair of gears between the motor and the blade, making it almost unstoppable. In a sidewinder, the motor turns the blade directly, so it will slow down if pushed too hard. I'm cutting with a worm-drive in the photo, but I generally use a sidewinder, mostly because it's the saw I grew up with.

WORM-DRIVE

PRO
 > Powerful, cuts thick lumber without slowing down
 > Rugged, withstands heavy use
 > Left-mounted blade is easy for right-handed use

CON
 > Heavy: 34 to 46 pounds
 > Expensive: \$630 to \$270
 > Hard to maneuver in back one-handed cuts (take strength and skill)
 > Gear case requires periodic oiling

SIDEWINDER

PRO
 > Compact: useful in tight quarters
 > Light: 9 to 12 pounds
 > Less expensive: \$40 to \$170
 > Balanced: Handle positioned above motor

CON
 > Right-mounted blade as a back-sawinder (right-handers love it)
 > Few sidewinders have left-mounted blades
 > Less powerful, not as durable

ask the oldhouse

SHUTTING OFF THE WATER

I have city water and want to temporarily shut off the main water supply to my house.

What tools do I need and where is the shutoff valve located?

—WIGEL, ALABAMA, LADYBORN

Richard Trethewey replies: There are probably three valves that will turn off your water supply: the main shutoff valve just "downstream" from the water meter, the main valve just upstream from the meter, and the curb stop. The main shutoff and meter valve are usually inside the house; the curb stop is located outside at a "curb box" somewhere between your house and the municipal water pipe.

Take the time to locate each one and show your family where they are so that there's no time wasted should a pipe break and water start pouring out. If you can't find your curb box, your water company can pinpoint its location for you.

You can close a meter valve or main shutoff valve simply by turning the handle clockwise. With a curb stop, you'll need a screwdriver to pry off the curb box cover and a curb-stop key to turn the valve. This key is a metal rod with a T-handle at one end and a prong at the other end that connects to the valve. They come in different lengths because urban versus cold climates are buried fairly deep, so measure the depth of your curb stop, then get a key of appropriate length or a home center plumbing supply house, or online. Guessing where you live, your key won't be very long.

Most times, closing one of your indoor valves will be enough to shut off the water. But if they both fail for some reason, or the outside supply pipe breaks, the curb stop will save you from a disastrous flood.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



To get plenty of the best type of insulation, the best insulation is to be made up of the best materials, so you can keep the insulation.

I'd like to add insulation to a wall during a renovation. What should I keep in mind? —PETER WELLS, NORTH ANDOVER, MASS.

Tom Silva replies: Filling walls with a fluffy layer of fiberglass insulation is one of the easiest and least expensive ways to make your house more energy efficient. All it takes is a utility knife, a steel trowel, and a little patience to make sure the insulation completely fills the stud cavity, side to side and top to bottom.

Without being overly compressed. Work with fibers made to match the depth of the studs and the width of the wall joists; for typical 2x4 construction, that's 3 1/2 inches deep and 15 1/4 inches wide with an R-value of 15. Blows are easy to cut, so if your steel trowel is irregular, you'll have that will fill the entire bay, and trim the rest to fit.

When you're ready to begin, protect your skin, eyes, and lungs by wearing a long-sleeve shirt, pants, gloves, safety glasses, and dust mask. Then follow these basic installation steps to help the work go faster and make sure your insulation does its job.



WENT!
 Scan through how to use it all the way through the book. The details, see page 10 for your go-to database.

Cost: 60 cents per square foot for batt insulation plus 12 cents per square foot for vapor retarder.
Time: 2-4 hours for a 32 by 20-foot room.
Difficulty: Easy

STEP-BY-STEP Insulate a wall

1. Cut to width

For narrow studbays, you have to make down-the-butt joints. To do that, lay a batt on the floor in front of the cavity as shown and line up one edge with the insulation at the stud bay. Then lay a straight 2x4 in line with the inside face of the sheathing/stud and press down on it to force it in. Run a utility knife straight down the 2x4, forcing the batt into a series of shallow cuts.



3. Deal with obstacles

For wires, halve the batt a thickness by pulling it apart. Then slide one half behind the wire and lay the other half in front. For electrical conduit, backfill the batt, then cut a notch in its edge using the saw as a guide. For plumbing supply pipes, work the batt between the insulation behind the pipe to help prevent it from freezing.

2. Trim to length

Tuck the insulation into the cavity snug against the top of the stud bay and edge studs with the batts. The batts should not be tightly compressed against the studs, that will reduce its R-value. For an accurate fit against the bottom of the cavity, let the insulation hang down, then cut against the batt as you slide of the wall framing with your utility knife.



4. Add the vapor retarder

Insulation itself is a vapor retarder, but the insulation's inside face prevents condensation from forming. It also encourages mold. Batt's back with paper or foil. Place the retarder batt in. Unfaced batts should be covered with 6 mil plastic or IntelloWrap (shown), a breathable sheet. Apply one end of retarder to the top plate, and to any studs where the sheets overlap, then tack the sheet every 32 to 24 inches to the lapped studs and batten/plate.



Top: 347 Lexington Solid Stud, 4" Wide Studs, 1/2" Thick
Photo: askthisoldhouse.com

ARE ALL ENERGY
SAVING CURTAINS
THE SAME?
THINK
AGAIN.

- 5% WISE: HAMBLY THINKS THE CONVENTION.
- TRUE BLACKOUT PERFORMANCE: BLOCKS LIGHT + LOWERS SUMMER ENERGY BILLS.
- NOISE FILTERING: REDUCE AMBIENT NOISE.
- PROOFING: IMPROVES AIR QUALITY.

Visit Curtainworks.com to receive **15% OFF** your order. Code: TOH15
Expires: 12/31/2010
1.888.737.5740



WATCH IT Searching for water under a floor? See how to find a leak in a basement wall. For details, see page 38. Or get the full story on askthisoldhouse.com/watch.

Q PLUG A BASEMENT LEAK

Water is seeping into my basement through a concrete foundation wall. I think it's coming in around a pipe, but I can't tell for sure because the walls are covered with drywall on wood studs. How can I find out if water is coming in around the pipe, and if it is, how can I stop it?

—LINDA ECHOLS, MURRAY, ILL.

Tom Silva replies: It wouldn't surprise me if that's exactly where the leak is. Any pipe that goes through a foundation, including electrical conduit and sewer down lines, can leak. The only way to tell is to remove a small section of drywall—the 4-inch square hole should be big enough and will be easy to repair—just make sure not to cut through any pipes or loose wires behind it. If you do see a leak, then enlarge the cutout in the drywall to about 16 inches square to give yourself enough room to make repairs.

Now go to your local home center and buy a small bucket of hydraulic cement, which expands slightly as it cures to form

a waterproof seal. Clean out any loose concrete around the pipe, and use a cold chisel to chip out a recessed area around the pipe about 1/2 inch deep and 1/2 inch wide. Be careful not to damage the pipe as you work. Break the recess clean, then put on rubber gloves to protect your skin. Mix up a batch of the cement with water and stuff it into the recess right up to the pipe. Smooth it as well as you can. Work quickly because it sets up fast.

That should stop your leak, but before you patch the drywall, wait for a hard rain just to be sure.

Q LEAF CLEANUP TIPS

Getting rid of all the leaves on my lawn last year was a nightmare, even with a leaf blower. Would it be a good idea to buy a bigger or lawn sweeper for my riding lawn mower instead?

—MITCHELL DAVIS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Roger Cook replies: I doubt you need either one. Bigger attachments do a good job, but they don't have much capacity, so you end up emptying them frequently. A sweeper attachment has more capacity, but it's not easy to dump.

Try this method instead. Mow the lawn as a maintenance and gradually decreasing clockwise spiral so that the leaves get repeatedly chopped and blown into one pile. Then mow them over a tarp and drag



Family-Friendly Event at the National Building Museum

Washington, DC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2010
10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Pack up the kids and head to the 17th annual Festival of the Building Arts for a day of family fun celebrating the built environment. Work side by side with architects, builders, designers, artisans and trades people as they demonstrate their skills and supervise hands-on activities, including:

- Drywall finishing, plastering, roof sheathing, woodworking, carpentry, mill driving, and more.
- Designing your own buildings from recycled craft materials to create a City of the Future on the floor of the Museum's Great Hall.
- Creating a mural or map to take home as part Art for Public Spaces.

Admission is free, although a \$5 donation is suggested. Individual registration is not required. Boy Scout groups visit www.stanfordfamily.com to register.

For more details, visit nbm.org



This Old House blueprint

Events, Promotions,
Advertiser Product News, Etc.



Paypass

Fujitsu Generac's Halcyon ductless mini-split heat pumps and air conditioners are easy to install, quiet and energy efficient. Fujitsu's systems could cut your utility bill by up to 25%. Heat or cool up to 8 individual zones for your house, while home comfort. fujitsuprimal.com

And The Winner Is...

In our June issue, we launched the Outdoor Oasis Sweepstakes, a chance for one lucky reader to get a pump start on building the ultimate retreat of the 1900s.

Out of an incredible 163,526 entries, **Ms. Lila Millsap of Leesport, Pa.** was randomly selected to win a \$10,500 prize package made up of these Outdoor Oasis "must-have" items:



Trex Transcend
OUTDOOR LIVING. ELEVATED.
Decking and Railing Package



sunbrella
Fabric-Covered, Foldable Seating



Char-Broil
Gas Grill with Infrared Grate

See thanks to everyone who entered. Keep an eye on the pages of This Old House for more terrific contests and sweepstakes!



LG ColorSpace
Air Conditioning

Art Cool™ Customized Good Looks

LG's Art Cool™ combines artful air conditioning and climate control for an all-around solution that is contemporary and functional. It provides a three-dimensional art flow system with the look and feel of a stylish photo frame. lgusa.com



Artist on Armstrong

For beautiful floors that are durable enough for any design or lifestyle, install an Armstrong. Explore a wide range of hardwood, laminate, tile and ceramic options. To help guide you through the selection process, locate local retailers and order samples. Visit armstrong.com



The Unico System
And for Low-Maintenance Heating

Consistent Comfort

No other HVAC system looks, operates and saves energy quite like the Small Space High Velocity Unico System. Each Unico System is custom designed to deliver consistent comfort while blending seamlessly with your home's décor. Learn more at unicosystem.com



Smart Security

SmartKey SmartKey locks can be picked and silently re-keyed so you can give a key to your contractor or neighbor one day, and in order it works the next. It's not just security. It's smart security. To learn more, visit knight-keel.com

ask this oldhouse

them to your mulch pile.

Keep an eye on the weather. This technique works best on dry leaves. And don't worry about getting every last scrap. Any leaf pieces you miss will break down and nourish the soil.

REPLACING FENCE PICKETS

As I was scraping the old paint off my picket fence, getting ready to give it a new coat of paint, I found that a few of the pickets and one upper rail are rotting. Can I just replace the rotted pieces or would it be better to replace the entire section?

—JENNIFER FEENSTRA, ORANGE CITY, IOWA

Norm Abram replies: It sounds like your fence doesn't have much rot, so I'd suggest just replacing its parts. Taking out the entire section would be overkill unless both rails are rotten. Besides, you can easily buy

all the parts you need from lumberyards or fence suppliers and do the work yourself.

To take off the old rail, work a pry bar between the rail and each picket until they're all free of the rail. If the rail is fastened to its posts, unscrew or pry the ends off and attach a new one, then reattach any pickets that aren't rotting. Nail new pickets to the rails as needed.

If a rail connects to a post with a notched-and-tenon joint, things get more complicated. You'll have to pry the pickets off both rails and cut through the notched rail to remove it. Then you'll need to dig out one post and lift it high enough to insert the replacement rail's tenon. Once that's done, reset the post and reattach the pickets.

STORM-DOOR REPAIRS

A high wind slammed my storm-door back against the house, bent the hinge, pulled out the closer bracket, and split

the door frame where the bracket was attached. How can I repair the damage?

—JOHN COLLIER, LOUISVILLE, OHIO

Tom Silva replies: Now you know why the tops of storm doors should be fixed with chain-spring stops—a gust of wind can easily overpower a closer if it's the only thing holding the door in place.

First, take care of the bent hinges. Take only one off the door at a time and try fitting it on the other side of the door. If it doesn't fit, you may need to replace the hinge. If it does fit, the hinge is bent.

Now, fill the old screw holes and any cracks in the door jamb with epoxy. After a cure, drill pilot holes in the same areas for French wood screws, which are long enough to sink into the framing. If the old closer is still functional, attach it to the door. And don't forget to attach a chain-spring stop to the top of the door.

NEED PLUMBING & HEATING SUPPLIES?

There's the hard way,



And there's the easy way.



WE'LL DELIVER RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR!

PexSupply.com
www.pexsupply.com • 888.757.4774



WATCH IT! Is this the best way to stop a storm door from blowing in?

WATCH IT! Is this the best way to stop a storm door from blowing in?

WATCH IT! Is this the best way to stop a storm door from blowing in?

send your questions to ask @ oldhouse

go to thisoldhouse.com/watch or write to Ask This Old House, This Old House Magazine, 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10019

Includes a complete address and telephone number. Publication cannot be used for other purposes. We warrant that the contents of the magazine are not intended to be used for any other purpose.

READER
TOOL
TEST

Compound miter saws

"Chop saws" are the fastest, easiest and most accurate way to cut wood to length. Called "compound" for their ability to cut a miter and a bevel at the same time, these 15-inch saws all have big, 12-inch blades that will sever stock with a single downward pull. Some tilt left, bevel, others tilt both ways (dual bevel), a time-saver when cutting lots of crown molding. Give our John F. Kitzpatrick tested each one with its stock blade on lumber and hardwood trim. Here's his report.

—JFK VAQUER



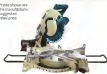
JOHN KITZPATRICK
owner of J. Kitzpatrick
Construction
Kennebunk, New York
has 30 years' experience
working as a carpenter

BOSCH 4212

Price: \$664
best blade case
Highlight: This up-front bevel lock saves you from reaching around to move the saw.
My two cents: Has the best bevel of the bunch. Super smooth miter adjustment.
Tool stats: 67 pounds, 3,800 rpm, dual bevel, 40-tooth carbide-tipped blade, one-year warranty, 52 dB. Miter/bevel range: 52 degrees left and right/47 degrees left and 46 degrees right. Cross-cut capacity at 90 degrees: 8 1/2 inches. Maximum stock height: 4 1/4 inches.



Press down on the manual lock suggested release



MAKITA LS1221

Price: \$359
makita.com
Highlight: Lightest saw tested, means it's easy to carry.
My two cents: Most accurate saw right out of the box. Has a really nice blade.
Tool stats: 27 pounds, 4,000 rpm, single bevel, 40-tooth carbide-tipped blade, one-year warranty, 52 dB. Miter/bevel range: 48 degrees left and right/45 degrees left. Cross-cut capacity at 90 degrees: 6 inches. Maximum stock height: 3 1/4 inches.



CRAFTSMAN Z1237

Price: \$249.99, craftsman.com
Highlight: Projects faster line where the blade will cut.
My two cents: Very accurate, with no adjustment required, but would perform better with a good blade.
Tool stats: 46 pounds, 4,200 rpm, single bevel, 26-tooth carbide-tipped blade, one-year warranty, 60 dB. Miter/bevel range: 48 degrees left and right/45 degrees left. Cross-cut capacity at 90 degrees: 7 1/4 inches. Maximum stock height: 4 1/4 inches.



DEWALT DW716

Price: \$399, dewalt.com
Highlight: Gears, single-motor handle is easy on to operate, stands bevel-locks.
My two cents: Solid, accurate saw with a good blade.
Tool stats: 60 pounds, 3,600 rpm, dual bevel, 60-tooth carbide-tipped blade, three-year warranty, 52 dB. Miter/bevel range: 50 degrees left and right/48 degrees left and right. Cross-cut capacity at 90 degrees: 30 inches. Maximum stock height: 6 1/2 inches.



ask this old house



Norm's tricks of the trade



We'd like to build a deck off the slider door in our bedroom. How do we figure out where to dig the deck's footings? —AMY BLUMKIN, MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

A The trick I use is the simple 3-4-5 rule from high school geometry. It says that any triangle with sides that are 3, 4, and 5 feet long forms a 90-degree angle between the 3- and 4-foot sides. The same is true for multiples of those lengths: 6, 8, and 10 feet, or 9, 12, and 15 feet. Longer lengths ensure pinpoint accuracy.

To use your deck as an example, run one end of a board or a joint hanger stretched to the ledger. Mark the top edge of the board 6 feet from the end and string on the hanger. Next mark the ledger 8 feet from the board. Drive a nail into that mark, hook a tape measure on the nail, and extend it to the mark on the joist. Now move the board and the tape from side to side until the 10-foot mark on the tape lines up with the 6-foot mark on the board. The board will then be perfectly square to the ledger. You can drop a plumb line anywhere along the board to pinpoint the spot to dig your footings. ■



EFFICIENCY.



The Unico small duct high velocity heating and air conditioning system delivers air more efficiently than any other air conditioning system, making it the perfect choice for historic restoration projects.

NATIONAL
FLEX
DUCT
SYSTEM
PARTICULARLY
2" Duct Diameter

The Unico System
Unico is the only small duct
system that is not ducted.
Learn all about it at www.unico.com/unicohistory

[illegible][illegible]

Amarin Craftsmen, The Boomerang
 63 Charles Peterson • Wood Floors
 860-464-5000 • cpharwoodfloors.com

Private Wires. Special services allowed by: (57)
Featured services allowed. Kiosk: 800 880-8788
 kiosk.com

Wholesays Cold 27 Your own clean air act (p. 76) Whole-house ventilation systems SO robust that you hardly breathe fresh air. Sobering make-up in danger: Breast. BOB 666 271 know.com

Weekend Remodel: Build a cold frame

Weekend Remodel: Build a cold frame (pg. 21-22) The really modified wood. Pop's delivery. Continue by GreenStar! 855-960-5523
Gardenschool.com

300-Year-Old Cottages, 21st-Century Remodel (pp. 28–32) Architect: Keith Sumner/Sumner Morris, GA; 404.603.4546; sumnerm@net. Contractor: Scott May/Loganville, GA; 404.712.0255. **Flair-Writing** (pp. 32–34) Designer: M. J. G. Co., GA; 404.444.2773. **Reading Authority** (pp. 34–36) Designer: Reading Authority, PA; 717.263.4006.

[illegible]

Slash Your Utility Bills With a DTE Energy Audit Call 800-365-WEST refrigerator - kitchenaid.com/kitchenaidrefrigerator made in KANSAS, 800-422-2270 kitchenaid.com

All About Us: Our headquarters is 178-1111
Thimbleby In a Cove Health & Home Technologies
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860
Products: homecare/healthcare items, Life
Science, Health, Food & Beverage, etc. info@...

Ask This Old Man: Question of the Week!
Insulate a walltop 11A-107 Fiberglass
Insulation and vapor barrier. Duct sub-
struction, Moisture Controlled R22 R5-2377
or Unifast sub. MasterTack H750A E D
Acme R22 R5-2377 acmeconstruction.com

There Is, and This Is How You Can Use It is an outstanding product for anyone interested in advertising in this magazine.

Plumbing & Heating Supplies



Order Online at www.pexsupply.com

Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis 1987, 20, 109-120

Real People. Real Service.

PexSupply.com

www.pexsupply.com • 888.767.4774

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**ALL NEW SEASON.
ALL NEW PROJECTS.**



Replacing a Rotted Window sill



Planting Trees Properly



Phosphorus in Kitchen Sinks



Installing an Outdoor Faucet



Installing a Bluestone Path



Scan here
for a quick
preview of our
new system



Tune into Ask The Old House during October for expert help with these projects and many more. For local listings, visit NadellHouse.com/Troubleshooting.

Exclusively on **FBI** Presented by

(SPONSORED BY)

GMC



STANLEY

民

● 重要提示

A More Effective Brand Of Heat

Electronic Infrared Fireplace & Heater



The Original
SUNHEAT
Electronic Zone Heating System



Portable Infrared Zone Heater

Made In USA

Safe · Soft · Comfortable
Effective Infrared Zone Heating

Safe — Fire & Burn Proof for a warmer peace of mind.

Soft — Translucent Infrared Heat for a healthy home.

Comfortable — Floor to Ceiling & Wall to Wall warmth.

Effective — Zone Heating, puts heat where you want it.

Cut your heating costs — Turn down the furnace & save.

Call 877-GO SUNHEAT

1-877-467-8643 ext. 316

We combined the quality & craftsmanship from generations past with the environmental awareness of the future to build a *hardwood quality, beautiful home furnishing, to warm your home.*

go to www.sunheat.com for a dealer near you

Uses Electricity (No Firewood) · Safe around Children & Pets · Corrosion Resistant & Fire Retardant Supplemental Heat · Maintenance Free · UltraLow Washable Filter · 3 year Limited Parts & Labor Warranty · Cabinetry Made in the USA



The Original
SUNHEAT
Electronic Zone Heating System

For more information, visit us at:

Family Owned For 36 years

www.sunheat.com

1004 Arch Ave, Grand Island NE 68803 · 877-467-8643 Ext. 316

450200

BARNLIGHT

"WHERE VINTAGE and MODERN COLLIDE"



Your online source for Sources, Gooseicks Pendants and vintage-inspired Porcelain Enamel Shades

802-407-8764

www.barnlightelectrics.com

SAVE THOUSANDS ON RECYCLED LUXURY KITCHENS



Recycled kitchens starting at \$3,000

Stores located in
Norwalk, CT
Riverside, NJ
Rosedale, PA
Nationwide shipping

Contact us at
www.GreenDemolitions.com
888-887-8211

GREEN DEMOLITIONS
Residential · Commercial · Industrial



Custom, Period.
Designed Delivered Direct

Furniture that fits
True custom cabinetry
The perfect fit for
your period home

Available direct, nationwide

CROWNPOINT
CABINETS

Hand-crafted
Hand-crafted in the finest quality

800-999-6994 · www.crownpoint.com



Metal Spirals from TQH

From simple
elegance to ornate
Victorians...



Oak Spirals from Salter

you'll find the
spiral stair kit
that's right for
your budget.

Whisper
Clear Spiral
Stair Kit

Call for the **FREE** color Catalog
1-800-523-7427 Ask for Ext. TQH
or visit our Web Site at
www.TheIronShop.com/TQH

THE IRON SHOP®
The premier manufacturer of Iron Stair Kits

Proudly made in the USA since 1988

Pain relief without the pills.™



Tiger Balm's proven blend of natural ingredients delivers fast, safe and effective relief for back pain, muscle aches and more without the pills. Do you run up your back for details and prescriptions, visit mytigerbalm.com

TIGER BALM



TIGER BALM®
Where there's a will, there's a way.

Only 10¢ per tin. Use 10 minutes, rub in 4 times.

PERKID DEPOT SHOPS®
We're here to help!

**COLLECT BURLS & LEAVES
- WHILE YOU RIDE!**

The PERKID LEAF and LAWN VACUUM turns your riding mower into a powerful yard clean up machine! **VACUUMS** leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from your lawn using an incredible 30 mph suction blast!

SNOWBLO mows everything it vacuums! Removes thousands of leaves by 100!

DUMPS OR BAGS collected material.

CRIPS folds over branches and pruning up to 2" thick with a built in chopper.

MADE-TO-ORDER MODELS AVAILABLE!

6 MONTHS TRIAL

Call for a **FREE DVD & Catalog!**

TOLL-FREE 1-800-529-0155
www.officesec.com



SalterSpiralStair.com

Buy Factory Direct with Coast-to-Coast Delivery

- Classic Steel Stairs • Aluminum Deck Stairs
- Fergat Iron Stairs • Exterior Galvanized Stairs
- Solid Wood Stairs

1-800-368-8280
Design and Sales Assistance

UN-COMPROMISED
Design & Strength



Cinder-Whit & Company
Wood Turnings for Porches & Stairways

• Deck or Curved Drifted • Outside Balustrades • Foreign Quality Services •

• Birch Ply • Rosewood • Teak • Walnut • Elm • Hickory • Hardwood •

• Douglas Fir • Oak • Pine • Redwood •

1-800-527-7000 Fax 700-424-4250

E-Mail: info@cinderwhit.comWebsite: www.cinderwhit.com

753 Emerald Avenue South • Selkirk, NY 12158

PERKID HOME COLLECTIONS
The Artisan Collection

Redefine Your Home

THE ARTISAN COLLECTION DISCUSSED

Free Shipping on Orders Over \$150 www.HOAH.biz

From Rustic Cabins to Custom Designed Homes...



Any Home Can be a Log Home

The Nation's leaders in quality log-cabin in-ground
Log Siding & Knotty Pine Finishing.

GREAT FOR:

New or Existing Homes • Basements • Barn • Rec Rooms
Kitchens • Bath • Studies • Garages • Out Buildings • Cottages

Customer
Satisfaction...

We Guarantee It!



THE WOODWORKERS SHOPPE

Mary's Woods' Forest of log home products are available at the
Woodworkers Shoppe in Carleton, Michigan. We Ship Nationwide!

Call (800) 618-9971 • woodworkersshoppe.com

SCOVELITE
LIGHTING CO.
INC.

MANUFACTURING OF PERIOD
LIGHTING, PICTURES & GLASS OBJECTS

1000 N. 1st St., Dept. 100
St. Paul, Minn. 55101
(612) 221-1111

**ALL
SIZES
RADIATOR
ENCLOSURES**
FOR HOME, OFFICE, CHURCH, RESTAURANT
FROM THIS
LOW TO THIS

FROM \$45.00
Monarch Radiator Enclosures is a leader in quality for commercial
space heating in schools, hospitals, churches, restaurants
and more. Call for literature, Monarch Radiator Enclosures, Inc.
P.O. Box 1000, Monarch, Pennsylvania 15062-0100
MONARCH
P.O. Box 1000, Monarch, PA 15062-0100
(800) 887-5567 • www.monarchradiator.com

VINTAGE DOORS.COM
Free Catalog (800) 787-3006



Handcrafted Solid Wood Doors:
Ayer Pattern - Ayer Set - Ayer Walnut
Surrey Pattern - Zebra Door - Inlaid Glass

Carlisle
Wide Plank Floors

Handcrafted Fine Finishes

800.585.9963
TIDPLANK@GMAIL.COM



**ORGANIZE
YOUR LIFE**

Living Room

Bookshelf

Laundry Room

Kitchen

UGL DRYLOK
MASONRY WATER-REPELLENT

Fasten an in 10 of your usable living space. DRYLOK Masonry Water-Repellent allows you to reclaim your sleep, relax, quick into usable space.

Rated #1

Easy to apply

Timetable to custom colors

Guaranteed to stop water

1-888-372-3235 / www.ugl.com



FINALLY A
TOUGH
SUPER GLUE.

Designed with an Impact-Tough formula for flexibility to handle bumps and drops for a strong, reliable bond. Quick bond on metal, wood, ceramic, paper, rubber and much more!

FOR THE Toughest Jobs on Planet Earth™

GORILLA TOUGH 

1-800-765-3828 www.gorilla.com
© 2004 The Gorilla Company

SAVE \$50 and get 2 free gifts!

CLEAN AIR

PROSHIELD™

In-home testing, the Greck ProShield Plus will produce up to a 99% reduction in airborne particles down to 0.1 micron.

The sleek and modern ProShield Plus can be used upright or on its side so it fits seamlessly into any room. Its patented ThruScan Cell® electronically cleans airflows, including pollen mist, mold spores, dust, and germs to put them off the air. That's our innovative design. Shield uses UV light to control odor.

The ProShield Plus is an ultra-effective way to reduce allergens in the air, wipe out many viruses and neutralize irritating airborne compounds.

New save \$50 and get 2 free gifts just for trying!—the Greck Speed Sweep and the Greck Refrigerator Air Purifier. The shipping is free.

The Greck ProShield Plus has been awarded one of the small directed International design prizes.





reddot design award
winner 2010



1-800-269-5395 CODE 05063

greckcleanair.com/tuh

Don't see Greck models L25, K2 online anywhere?
Please check us at 1-800-269-5395 or visit us at www.greck.com.
To understand Greck's Total Safety technology, visit www.greck.com,
or call 1-800-269-5395. *U.S. only; ask us for more information about
any Greck product. Greck's products are available in other countries.
©2010 Greck LLC. All rights reserved. Greck is a trademark of Greck LLC.

The Perfect Storm!

Innerglass® Increase Storm Windows

- Minimize heat losses and increase of your existing windows.
- Completely restore heating and cooling efficiency.
- Completely free of chlorine, dioxin, singularity.
- Greatly reduce energy costs.
- One perfect for existing storm windows.
- Save money, save trees and save history!

 **Innerglass**
Windows, Storms, Ltd.
The Company of the Innerglass

1-800-744-5267 • www.innerglass.com

10% OFF
on all laser cutters
when you buy a laser cutter
from Laser Cutter

Choose the beauty of laser cutters
the value of your gear doesn't
change.

1-800-880-0000 • www.lascut.com

Sewer Jetters Starting at \$99⁹⁹
Unclog Drains with Your Pressure Washer

ClogHog.com

**You need
Resources
for your business
to grow.**

For advertising opportunities,
contact Jennifer Rao
at Media People Inc. today!
212-778-7172
Jenny@mediaperson.com

**DAMAGED
SCREW OR BOLT?
GET IT OUT!**

Get the easiest
and most effective
**DAMAGED SCREW
AND BOLT REMOVAL**
tool on earth...



Saves time, effort and aggravation! The Gribble® tool lets you remove damaged screws and bolts easier and faster than any other tool available. It's an essential for every toolbox, from weekend warrior to experienced contractors.

FOR INFORMATION VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT WWW.AJPH.COM



Grabit Pro
PRO-GRADE CHANGED SCREW & BOLT TENSORS

Alden
Sustained Release By Design®

Available at the following retailers:



See us online at www.acehardware.com

SAVE UP TO 50% ON HOME HEATING COSTS!
HYDRO-CELL REDUCES & CONTROLS HEATING COSTS WITHIN YOUR BUDGET.



Never have to buy fuel—oil, gas, kerosene, wood—ever again!

- Sprays fast, eliminates
- All the mess and the extra costs
- Safe, complete peace of mind
- Clear, no fumes, even in tightly sealed
- Cans, sealed
- Free certified—ready to use
- For sale (N/A) as per owner (2000)
- Whole house heating (oil/gas)

Contact today to learn more!

1-800-855-8555

STANDARD DESCRIPTION	WHEELS, 480A 10" WHEEL	STANDARD PRICE	MSRP
1 2700-w	250 2000-w	\$175	\$225
2 3000-w	300 2400-w	\$200	\$250
3 3300-w	330 2800-w	\$230	\$280
4 3600-w	360 3200-w	\$275	\$325
5 3900-w	390 3600-w	\$300	\$350
6 4200-w	420 4000-w	\$340	\$390

Discontinued On the opposite page, change number

PRODUCT	UNIT	PRICE	DATE
1. 100% Cotton T-shirt	100	\$1.00	10/1/00
2. 100% Cotton T-shirt	100	\$1.00	10/1/00
3. 100% Cotton T-shirt	100	\$1.00	10/1/00

CHECK | WALTERS | HILL | BROOKER

1-800-627-9276

图 1 为图 1 所示的模型。图 1 为图 1 所示的模型。图 1 为图 1 所示的模型。

RELIEF FOR DRY HANDS THAT CRACK & SPLIT

Absolutely Colorless • Non-Oily



Buy today or find a store near you
www.OKCoffeeCompany.com

1-443-270 271

IN A CLASS BY ITSELF



 **BAINBRIDGE**
WOODEN ELEVATIONS
Tel: 1 800 800 3413 or fax
www.bainbridgetown.com

We Can Solve Your Paint Removal Problems



MILL DIRECT
WIDE PINE

7' to 20' Lowest Prices
Superior Quality 80% Used & 80% New

WOOD IDEA
34 Deer Run Lane
Marion, MI 49857
202-587-0512

www.woodidea.com

SAVE \$1.00
on one (1) package of Miltite

[illegible]

get to sleep
get back to sleep
naturally!



Take Anytime before going to bed or even the middle of the night!
America's #1 Top Selling Sleep Sleep Remedy!
No Morning Grogginess
• Natural sleep ingredients • Not habit forming • Drug Free
New Improved Flavor! Chewable - Take right from bed

Always follow usage instructions. Do not exceed label for safe usage instructions. Allow a minimum of 1 hour before driving. The product has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration for safety and effectiveness. © 2010 Sleep Remedy, Inc.

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

FACTORY DIRECT TO YOU!

How does Harbor Freight Tools sell high quality tools at such ridiculously low prices? We buy direct from the factories who also supply the major brands and sell direct to you. It's just that simple! Come see for yourself at one of our 330 STORES NATIONWIDE and use this 20% OFF Coupon on any of our 7,000 products. We stock Automotive products, Shop Equipment, Hand Tools, Taps, Compressors, Air & Power Tools, Material Handling, Welding Tools, Welders, Tool Boxes, Outdoor Equipment, Generators, and much more.

Nobody Beats Our Quality, Service and Price!

- ✓ We Have 10 Million Satisfied Customers
- ✓ We Buy Factory Direct and Pass the SAVINGS on to YOU!
- ✓ Shop & Compare Our Quality Brands Against Other National Brands
- ✓ Thousands of People Switch to Harbor Freight Tools Every Day!
- ✓ NO HASSLE RETURN POLICY ✓ Family Owned & Operated

We Will Beat Any Competitor's Price Within 1 Year Of Purchase!

330 STORES NATIONWIDE

Store Locator: 1-800-857-8001

Shop Online at

HarborFreight.com

20% OFF

Use this coupon at any Harbor Freight Tools store or on HarborFreight.com. Offer good on most tools and equipment. Excludes some items. See store for details. Valid through 12/31/12.

Get More Coupons at HarborFreight.com/cdhouse

10" VISE GRAB WORKBENCH
20" x 40" x 40"
SAVE \$70
\$129.99

OSCILLATING VARIABLE SPEED PRO MULTIFUNCTION POWER TOOL
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$54.99

CHICAGO 1/2" DRIVE AIR RATCHET
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$129.99

CHICAGO 1/2" DRIVE AIR RATCHET
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$129.99

CHICAGO 1/2" DRIVE AIR RATCHET
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$129.99

CENTRAL VACUUM 1.5 HHP POWERED 6 GALLON, 150 PSI BELLEF PROFESSIONAL COMPRESSOR
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$40
\$99.99

2 HP INDUSTRIAL 5 MICHIGAN DUST COLLECTOR
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$75
\$139.99

12" RATCHET BAR CLAMP SPREADER
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$19.99

12" RATCHET BAR CLAMP SPREADER
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$19.99

12" RATCHET BAR CLAMP SPREADER
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$19.99

12" PLANER WITH DUST COLLECTION
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$100
\$199.99

16 GAUGE COMBINATION NAILER/STAPLER KIT
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$14.99

16 GAUGE COMBINATION NAILER/STAPLER KIT
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$14.99

16 GAUGE COMBINATION NAILER/STAPLER KIT
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$14.99

16 GAUGE COMBINATION NAILER/STAPLER KIT
1/2" x 10" x 10"
SAVE \$10
\$14.99

save this old house

Own a farmhouse in the heartland

Price: \$24,900
Location: Peoria, Ind
Contact: Ed Olsen,
332-967-4333

The history: This well preserved house became part of Civil War history in 1863—less than a decade after it was built by dairy farmer Christian Tash—who Confederate soldiers commandeered the property (and the family's food) during their march along the Blue River. An ensuing skirmish with Union troops is commemorated by a roadside plaque near the home. The house stayed in the Tash family for four generations until the mid 1990s. The Tashes made their mark in town—square street and cemetery bear the family name. Why were 187 history made, the 1,700-square-foot three-bedroom farmhouse retains its old-world charm and comes with four outbuildings, including an annex kitchen (perfect for a workshop) smokehouse, woodshed, and bunny barn, among other sources of food.

What it needs: Since these photos were taken the exterior has been repaired and repainted and a new asphalt shingle roof added. Inside is another story, as all-new systems, a kitchen, and bathroom are needed. But don't worry. There's plenty of land to park a trailer while you get this place ready for a new generation.

—KEITH FANGSLOTT



1. The period farmhouse is located just 23 miles northwest of Louisville, Kentucky, on a quiet country road.
2. The house retains its original doors and windows, as seen in the picture of the hall and most of the windows.
3. This mustard-colored door leads to a back staircase. An intact marble sits to the left.
4. The back of the house. Tashed by three of the outbuildings.

Get a house? 1. Look for a well-preserved house to be sold in the heartland. 2. The house is located in the heartland. 3. The house is located in the heartland. 4. The house is located in the heartland.



Get 'Free Paint!

Principals hard to do. Get a Free Painted Porch or Save This Old House. Be the first to see the new by providing up to 100 photos of the interior and exterior paint to the buyer of this house. At no charge. If you're ready, write to info@marketing@thisoldhouse.com.



SAVE 80% TODAY - SHOP ONLINE at HarborFreight.com

