

This Old House

Spooky
Halloween
projects
anyone
can do

p. 15

Easy DIY style!

13 idea-filled
room redos
FROM \$140

Find great
colors to
warm up
your walls
inside

45
home
survival
skills

> SAVE MONEY
> SAVE TIME
> STAY SAFE

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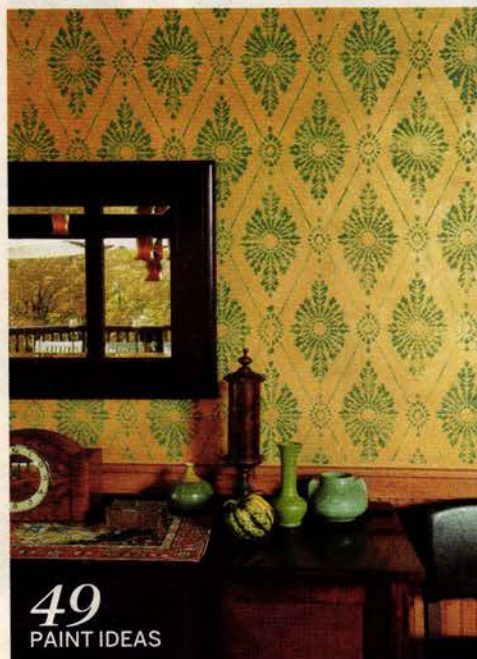


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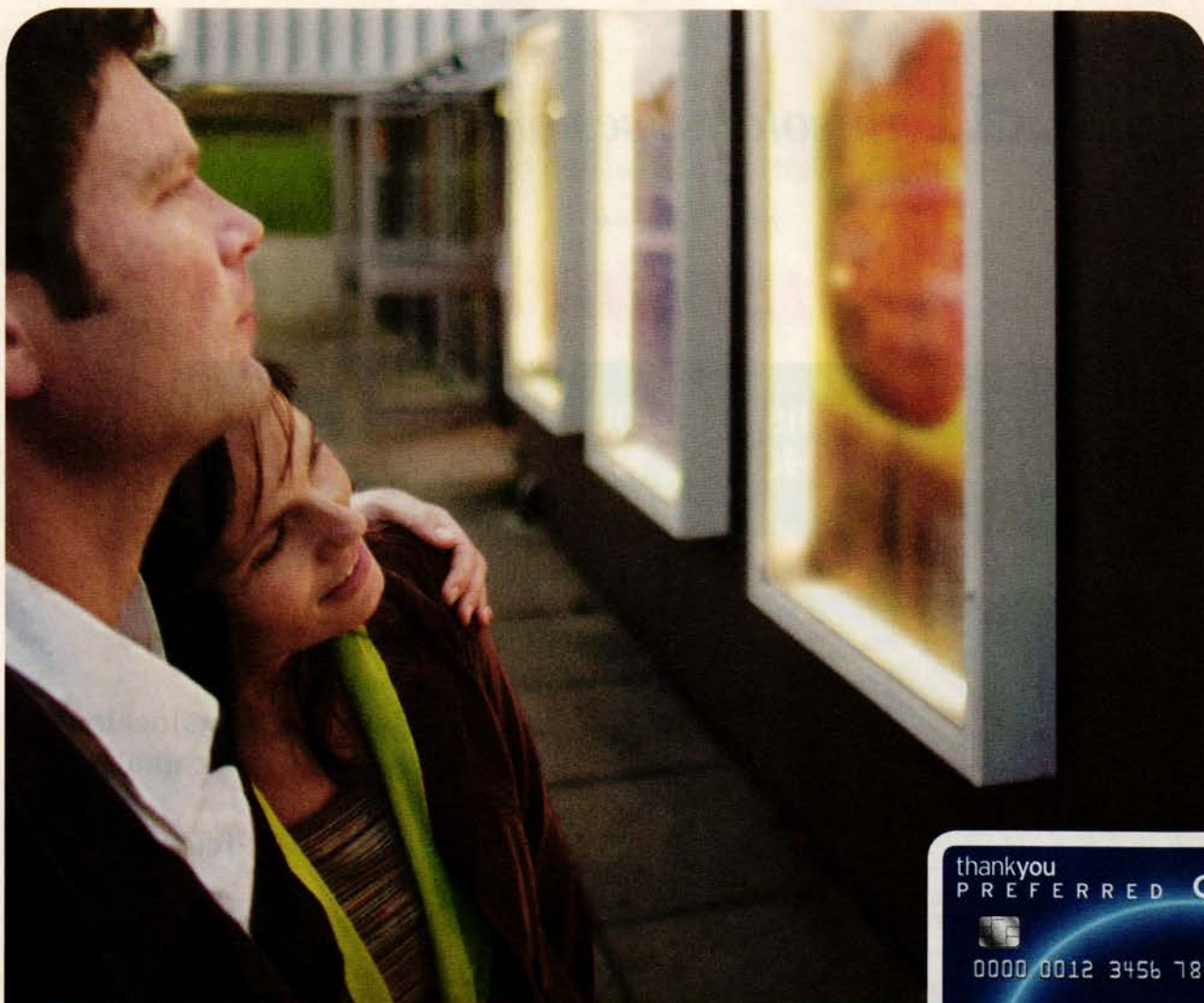
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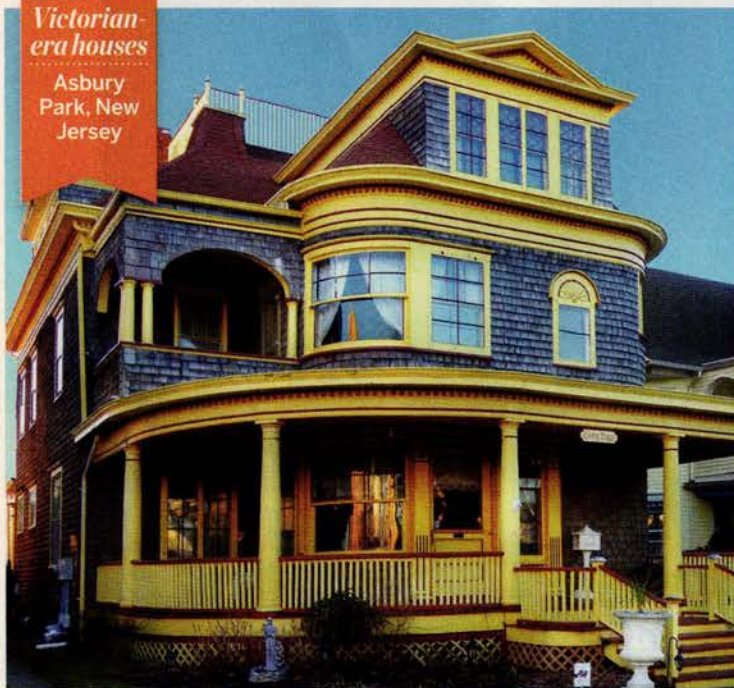
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Reader mail



WE LOVE WHAT YOU DO. *Responses to our August issue showed your eagerness to dive right into a DIY project, add more info to a topic, and share your experience. Plus, a reader project that really brings a young family together.*

Make an old fan better

Thanks for the idea to "Spiff Up a Ceiling Fan" [Home Solutions, August, or go to thisoldhouse.com/oct2013]. It was an easy project that only cost about \$14, instead of buying a new fan for \$50-plus!

—NATE TURCK, BY E-MAIL

Skeeter eaters

In August's Checklist, you suggest using a mosquito larvicide in fishponds to control mosquitoes. We have a fishpond and obtained mosquito-eating fish from our county vector-control department. These fish multiply rapidly and do an excellent job of keeping the bugs at bay.

—JILL HUDSON, GLENDALE, ARIZ.

Best for dry heat

In "Beat the Heat Outdoors" [Home Solutions, August], you recommend evaporative (or "swamp") coolers and high-pressure misting systems. What

was left out was that the action of these coolers depends on the air's relative humidity being extremely low. They work best in the desert Southwest, where humidity is ridiculously low, sometimes approaching single figures.

—ROBERT R. FLUCK JR., NORTH SYRACUSE, N.Y.

Worth the splurge

I was glad to read "All About Quartz Countertops" in the August issue. Eight years ago, I gave myself a gift of quartz counters. That was the best money I ever spent. I love them. They are always pretty and shiny; I know bacteria will not seep into the material; and I don't have to seal it, just clean it.

—SUSAN STEWART, CEDAR HILL, MO.

HOW TO REACH US

E-mail TOH_letters@thisoldhouse.com. Please include your full name, address, and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.

READER
PROJECT
OF THE
MONTH

Family-sized storage bed

KATE AND BILL SHIMKO, PITTSBURGH

We fell in love with the Weekend Remodel storage bed. [Find the how-to at thisoldhouse.com/oct2013.] We changed the dimensions to king-size and upholstered the headboard, but otherwise we two novices followed the directions exactly. Every time we snuggle with our two little ones, we're thrilled to be in a bed that we made!



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PROJECT OF THE WEEK

More saving.
More doing.

HOW TO INSTALL A FLOOR MEDALLION

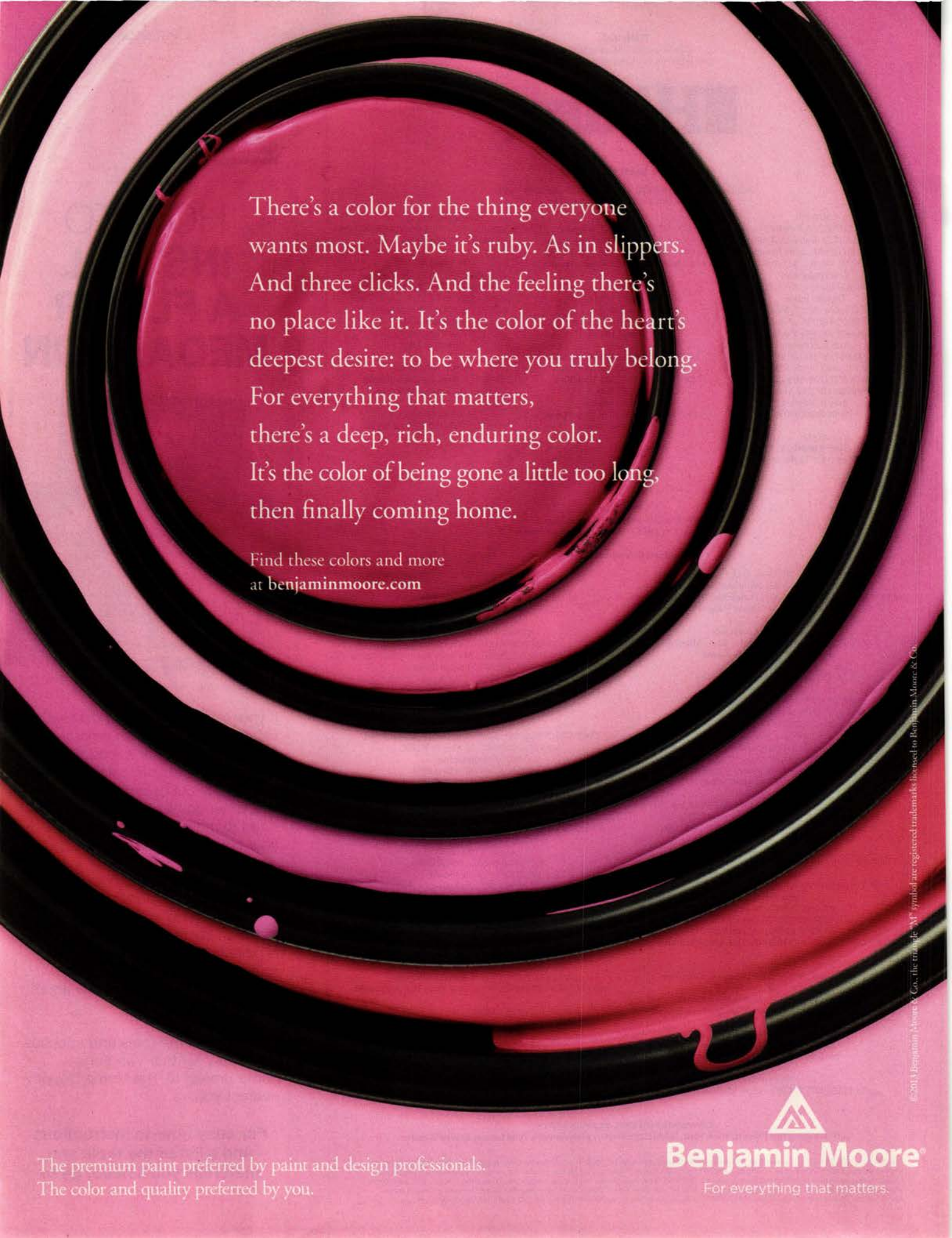


If your room could use a decorative focal point, consider an ornamental floor medallion. Each medallion is made to order using colorful pieces of precisely cut hardwoods mounted to a plywood backing, and carefully sized to match the thickness of your flooring.

Installation requires cutting into your floor with a router and bedding the medallion in an adhesive spread that's on the subfloor. The process is painstaking, but thanks to the router template supplied by the factory, it will take only a few hours to complete.

You'll find all the tools and supplies necessary for this—and any—home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

For easy how-to instructions and a list of the tools and materials you'll need, go to thisoldhouse.com/project



There's a color for the thing everyone
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Who's the scariest of all?

Things that scare me:
Short men with limps who dress all in black.
Really short older ladies with childlike voices
who trill, "They're *baaaaack*."

Contractors of any height.

The cost of replacement windows.

Mummies, once they get out of their sarcophagi and start moving around. (Why, for the love of Pete, do they always have to do that?)

Dudes with heavy boots, high foreheads, and bolts in their necks.

Any DIY project my brother wants me to help him with when he says, "It's easy—it'll only take an hour."

And finally, the fact that someone let me have a knife as big as the one in the photo. (I could hurt myself with that thing.)

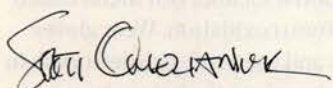
Oh, also, you people. You people scare me too.

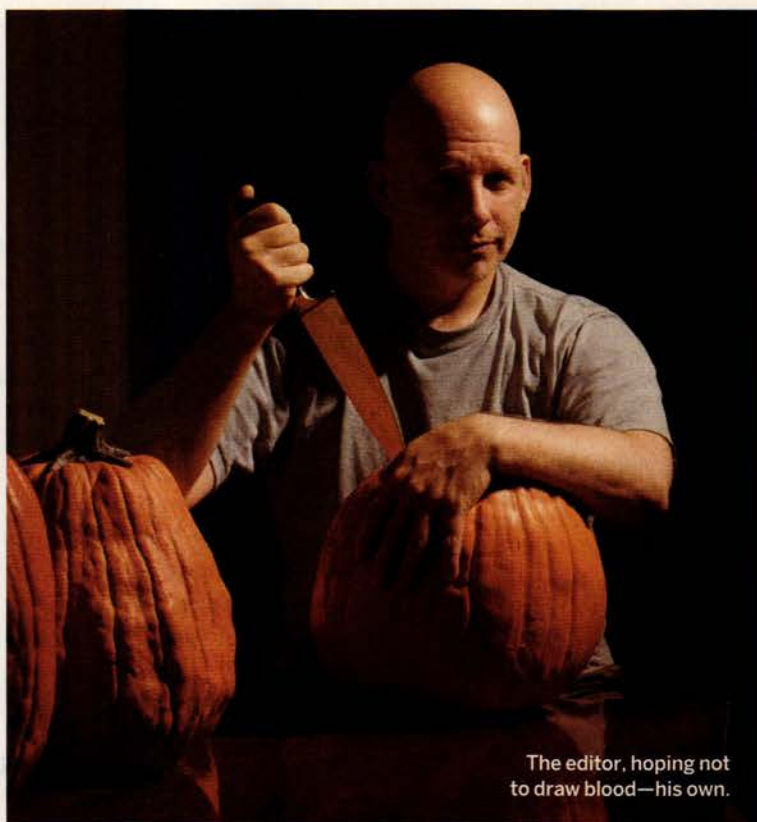
I mean, I wouldn't scream like a little girl if I saw you. I probably wouldn't even cross the street if I noticed you coming my way. Unless maybe I suddenly heard the *Deliverance* theme music playing.

But, to be honest, I do wonder about your sanity. See, it's that spooky time of year, the days before Halloween, when you toss out common sense and take to carving up squash like alien serial killers carve up students in a cabin on the Syfy channel. That's right: It's the start of the *TOH* Pumpkin-Carving Contest, our sixth annual, which officially begins September 24.

Through the years, you've amazed us with your skills, making traditional jack-o'-lanterns cut through and lit from within, sculpting the exteriors of pumpkins into all manner of macabre relief, and turning those fake-pumpkin Fun-Kins into the wildest imaginable scenes of the eerie season.

You have taken our house, *This Old House*, and turned it, via your round orange canvases, into This Old Haunted House, This Old Monster House, This Old Witch's House, and This Old Zombie House. I'm not sure how many scary houses are left after that run, but I'm looking forward to what you come up with. You can enter now at thisoldhouse.com/pumpkins. The winner receives a \$500 gift card. And, as always, we'll judge the best of them and post the winning entry—and the 24 runners-up—on thisoldhouse.com on October 30. Ghoul luck!


SCOTT OMELIANUK, EDITOR
scott@thisoldhouse.com



The editor, hoping not to draw blood—his own.



6TH-ANNUAL PUMPKIN-CARVING CONTEST

Upload a photo of your best jack-o'-lantern and you could win a \$500 gift card. *TOH* editors will award the top prize based on the most creative design and skilled handiwork. Twenty-four runners-up will be featured along with the winner in a Halloween gallery.

Entries accepted from September 24 through October 28. Go to thisoldhouse.com/pumpkins to enter now.

Checklist

OCTOBER 2013



*Easy ways to
improve your home
right now*

6 FAST FIXES

☐ Drain and store hoses:

Before freezing temperatures cause ice to form and burst your hoses, empty them, then coil and store for winter.

☐ **Light your path:** If walkways aren't lit, add low-tech solar lanterns on stakes to give trick-or-treaters safer footing.



☐ **Move cold-sensitive items inside:** Latex paint and other water-based products can freeze if left in the cold, so make a space for them inside before temps start to dip.

☐ **Dust heating vents:** Vacuum debris from registers and grilles before turning on the heat to maximize efficiency.

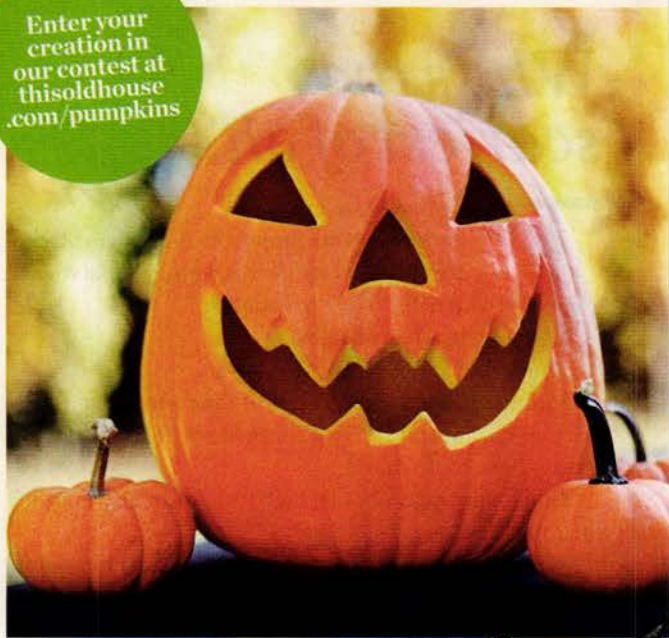
☐ **Upgrade your thermostat:** You can help save money on utilities by making the switch to a programmable model before the weather cools.

☐ **Extend downspouts:** If downspouts don't direct water at least 10 feet from your foundation, add an extender to keep moisture from welling up in your basement.

☒ **Help Jack last longer**

Whether he has a goofy grin or a sinister sneer, proper care can help give your jack-o'-lantern a few extra days. Before carving, store pumpkins away from apples and other ripening fruits, whose ethylene gas can speed decay, and wash the skins with a solution of 1 gallon water and 1 teaspoon chlorine bleach to thwart mold. Once the pumpkin is on your porch, you can help deter hungry squirrels by storing a rag soaked in cider vinegar inside it during the daytime—they hate the smell.

Enter your
creation in
our contest at
thisoldhouse.com/pumpkins



☐ **Banish bats from your attic**

These creepy creatures actually do a lot of good ridding yards of unwanted insects, but inside it's a different story, as they can spread disease. Check the attic for visitors this month, when they're likely to be shacking up as the cold weather settles in. Find any? Call a pest pro before you act: Some states have laws governing bat removal.



☐ **Let in more light**

Removing screens from your windows helps brighten your home to make the most of shorter days. Before you stow them, clean

them off using a dish soap (for vinyl screens) or an automotive cleaner (for metal mesh) that helps thwart oxidation. Wear gloves and goggles and use a soft-bristled brush to work the cleaner into the holes; rinse thoroughly and let dry before storing.

☐ **Be fire-safe**

October 6–12 marks Fire Prevention Week. Observe the occasion with some steps to protect your home: Change the batteries in your smoke detectors; pull out your dryer and brush lint from the duct to prevent flammable buildup; and make sure to have a working Class K-rated fire extinguisher handy in the kitchen, where most home fires occur.

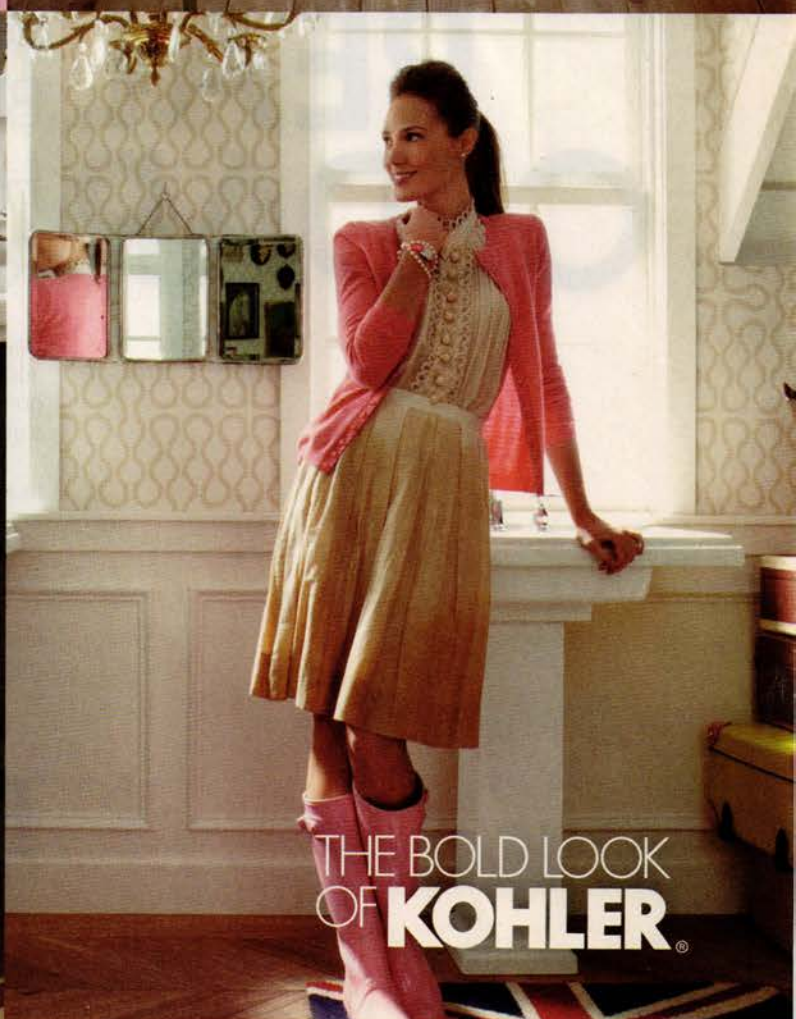


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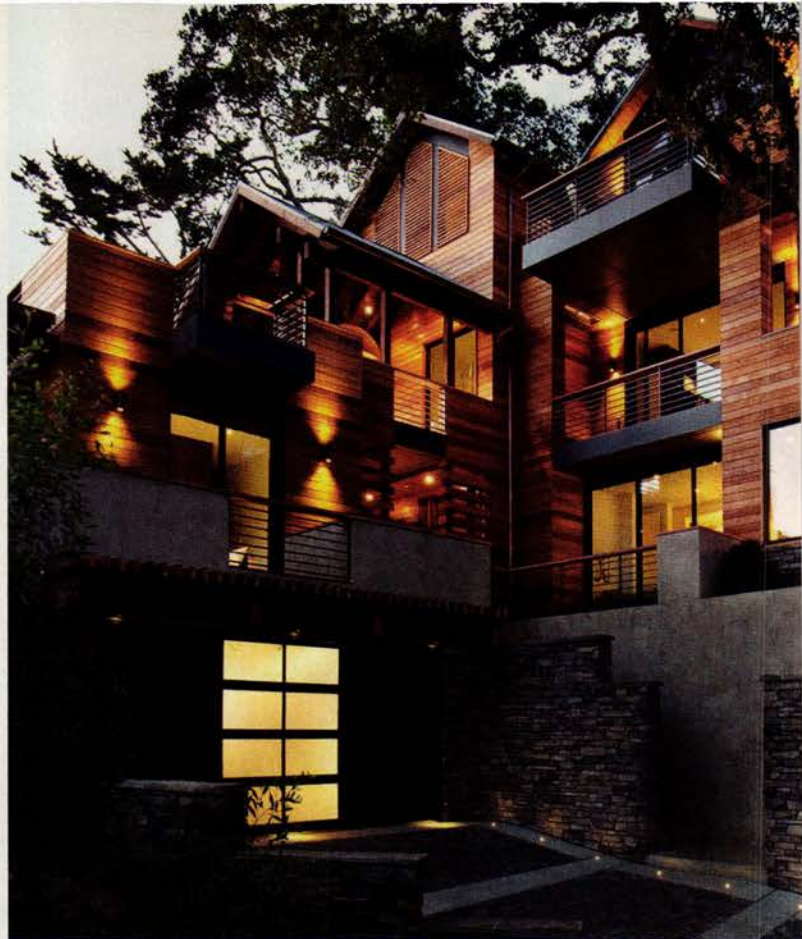
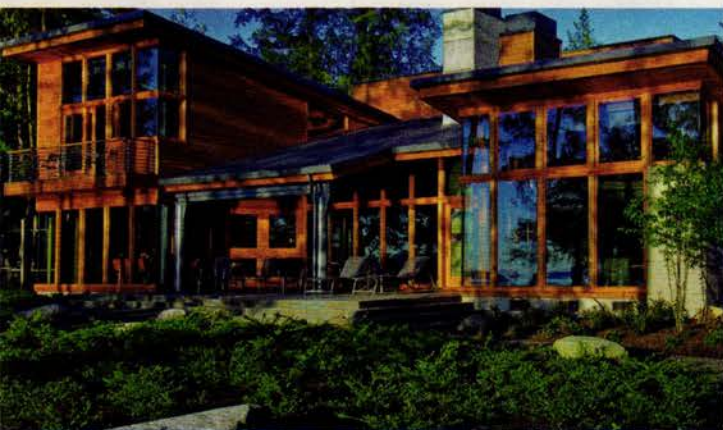
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Edited by Michelle Brunner

INSIDE

HALLOWEEN PROJECTS

10 USES

MONEY-SAVERS

FAST FIXES

MORE

Zombie planters

Trick out your front entry for Halloween with a macabre display of old gardening hand tools. Start by filling containers with potting mix and ivy. Using Velcro tape, wrap the fingers of bendable “undead” hands (\$8–\$9 each; amazon.com) around the tools. Impale at the wrist on garden stakes, and plant firmly in the soil. The result: a creepy show of hands that trick-or-treaters won’t soon forget.

Streak the hands with faux blood in a killer shade of red. We like Sherwin-Williams’s Heartthrob.



Halloween projects CONTINUED



Gothic wreath

STYROFOAM RING + SPRAY PAINT + CABLE TIES

Unwelcome guests might think twice about rapping at your door with this raven keeping watch. To make this spike-encircled wreath, cover a craft-store styrofoam ring with black spray paint, then add inexpensive black-plastic cable ties (\$6 for a pack of 100 at home centers). Arrange the ties so that some point in and some point out. Attach a bow and add a stuffed raven for the final, eerie touch.



Witch's cauldron

STOCK 1x2s + KETTLE + STRING LIGHTS + SPRAY-FOAM INSULATION

Stir up a frightful sight in your yard without much toil and trouble. To make this bewitching display, form the tripod with three 1x2s, securing them together with screws and rope. Use eye hooks and chain to suspend a plastic kettle from the stand. For the mysterious stuff bubbling over, cover outdoor string lights with spray-foam insulation. You can skip the eye of newt and toe of frog—this is already one pretty spooky brew.

Ghostly graveyard

FOAM INSULATION + STONE-EFFECT SPRAY PAINT + BLACK PAINT

Extend an otherworldly welcome to Halloween revelers with a row of tombstones on your lawn. Using a utility knife, cut 2-inch rigid foam insulation into the shape of a grave marker, and carve letters in it for the epitaph. Cover with stone-effect spray paint, and brush black paint onto the letters. Prop up from behind. You'll have a scene that's to die for.



GET THE HOW-TO

To find step-by-step instructions for our spooky projects, use a tablet or smartphone to scan this page with the Blippar app, or go to thisoldhouse.com/oct2013





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10
USES

Bricks

Clay blocks have a way of sticking around long after a project is complete. Put them to use with these ideas

1> Weigh down a tarp over firewood. Place a few bricks along the lower edge of a waterproof cover to keep your wood pile dry.

2> Create a tiered planter. Stack two bricks in the bottom of a large terra-cotta pot (we used one 17 inches in diameter). Set a 10-inch diameter terra-cotta pot on the bricks, to terrace the plantings, and fill with soil.

3> Craft a tea-light holder. Using a hole saw with a 1½-inch carbide-tipped masonry bit, drill two holes about ½ inch into a brick, just deep enough for a standard tea light to rest. Place a candle in each opening. Bonus:



Outdoors, the brick will also anchor a tablecloth on a windy day.

4> Secure a downspout. If a section of downspout has come unattached near the ground, reinsert it, then lay a brick on each side to stabilize it until you can screw it back in place.

5> Store shop pencils. Make a tip-proof holder for pencils in the workshop by drilling a row of small holes into a brick with ½-inch and ⅜-inch masonry bits. Tip: Older

building bricks are easier to drill out because their clay tends to be softer.

6> Improve the way a container drains. Break up small pieces of brick with a hammer, and wrap the shards in landscape fabric. Place the sack at the bottom of a pot to keep the soil from washing out when you water the plant.

7> Flatten a chicken while cooking. Wrap two bricks completely in foil and place on top of a butterflied chicken. The weight pushes the meat against the grill or skillet



surface so that it cooks evenly and won't dry out. The result: crispier skin and juicier, more-tender meat.

8> Elevate a hot-water tank. Set a hot-water tank on paver bricks to get it off the floor. This will prevent the pilot light from going out and the tank from getting rust damage if your basement is flooded by a leaking pipe or storm runoff.

9> Keep balloons tethered. Tie the ribbons from helium-filled balloons around a brick to prevent them from floating away at an outdoor party.

10> Make literary bookends. Get inspired by your favorite classics and brush a faux book jacket onto a book with acrylic paint and a calligraphy pen, then display proudly next to the real thing.

—KAYLA BECKER





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*In digital cameras vs. Energizer MAX®. Results vary by camera. **Use less batteries, create less waste.



Apps to keep you on budget

Some of the handiest tools for your next renovation aren't available at the home center. Check out these money-saving apps for iPhone and Android.

ESTIMATE MATERIALS AND COSTS

Use the DIY Remodel Cost Calculator (99 cents; Google Play) to gauge costs for common renovation projects, such as installing wood floors, painting a room, or adding crown molding. It factors in location, room type, and measurements for an accurate assessment.

SHOP FOR THE BEST PRICE

Scan major-retailer bar codes on items in the store—including UPC and QR codes—and RedLaser (free; iTunes, Google Play) will help you find the product cheaper at local stores or online retailers.

TRACK EXPENSES With Evernote (free; iTunes, Google Play), you can store scanned receipts for reference and keep project bids in one place. You can also sync Evernote with all your other tech; it works with almost every smartphone, tablet, and computer on the market.

PREVENT OVERSPENDING Browse archived images from the project gallery on Homezada (free 30-day trial, then \$5.95 a month; iTunes, Google Play) to make a wish list. Use those images to create your materials lists and a spending forecast, then keep track of actual costs against your overall budget.

—MEGAN BAKER



DIY tripod lamp

Surveyor's tripod lamps are beloved by designers for their clean lines and rustic charm, but they also have a great backstory: Early versions can be traced to the Middle East, where locals placed candles atop tripods left behind by British surveyors in the 1920s. To get this high-end look, you'll need one vintage tripod (we found this one for \$55 on eBay), a universal lamp kit (\$11; at home centers), and a lampshade (\$16; target.com). Drill a hole in the tripod top to thread the electrical cord. Follow the directions on the lamp kit for wiring the socket. Finally, secure the shade using the harp provided. Wiring the lamp takes less than 15 minutes, so you'll have plenty of time to bask in the glow of your handiwork.

READER TIP

"To mix paint that has been sitting for a few months, I put an old beater from a kitchen mixer into my cordless drill and run it through the paint."

—SCOTT ADKINS, DAYTON, OHIO

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just not on your faucet.

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Because you have better things to
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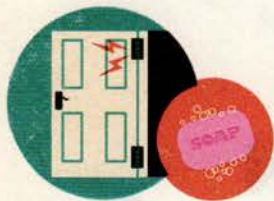


Buy it for looks. Buy it for life.®



Fix a household problem —without spending a dime

Save yourself a trip to the store and some money, too, by trying these smart work-arounds for common home-related gripes. The best part of all? You probably already have these items in your cabinet



If you've got:

A squeaky door

IDEAL SOLUTION: Marine grease—thick enough to adhere to a hinge without running and has enough lubrication to silence the noise

IN-A-PINCH FIX: Bar soap

HOW IT WORKS: Rubbing soap onto the hinges and pins provides a layer of lubricant that stays put. The result: a hinge that doesn't make a peep.



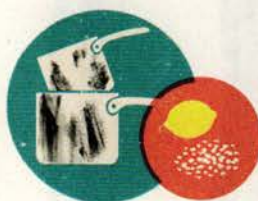
If you've got:

A slow drain

IDEAL SOLUTION: A plumbing snake that breaks up the debris causing the clog

IN-A-PINCH FIX: Baking soda and vinegar

HOW IT WORKS: When you pour a cup of baking soda down the drain, followed by a cup of vinegar and then hot water, the chemical reaction forms a powerful foam that may cut through the gunk in your pipes.



If you've got:

Tarnished copper

IDEAL SOLUTION: Copper cleaner containing citric or oxalic acid, or a mild abrasive, such as fine red jeweler's rouge

IN-A-PINCH FIX: Lemon juice mixed with rock salt

HOW IT WORKS: Air causes copper to oxidize and turn color. The acid from the lemon eats away at the oxidation, while the coarse salt provides a hefty dose of scouring power.



If you've got:

A creaky floor

IDEAL SOLUTION: Graphite powder, which provides a soft, microfine layer of lubricating particles

IN-A-PINCH FIX: Talcum powder

HOW IT WORKS: Sprinkled into the grooves of your floor, talc can dampen the squeak of two boards rubbing together. The loose boards still slide, just more quietly.



If you've got:

A stuck window

IDEAL SOLUTION: Silicone spray, which provides a slick, long-lasting coating for window tracks

IN-A-PINCH FIX: A candle

HOW IT WORKS: Rub the stub of a paraffin or beeswax candle along the tracks to leave a trail of waxy residue. This will help the window slide with less friction, so it won't stick.



If you've got:

A grimy vent filter

IDEAL SOLUTION: Chemical degreasers, which contain solvents that cut through grime in range-hood filters

IN-A-PINCH FIX: Rubbing alcohol

HOW IT WORKS: Alcohol dissolves greasy muck, making it easier to remove, but is also flammable, so clean the filter in the sink and rinse well.

—M. BAKER



Smoke out a chimney scam

With winter right around the corner, October is an ideal time to get your chimney cleaned. Too bad it's also peak season for con artists to prey on consumers. Protect yourself with these tips from Ashley Eldridge of the Chimney Safety Institute of America.

Be on the alert: If a sweep has no signage on his truck and no business cards, there's a good chance he's not legit. Other warning signs: He accepts only cash payment, and he claims you need expensive repairs that must be done on the spot. Also beware of cold calls offering special deals. To find a pro in your area, go to csia.org for a list of certified sweeps.

Know the drill: You'll be better equipped to sniff out a shady operator if you know what to expect during a routine inspection. The sweep should lay down a drop cloth and proceed to inspect the firebox, smoke chamber, and flue. He will sweep the chimney with a special vacuum and brush. Then, using a spotlight or camera, he'll check the liner for cracks and missing mortar. A checkup does not require the sweep to go on the roof, but most will, provided there's easy access.

Don't get burned: A basic inspection with cleaning generally runs from \$100 and \$300, depending on where you live in the United States. If a price seems too good to be true, then it probably is.

—M. BRUNNER

Savings are in the air.

Get your first 30-day prescription **FREE** and save on refills.*

If you have asthma or COPD, ADVAIR DISKUS may help you breathe better.††

Ask your doctor if ADVAIR® is right for you. Visit ADVAIRSavings.com or call 1-800-522-5134.



Approved Uses for ADVAIR DISKUS®

- ADVAIR DISKUS is for the treatment of asthma in patients 4 years and older. ADVAIR should be used only if your healthcare provider decides that your asthma is not well controlled with a long-term asthma control medicine, such as an inhaled corticosteroid.
- ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 is approved for adults with COPD, including chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both. You should only take 1 inhalation of ADVAIR twice a day. Higher doses will not provide additional benefits.
- ADVAIR DISKUS is not for, and should not be used to treat, sudden, severe symptoms of asthma or COPD. ADVAIR won't replace a rescue inhaler.



Important Safety Information About ADVAIR DISKUS

- **People with asthma who take long-acting beta₂-adrenergic agonist (LABA) medicines, such as salmeterol (one of the medicines in ADVAIR), have an increased risk of death from asthma problems.** It is not known whether fluticasone propionate, the other medicine in ADVAIR, reduces the risk of death from asthma problems seen with salmeterol.
 - **Call your healthcare provider if breathing problems worsen over time while using ADVAIR.** You may need different treatment.
 - **Get emergency medical care if** breathing problems worsen quickly and you use your rescue inhaler medicine, but it does not relieve your breathing problems.
- ADVAIR should be used only if your healthcare provider decides that your asthma is not well controlled with a long-term asthma control medicine, such as an inhaled corticosteroid.
- When your asthma is well controlled, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking ADVAIR. Your healthcare provider will decide if you can stop ADVAIR without loss of asthma control. Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different asthma control medicine for you, such as an inhaled corticosteroid.
- Children and adolescents with asthma who take LABA medicines may have an increased risk of hospitalization for asthma problems.
- Do not use ADVAIR to treat sudden, severe symptoms of asthma or COPD. Always have a rescue inhaler medicine with you to treat sudden symptoms.
- Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS if you have severe allergy to milk proteins. Ask your doctor if you are not sure.
- **Do not use ADVAIR more often than prescribed. Do not take ADVAIR with other medicines that contain a LABA for any reason.** Tell your doctor about medicines you take and about all of your medical conditions.
- **ADVAIR DISKUS can cause serious side effects, including:**
 - **serious allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction: rash; hives; swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue; breathing problems.
 - **sudden breathing problems immediately after inhaling your medicine.**
 - **effects on heart:** increased blood pressure; a fast and irregular heartbeat; chest pain.
 - **effects on nervous system:** tremor; nervousness.
 - **reduced adrenal function (may result in loss of energy).**
 - **changes in blood (sugar, potassium, certain types of white blood cells).**
 - **weakened immune system and a higher chance of infections.** You should avoid exposure to chickenpox and measles, and, if exposed, consult your healthcare provider without delay. Worsening of existing tuberculosis, fungal, bacterial, viral, or parasitic infections, or ocular herpes simplex may occur.
 - **lower bone mineral density.** This may be a problem for people who already have a higher chance of low bone density (osteoporosis).
 - **eye problems including glaucoma and cataracts.** You should have regular eye exams while using ADVAIR.
 - **slowed growth in children.** A child's growth should be checked often.
 - **pneumonia.** People with COPD have a higher chance of getting pneumonia. ADVAIR may increase the chance of getting pneumonia. Call your doctor if you notice any of the following symptoms: increase in mucus (sputum) production; change in mucus color; fever; chills; increased cough; increased breathing problems.
- **Common side effects of ADVAIR DISKUS for asthma include** upper respiratory tract infection, throat irritation, hoarseness and voice changes, thrush in the mouth and throat, bronchitis, cough, headache, and nausea and vomiting. In children with asthma, infections in the ear, nose, and throat are common.
- **Common side effects of ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 for COPD include** thrush in the mouth and throat, throat irritation, hoarseness and voice changes, viral respiratory infections, headache, and muscle and bone pain.

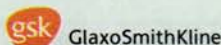
*Subject to eligibility. Restrictions apply.

†People ages 12 years and older taking ADVAIR DISKUS 100/50 experienced improvements in lung function and reductions in both asthma symptoms and fast-acting inhaler use, compared with people taking either fluticasone propionate 100 mcg or salmeterol 50 mcg (inhalation powders) alone. Your results may vary.

††ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 is clinically proven in COPD to significantly improve lung function (measured by a breathing test), compared with people taking either fluticasone propionate 250 mcg or salmeterol 50 mcg (inhalation powders) alone. Your results may vary.

Please see Brief Summary of Important Safety Information about ADVAIR DISKUS on next page.

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



ADVAIR DISKUS® 250/50
(fluticasone propionate 250 mcg and salmeterol 50 mcg inhalation powder)

ADVAIR DISKUS®

(fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder)

BRIEF
SUMMARY

This summary does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. See full Prescribing Information for complete product information.

What is the most important information I should know about ADVAIR DISKUS?

ADVAIR DISKUS can cause serious side effects, including:

1. People with asthma who take long-acting beta₂-adrenergic agonist (LABA) medicines, such as salmeterol (one of the medicines in ADVAIR DISKUS), have an increased risk of death from asthma problems. It is not known whether fluticasone propionate, the other medicine in ADVAIR DISKUS, reduces the risk of death from asthma problems seen with salmeterol.
- Call your healthcare provider if breathing problems worsen over time while using ADVAIR DISKUS. You may need different treatment.
- Get emergency medical care if:
 - breathing problems worsen quickly and
 - you use your rescue inhaler medicine, but it does not relieve your breathing problems.
2. ADVAIR DISKUS should be used only if your healthcare provider decides that your asthma is not well controlled with a long-term asthma control medicine, such as inhaled corticosteroids.
3. When your asthma is well controlled, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking ADVAIR DISKUS. Your healthcare provider will decide if you can stop ADVAIR DISKUS without loss of asthma control. Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different asthma control medicine for you, such as an inhaled corticosteroid.
4. Children and adolescents who take LABA medicines may have an increased risk of being hospitalized for asthma problems.

What is ADVAIR DISKUS?

- ADVAIR DISKUS combines an inhaled corticosteroid medicine, fluticasone propionate (the same medicine found in FLOVENT®), and a LABA medicine, salmeterol (the same medicine found in SEREVENT®).
- Inhaled corticosteroids help to decrease inflammation in the lungs. Inflammation in the lungs can lead to asthma symptoms.
- LABA medicines are used in people with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). LABA medicines help the muscles around the airways in your lungs stay relaxed to prevent symptoms, such as wheezing and shortness of breath. These symptoms can happen when the muscles around the airways tighten. This makes it hard to breathe. In severe cases, wheezing can stop your breathing and cause death if not treated right away.
- ADVAIR DISKUS is used for asthma and COPD as follows:

Asthma

ADVAIR DISKUS is used to control symptoms of asthma and to prevent symptoms such as wheezing in adults and children aged 4 years and older.

ADVAIR DISKUS contains salmeterol (the same medicine found in SEREVENT). LABA medicines, such as salmeterol, increase the risk of death from asthma problems.

ADVAIR DISKUS is not for adults and children with asthma who are well controlled with an asthma control medicine, such as a low to medium dose of an inhaled corticosteroid medicine.

COPD

COPD is a chronic lung disease that includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both. ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 is used long term, 2 times each day to help improve lung function for better breathing in adults with COPD. ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 has been shown to decrease the number of flare-ups and worsening of COPD symptoms (exacerbations).

Who should not use ADVAIR DISKUS?

Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS:

- to treat sudden, severe symptoms of asthma or COPD.

- if you have a severe allergy to milk proteins. Ask your doctor if you are not sure.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using ADVAIR DISKUS?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your health conditions, including if you:

- have heart problems
- have high blood pressure
- have seizures
- have thyroid problems
- have diabetes
- have liver problems
- have osteoporosis
- have an immune system problem
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if ADVAIR DISKUS may harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding. It is not known if ADVAIR DISKUS passes into your milk and if it can harm your baby.
- are allergic to any of the ingredients in ADVAIR DISKUS, any other medicines, or food products
- are exposed to chickenpox or measles

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. ADVAIR DISKUS and certain other medicines may interact with each other. This may cause serious side effects. Especially, tell your healthcare provider if you take ritonavir. The anti-HIV medicines NORVIR® (ritonavir capsules) Soft Gelatin, NORVIR (ritonavir oral solution), and KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir) Tablets contain ritonavir.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist each time you get a new medicine.

How do I use ADVAIR DISKUS?

Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS unless your healthcare provider has taught you and you understand everything. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions.

- Children should use ADVAIR DISKUS with an adult's help, as instructed by the child's healthcare provider.
- Use ADVAIR DISKUS exactly as prescribed. Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS more often than prescribed. ADVAIR DISKUS comes in 3 strengths. Your healthcare provider has prescribed the one that is best for your condition.
- The usual dosage of ADVAIR DISKUS is 1 inhalation 2 times each day (morning and evening). The 2 doses should be about 12 hours apart. Rinse your mouth with water after using ADVAIR DISKUS.
- If you take more ADVAIR DISKUS than your doctor has prescribed, get medical help right away if you have any unusual symptoms, such as worsening shortness of breath, chest pain, increased heart rate, or shakiness.
- If you miss a dose of ADVAIR DISKUS, just skip that dose. Take your next dose at your usual time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.
- Do not use a spacer device with ADVAIR DISKUS.
- Do not breathe into ADVAIR DISKUS.
- While you are using ADVAIR DISKUS 2 times each day, do not use other medicines that contain a LABA for any reason. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if any of your other medicines are LABA medicines.
- Do not stop using ADVAIR DISKUS or other asthma medicines unless told to do so by your healthcare provider because your symptoms might get worse. Your healthcare provider will change your medicines as needed.
- ADVAIR DISKUS does not relieve sudden symptoms. Always have a rescue inhaler medicine with you to treat sudden symptoms. If you do not have an inhaled, short-acting bronchodilator, call your healthcare provider to have one prescribed for you.

Call your healthcare provider or get medical care right away if:

- your breathing problems worsen with ADVAIR DISKUS
- you need to use your rescue inhaler medicine more often than usual
- your rescue inhaler medicine does not work as well for you at relieving symptoms
- you need to use 4 or more inhalations of your rescue inhaler medicine for 2 or more days in a row

- you use 1 whole canister of your rescue inhaler medicine in 8 weeks' time
- your peak flow meter results decrease. Your healthcare provider will tell you the numbers that are right for you.
- you have asthma and your symptoms do not improve after using ADVAIR DISKUS regularly for 1 week

What are the possible side effects with ADVAIR DISKUS?

- ADVAIR DISKUS can cause serious side effects, including:
 - See "What is the most important information I should know about ADVAIR DISKUS?"
 - serious allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
 - rash
 - hives
 - swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue
 - breathing problems
 - sudden breathing problems immediately after inhaling your medicine
 - effects on heart
 - increased blood pressure
 - a fast and irregular heartbeat
 - chest pain
 - effects on nervous system
 - tremor
 - nervousness
 - reduced adrenal function (may result in loss of energy)
 - changes in blood (sugar, potassium, certain types of white blood cells)
 - weakened immune system and a higher chance of infections
 - lower bone mineral density. This may be a problem for people who already have a higher chance of low bone density (osteoporosis).
 - eye problems including glaucoma and cataracts. You should have regular eye exams while using ADVAIR DISKUS.
 - slowed growth in children. A child's growth should be checked often.
 - pneumonia. People with COPD have a higher chance of getting pneumonia. ADVAIR DISKUS may increase the chance of getting pneumonia. Call your healthcare provider if you notice any of the following symptoms:
 - increase in mucus (sputum) production
 - change in mucus color
 - fever
 - chills
 - increased cough
 - increased breathing problems

Common side effects of ADVAIR DISKUS include:

Asthma:

- upper respiratory tract infection
- throat irritation
- hoarseness and voice changes
- thrush in the mouth and throat
- bronchitis
- cough
- headache
- nausea and vomiting

COPD:

- thrush in the mouth and throat
- throat irritation
- hoarseness and voice changes
- viral respiratory infections
- headache
- muscle and bone pain

In children with asthma, infections in the ear, nose, and throat are common.

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the side effects with ADVAIR DISKUS. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for additional information about ADVAIR DISKUS. You can also contact the company that makes ADVAIR DISKUS (toll free) at 1-888-825-5249 or at www.advaair.com.





Rebuilding + Renewal

IN NEW JERSEY



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Tune in this October as TOH takes you to the Jersey Shore, one year after the devastation of Superstorm Sandy. Reporting from three different projects and with a multitude of side stories, we'll follow along as the region comes together to rebuild smarter, better, and stronger—one house at a time.

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JERSEY SHORE REBUILDS

A fitting cook space for a gracious home

The original kitchen was in the basement—dinner rose via a dumbwaiter. Here's how a two-part redo elevated the space to reflect the spirit of a Victorian-era home

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN + PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA ROWLEY

ASKED TO DESCRIBE their 1887 sandstone-and-granite fixer-upper, in Stamford, Connecticut, Chuck and Claudia Jepsen say it's "a masculine Queen Anne," a style they paid homage to by filling the kitchen with wood, stone, and brass.

Nothing about the project happened quickly. After 10 years with a "temporary" kitchen in the dining room, the couple—enthusiastic hosts and the parents of two boys—finally had the wherewithal to open up and temporarily equip what was the butler's-pantry area. Another year went by before Claudia drew a kitchen plan on graph paper and Chuck collaborated with woodworker Cathal McGreal to make cabinets and a faux-icebox fridge front to match the dining room's quartersawn-oak woodwork. "It took forever to find another craftsman to make the icebox latches," says Claudia, not to mention the time spent tracking down salvaged stools and a café-au-lait-veined marble top for the island. Meals were prepared on a slab of drywall "for at least a year," she confesses. But that made returning the dining room to its original purpose all the sweeter. Says Chuck, "It was slow going, but now we have a kitchen that truly honors the house."

BEFORE The already-plumbed pantry area was gutted and opened up. A new range moved in; the old fridge sat in the dining room. **AFTER** Homeowner Chuck Jepsen works at his long-awaited marble-topped island. Pendant fixtures: Visual Comfort



BEFORE

PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCARLON
STYLING: PAMELA ABRAHAM

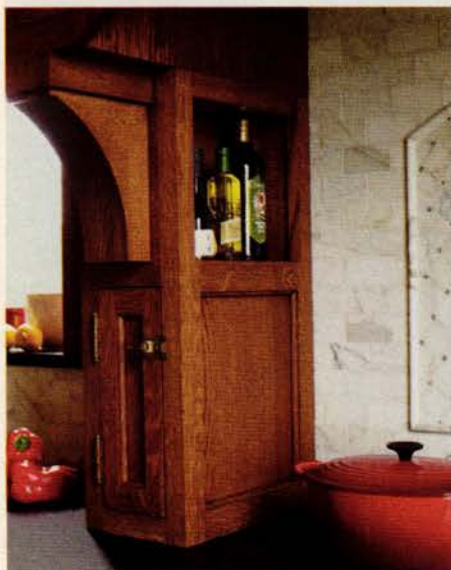
They were looking for a kitchen that was both functional and beautiful. They wanted a kitchen that was both functional and beautiful. They wanted a kitchen that was both functional and beautiful.



• **before + after:**
kitchen

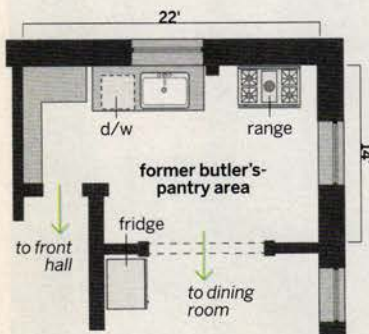
Designed and installed by the homeowners, the marble-tile backsplash has a mosaic inset they assembled by hand and rimmed with bullnose trim. Range: Lacanche

The range surround hides storage for oils and spices. Cabinets and built-ins: Hibernian Wood Design



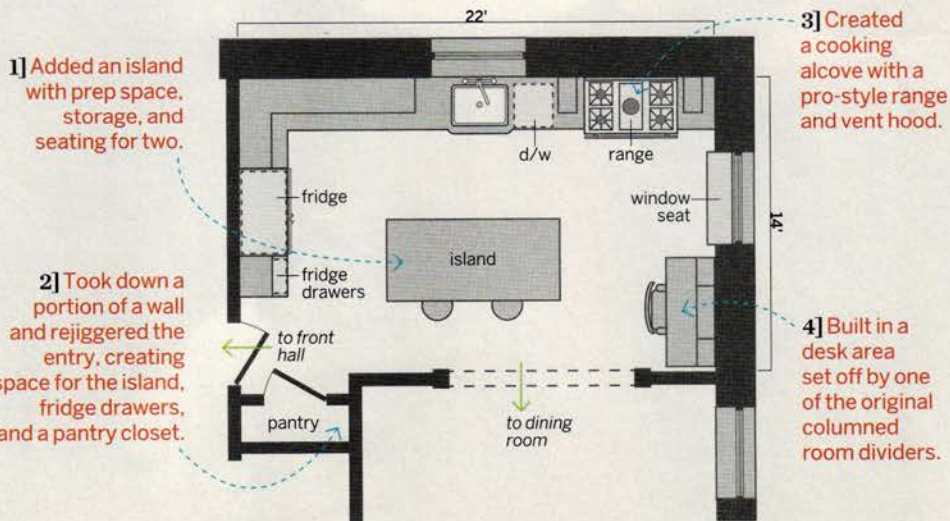
before

The old pantry area was gutted and opened up, and the old dishwasher and sink and a new range were moved in.



after

The 308-square-foot space gained a new entry, along with ceiling-height cabinets, an island with barstool seating, a built-in office area, and a long-delayed spot for the fridge.



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see what Delta can do

SmartFit™ innovations reduce potential leak points:



▲ External tank-to-bowl connection



▲ Preinstalled supply line

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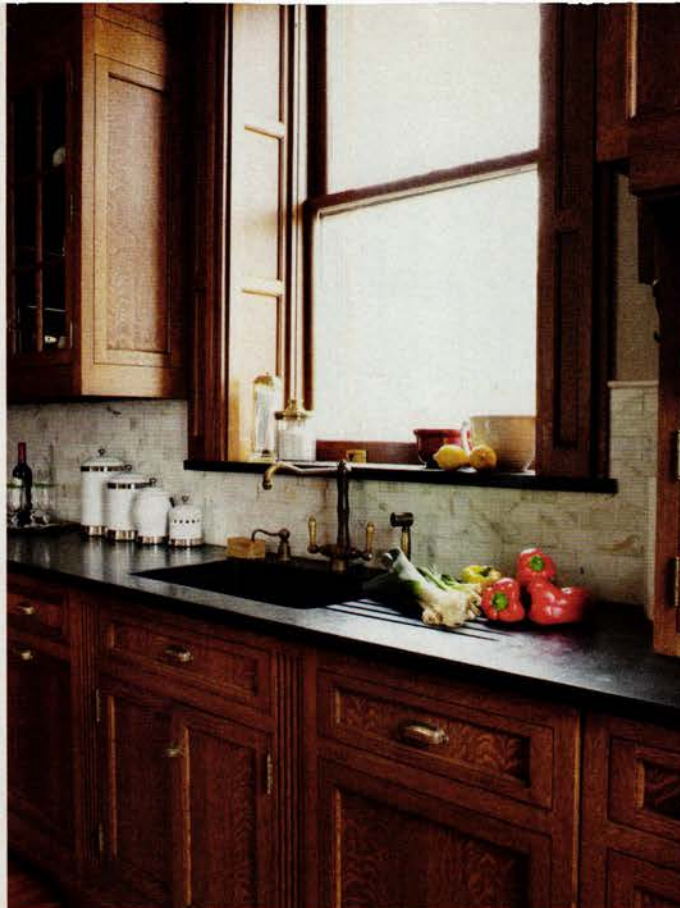
Available at:



More saving.
More doing.

• **before + after:**
kitchen

The counter-depth fridge has solid-wood panels with custom hinges and latches. Hardware: Roseland Icebox Company



The soapstone countertop has an integrated sink and drainboard and a matching windowsill. Faucet: Rohl, Knobs and pulls: Merit Metal Products



homeowner tip CHUCK JEPSEN, STAMFORD, CONN.

"To 'age' the unfinished brass hardware, I let it sit over—not in—an inch of ammonia in a Pyrex dish, tightly covered with plastic wrap, until I got the right look."

The desk area sidles up to an original columned room divider. The kitchen's oak floorboards were taken from a basement playroom and woven together with those in the dining room.



Existing woodwork in the dining room suggested the style for the kitchen's oak cabinetry. Chuck stripped all the millwork in both rooms and finished it with the same custom stain.

COOKS' NOOKS

Find seven more ways to tuck an office into your kitchen at thisoldhouse.com/oct2013

For people with a higher risk of stroke due to Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem

I was taking warfarin. But I wondered, could I shoot for something better?

NOW I TAKE ELIQUIS® (apixaban) FOR 3 GOOD REASONS:

- 1 ELIQUIS reduced the risk of stroke better than warfarin.
- 2 ELIQUIS had less major bleeding than warfarin.
- 3 Unlike warfarin, there's no routine blood testing.

ELIQUIS and other blood thinners increase the risk of bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

Ask your doctor if ELIQUIS is right for you.

ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

■ Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

■ ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

■ You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.

■ Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums; nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
- coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain; headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

■ ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

■ Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you have: kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.

■ Do not take ELIQUIS if you currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

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

Please see additional Important Product Information on the adjacent page.

Individual results may vary.

Visit ELIQUIS.COM
or call 1-855-ELIQUIS

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432US13BR01723-02-01 09/13

Eliquis
(apixaban) tablets 5mg

IMPORTANT FACTS

Eliquis®
(apixaban) tablets / **Rx ONLY**

The information below does not take the place of talking with your healthcare professional. Only your healthcare professional knows the specifics of your condition and how ELIQUIS® may fit into your overall therapy. Talk to your healthcare professional if you have any questions about ELIQUIS (pronounced ELL eh kwiss).

What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (called NSAIDs), warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots.

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.

While taking ELIQUIS:

- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:

- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
 - unusual bleeding from the gums
 - nosebleeds that happen often
 - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink, or brown urine
- red or black stools (looks like tar)
- cough up blood or blood clots

- vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

ELIQUIS (apixaban) is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

What is ELIQUIS?

ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation.

It is not known if ELIQUIS is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take ELIQUIS?

Do not take ELIQUIS if you:

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. Ask your doctor if you are not sure

What should I tell my doctor before taking ELIQUIS?

Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you:

- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- have ever had bleeding problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ELIQUIS will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ELIQUIS passes into your breast milk. You and your doctor should decide if you will take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking ELIQUIS. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed ELIQUIS for you, before you have any surgery, medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.

How should I take ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember, and do not take more than one dose at the same time. **Do not run out of ELIQUIS. Refill your prescription before you run out. Stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke.**

What are the possible side effects of ELIQUIS?

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS?"**
- ELIQUIS can cause a skin rash or severe allergic reaction. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - chest pain or tightness
 - swelling of your face or tongue
 - trouble breathing or wheezing
 - feeling dizzy or faint

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of ELIQUIS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is a brief summary of the most important information about ELIQUIS. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist, call 1-855-ELIQUIS (1-855-354-7847), or go to www.ELIQUIS.com.

Manufactured by:

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Princeton, New Jersey 08543 USA

Marketed by:

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Princeton, New Jersey 08543 USA
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PATIENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

This independent, non-profit organization provides assistance to qualifying patients with financial hardship who generally have no prescription insurance. Contact 1-800-736-0003 or visit www.bmspa.org for more information.

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An elegant space for work and play

A living area that also hosts a home office gets an update in keeping with its surroundings BY KEITH PANDOLFI + PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE SCHMELZER

SOMETIMES A LIVING ROOM is for more than just conversation. For poet Karen Harryman, it is her workspace, a spot for her musical family's jam sessions, and a place to entertain. Unfortunately, the existing room "felt dark, dirty, and heavy," says Karen, and had a cluttered and cramped seating area, a beat-up desk for her writing, and an unappealing color palette.

After seeing how Los Angeles-based designer Kyle Schuneman had totally transformed her husband's basement man cave the year before, Karen asked him to work his magic with this multipurpose room. The result: a lighter, airier living space in sync with the 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival house, with freshened-up wood finishes and dramatic new lighting. Says Schuneman: "Now it's a functional workspace for Karen, as well as a sophisticated gathering spot for family and friends."

Karen couldn't agree more. "I got the update I wanted," she says, "without sacrificing any of the details that we loved about this house."

BEFORE The step-down seating area, wrapped on one side with a wrought-iron railing, felt hemmed in.

AFTER A lighter color palette unifies the now open space. The family's instruments double as decor.



BEFORE

• **before + after:**
living room

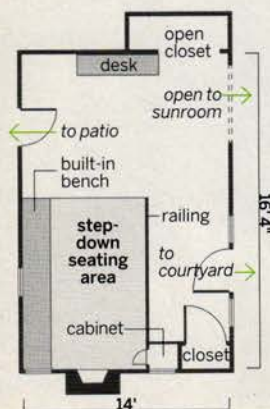


BEFORE



before

The space was chopped up by a railing. The home office consisted of a desk shoved against the back wall.

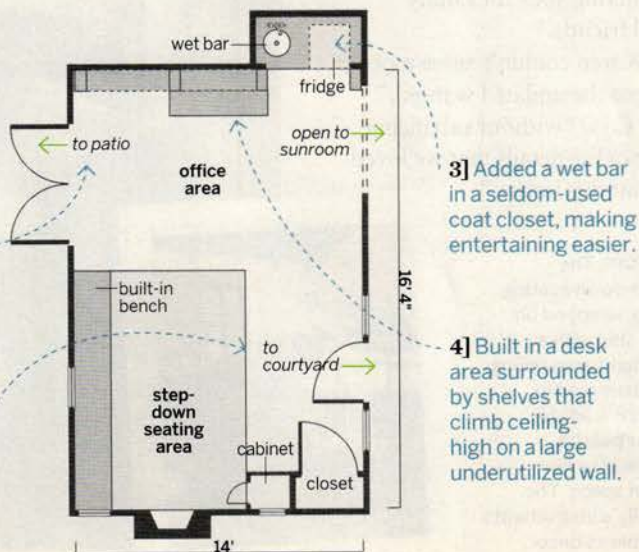


after

While the footprint stayed the same, removing the railing, adding work-worthy built-ins, and converting a closet into a wet bar created an open, multifunctional space.

- 1] Brought in more light by widening a single doorway to the patio to fit double French doors.
- 2] Improved the flow by removing an intrusive wrought-iron railing.

The office-area desktop and shelves are mahogany; white-painted base cabinets and dividing posts help lighten the look. Sconces, LEFT, provide ample reading light, as well as a touch of cool with their modern industrial aesthetic. Desk chair: Design Within Reach. Sconces: Schoolhouse Electric



- 3] Added a wet bar in a seldom-used coat closet, making entertaining easier.
- 4] Built in a desk area surrounded by shelves that climb ceiling-high on a large underutilized wall.

• **before + after:**
living room

The wet bar, installed in what was a little-used curtained-off closet, facilitates entertaining. The designer selected white Moroccan-style ceramic tile for the wall to brighten the recess and set it apart from the rest of the room. Sink: Wayfair. Fridge: U-Line. Countertop: Caesarstone. Tile: Somertile



Original details, like the molded concrete floor and the decorative toekick tile in the sunken seating area, were left as is to maintain the house's Spanish Colonial Revival character.



The built-in storage bench was refinished with a lighter stain that shows off a long-concealed bow-tie inlay detail on the back. A sleek cushion makes it comfy.

SEE THE MAN CAVE!

Check out the masculine makeover of the husband's basement retreat in this house at thisoldhouse.com/oct2013

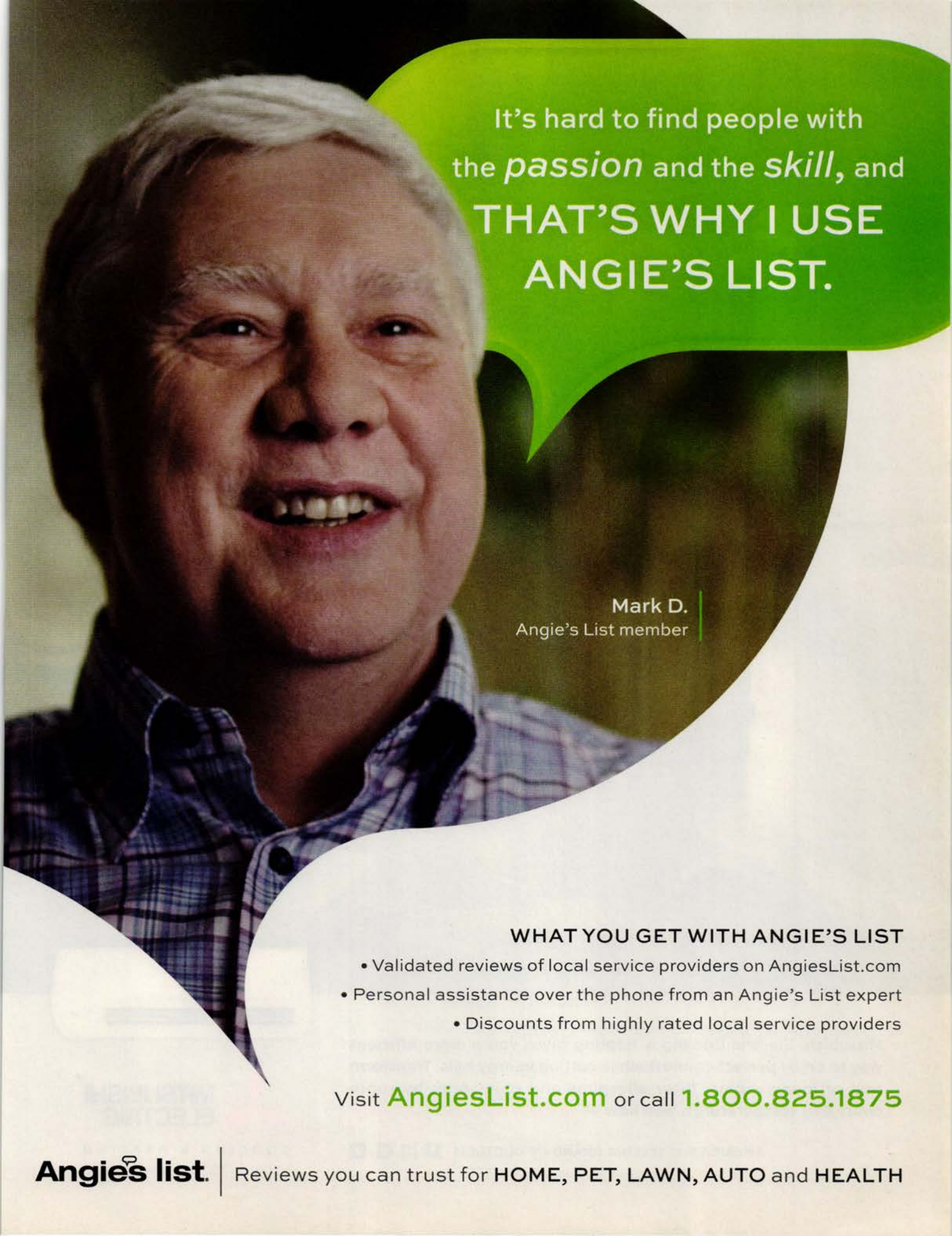


pro advice

KYLE SCHUNEMAN,
DESIGNER, LOS ANGELES

“As long as it’s in keeping with the architectural character of the house, adding new lighting can have a big impact in giving a period-style room an updated look.”

The beams and trusses stayed the same, but the ceiling was removed and insulated, then covered with white tongue-and-groove paneling. A dark stain and a simple tile border refreshed the mantel and fireplace. Pale neutral wall paint gives the space a brighter look overall.



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

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These flared, domed, and bowl-shaped lights will bring vintage style to any space BY MEGAN BAKER + PHOTOGRAPHS BY TED MORRISON

→ A **FIXTURE OF THE** industrial age, steel-and-enamel pendant lights were a happy marriage of form and function. First introduced in factories in the late 1800s, they had one purpose: to shed as much light as possible. Broad shades lined with reflective white porcelain enamel directed the glow of bulbs that were often protected from breakage by cages. Today the shades may be lightweight aluminum instead of steel and coated in rustproof paint instead of porcelain enamel, but their simple, streamlined shapes remain just as popular. Here, 13 of our favorite takes.

1>

1> flat brimmed

REJUVENATION

Made of: Powder-coated aluminum

Size: 16"W, 24" rod

Highlights: Custom-length rods offer the right fit for your space. \$410; rejuvenation.com

2>

2> curvy caged

SHADES OF LIGHT

Made of: Enameled steel

Size: 10"W, 12½" rod

Highlights: The wire guard is removable, giving you two distinct looks to choose from. \$149; shadesoflight.com

2>

3>

3>

3> red classic

SEA GULL LIGHTING

Made of: Painted aluminum

Size: 15¾"W, 54" cord

Highlights: A simple shape and a wide shade help this one fit in anywhere, from kitchen to mudroom. \$74; wayfair.com

TIP

Shallow shades are a great way to show off stylish bulbs, like the Edison ones shown here. Too much glare? Try a lower wattage or a frosted or chrome-dipped model.



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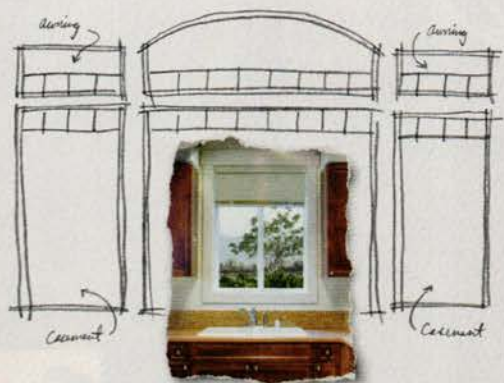
4>
ridged bowl
MILLENNIUM
LIGHTING
Made of: Painted
steel
Size: 17"W, 144" cord
Highlights: Slight
curves soften the
profile of this one;
offered in six colors.
\$80; wayfair.com

5>
brass socket
ANTIQUÉ LAMP
SUPPLY
Made of: Enameled
steel
Size: 10"W, 29" cord
Highlights: A twisted
cloth cord adds an
extra vintage touch.
\$104; antiquelamp
supply.com

6>
bold yellow
BARN LIGHT ELECTRIC
Made of: Porcelain-
enameled steel
Size: 12"W, 96" cord
Highlights: Choose
custom widths,
drops, colors, and
guards for this
one. \$254;
barnlightelectric.com

7>
barn red
MILLENNIUM LIGHTING
Made of: Painted
steel
Size: 14"W, 24" rod
Highlights: Rated for
wet locations, it could
boost the style of a
covered porch or
a bathroom. \$116;
bellacor.com

8>
plug-in style
IKEA
Made of: Painted
aluminum
Size: 10"W, 63" cord
Highlights: A long
cord plugs directly
into an outlet, so you
can get the industrial
look without hard-
wiring. \$20; ikea.com



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TIP

*Kinked cord?
Smooth out problem
areas by laying it flat
and blasting it with
heat from a hair
dryer to help stretch
the plastic coating.*

9> undulating edge

BARN LIGHT ELECTRIC
Made of: Porcelain-
enameled steel
Size: 12"W, 24" rod
Highlights: A ruffled
edge and a vintage
green finish soften the
look. \$268 as shown;
barnlightelectric.com

10> rigid rod

REJUVENATION
Made of: Powder-
coated aluminum
Size: 16"W, 20" rod
Highlights:
Customize the
rod length to suit
high- or low-ceilinged
spaces. \$420;
rejuvenation.com

11> fresh white

MILLENNIUM LIGHTING
Made of:
Painted steel
Size: 14"W, 24" cord
Highlights: The
clip-on cage is
removable for a less
workaday look. \$86;
bellacor.com

12> flared look

VOLUME LIGHTING
Made of: Powder-
coated aluminum
Size: 16½"W, 36" cord
Highlights: This fits a
bright double-tube
CFL bulb, making it
great for basements
or mudrooms. \$171;
build.com

13> glossy black

LOWE'S
Made of:
Painted steel
Size: 12"W, 85½" cord
Highlights: The sleek,
shiny finish gives it
a modern feel; a long
cord is great for
high ceilings. \$50;
lowes.com



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.com/deals

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For more information go to viagra.com or call 1-888-484-2472 (1-888-4VIAGRA).

THIS IS THE AGE OF TAKING ACTION. VIAGRA.

VIAGRA is prescription medication to treat erectile dysfunction (ED).

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION BELOW.

Do not take VIAGRA if you take nitrates, often prescribed for chest pain, as this may cause a sudden, unsafe drop in blood pressure.

Discuss your general health status with your doctor to ensure that you are healthy enough to engage in sexual activity. If you experience chest pain, nausea, or any other discomforts during sex, seek immediate medical help.

In the rare event of an erection lasting more than 4 hours, seek immediate medical help to avoid long-term injury.

If you are older than age 65, or have serious liver or kidney problems, your doctor may start you at the lowest dose (25 mg) of VIAGRA. If you are taking protease inhibitors, such as for the treatment of HIV, your doctor may recommend a 25-mg dose and may limit you to a maximum single dose of 25 mg of VIAGRA in a 48-hour period. If you have prostate problems or high blood pressure for which you take medicines called alpha blockers, your doctor may start you on a lower dose of VIAGRA.

In rare instances, men taking PDE5 inhibitors (oral erectile dysfunction medicines, including VIAGRA) reported a sudden decrease or loss of vision or hearing. It is not possible to determine whether these events are related directly to these medicines or to other factors. If you experience sudden decrease or loss of vision or hearing, stop taking PDE5 inhibitors, including VIAGRA, and call a doctor right away.

VIAGRA should not be used with other ED treatments. VIAGRA should not be used with REVATIO or other products containing sildenafil.

VIAGRA does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

The most common side effects of VIAGRA are headache, facial flushing, and upset stomach. Less commonly, bluish vision, blurred vision, or sensitivity to light may briefly occur.

Please see Important Facts for VIAGRA on the following page or visit viagra.com for full prescribing information.

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

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VIAGRA[®]
(*sildenafil citrate*) tablets



IMPORTANT FACTS



VIAGRA®
(sildenafil citrate) tablets

(vi-AG-rah)

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT VIAGRA

Never take VIAGRA if you take any medicines with nitrates. This includes nitroglycerin. Your blood pressure could drop quickly. It could fall to an unsafe or life-threatening level.

ABOUT ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION (ED)

Erectile dysfunction means a man cannot get or keep an erection. Health problems, injury, or side effects of drugs may cause ED. The cause may not be known.

ABOUT VIAGRA

VIAGRA is used to treat ED in men. When you want to have sex, VIAGRA can help you get and keep an erection when you are sexually excited. You cannot get an erection just by taking the pill. Only your doctor can prescribe VIAGRA.

VIAGRA does not cure ED.

VIAGRA does not protect you or your partner from STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) or HIV. You will need to use a condom.

VIAGRA is not a hormone or an aphrodisiac.

WHO IS VIAGRA FOR?

Who should take VIAGRA?

Men who have ED and whose heart is healthy enough for sex.

Who should NOT take VIAGRA?

- If you ever take medicines with nitrates:
 - Medicines that treat chest pain (angina), such as nitroglycerin or isosorbide mononitrate or dinitrate
- If you use some street drugs, such as "poppers" (amyl nitrate or nitrite)
- If you are allergic to anything in the VIAGRA tablet

BEFORE YOU START VIAGRA

Tell your doctor if you have or ever had:

- Heart attack, abnormal heartbeats, or stroke
- Heart problems, such as heart failure, chest pain, angina, or aortic valve narrowing
- Low or high blood pressure
- Severe vision loss
- An eye condition called retinitis pigmentosa
- Kidney or liver problems
- Blood problems, such as sickle cell anemia or leukemia
- A deformed penis, Peyronie's disease, or an erection that lasted more than 4 hours
- Stomach ulcers or any kind of bleeding problems

Tell your doctor about all your medicines. Include over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell your doctor if you take or use:

- Medicines called alpha-blockers to treat high blood pressure or prostate problems. Your blood pressure could suddenly get too low. You could get dizzy or faint. Your doctor may start you on a lower dose of VIAGRA.
- Medicines called protease inhibitors for HIV. Your doctor may prescribe a 25 mg dose. Your doctor may limit VIAGRA to 25 mg in a 48-hour period.
- Other methods to cause erections. These include pills, injections, implants, or pumps.
- A medicine called REVATIO. VIAGRA should not be used with REVATIO as REVATIO contains sildenafil, the same medicine found in VIAGRA.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIAGRA

Side effects are mostly mild to moderate. They usually go away after a few hours. Some of these are more likely to happen with higher doses.

The most common side effects are:

- Headache
- Feeling flushed
- Upset stomach

Less common side effects are:

- Trouble telling blue and green apart or seeing a blue tinge on things
- Eyes being more sensitive to light
- Blurred vision

Rarely, a small number of men taking VIAGRA have reported these serious events:

- Having an erection that lasts more than 4 hours. If the erection is not treated right away, long-term loss of potency could occur.
- Sudden decrease or loss of sight in one or both eyes. We do not know if these events are caused by VIAGRA and medicines like it or caused by other factors. They may be caused by conditions like high blood pressure or diabetes. If you have sudden vision changes, stop using VIAGRA and all medicines like it. Call your doctor right away.
- Sudden decrease or loss of hearing. We do not know if these events are caused by VIAGRA and medicines like it or caused by other factors. If you have sudden hearing changes, stop using VIAGRA and all medicines like it. Call your doctor right away.
- Heart attack, stroke, irregular heartbeats, and death. We do not know whether these events are caused by VIAGRA or caused by other factors. Most of these happened in men who already had heart problems.

If you have any of these problems, stop VIAGRA. Call your doctor right away.

HOW TO TAKE VIAGRA

Do:

- Take VIAGRA only the way your doctor tells you. VIAGRA comes in 25 mg, 50 mg, and 100 mg tablets. Your doctor will tell you how much to take.
- If you are over 65 or have serious liver or kidney problems, your doctor may start you at the lowest dose (25 mg).
- Take VIAGRA about 1 hour before you want to have sex. VIAGRA starts to work in about 30 minutes when you are sexually excited. VIAGRA lasts up to 4 hours.

Don't:

- Do not take VIAGRA more than once a day.
- Do not take more VIAGRA than your doctor tells you. If you think you need more VIAGRA, talk with your doctor.
- Do not start or stop any other medicines before checking with your doctor.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- This is only a summary of important information. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for complete product information OR
- Go to www.viagra.com or call (888) 4-VIAGRA (484-2472).



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In our June issue, we launched **The Living Alfresco Sweepstakes**: a chance for one lucky reader to get a jump start on building the backyard retreat of their dreams.

Congratulations to **Regina P. of Ypsilanti, Michigan**, who won a \$10,000 decking and outdoor furniture package, courtesy of **Trex**!



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America's Favorite Garage Doors®

Stencil on a wallpaper look

Get an allover pattern for less than the cost of a single roll of wall covering. It's easier than you'd think BY ELIZABETH ROEHRIG

➔ **GOT A YEN** to add color and pattern to your walls? You've probably considered wallpaper—but maybe thought twice given the hassle and high cost that go hand in hand with fancy coverings.

Happily, stenciling is a simple way to approximate the look. It's low-commitment, since you can paint over the pattern if you get tired of it, and not nearly as pricey, with many large-format stencils going for \$50 or less. From traditional florals to modern geometrics, the options are as varied as wallpaper patterns but totally customizable because you pick the paint colors.

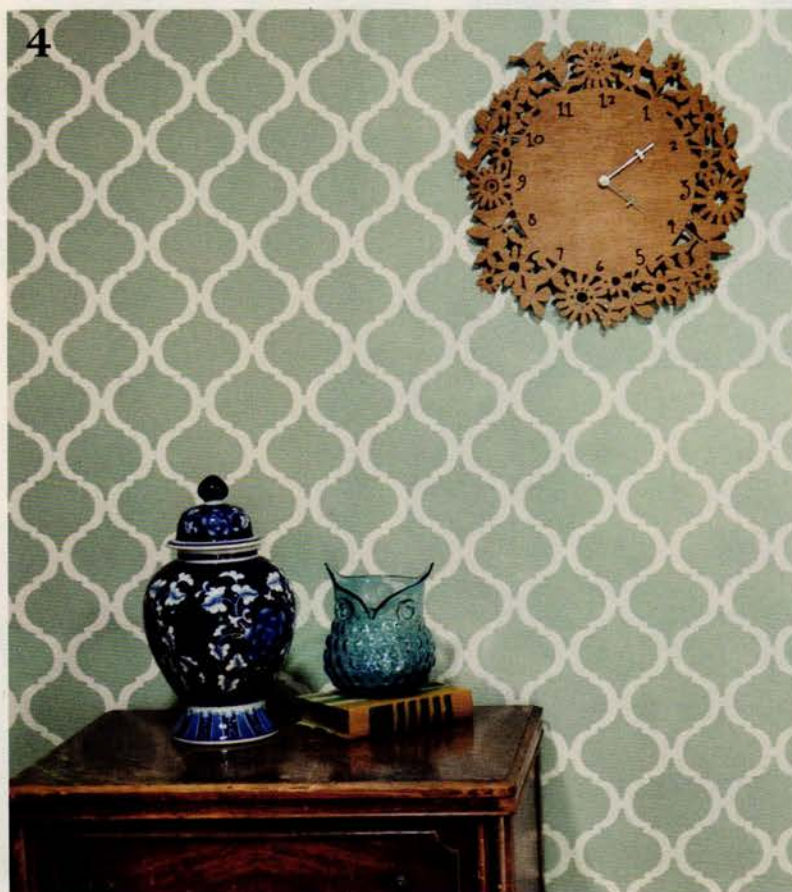
For best results, use painter's tape to hold the stencil in place, and start by completing one row from ceiling to floor. Paint with a small, dense foam roller, first rolling off excess on paper towels to prevent bleeding. Bend the stencil and use a small stencil brush to get into tight spaces. Partly overlap the already-painted pattern for the next row to ensure that it's perfectly aligned.

But don't stress over minor imperfections: That handcrafted effect is part of the look's charm.

L elegant damask

To give his dining room dimension, decorative painter and Cutting Edge Stencils cofounder Greg Swisher troweled on slightly iridescent LusterStone, a Venetian-plaster-like coating, above the wainscoting, then stenciled on a stylized design in Benjamin Moore's Cedar Path. Want more drama? Reverse the scheme with a darker wall color and a shimmery hue for the design. *Diamond Damask stencil, \$50; cuttingedgestencils.com. TOH readers get 15 percent off! Use the code TOH15 at checkout.*





2. modern links

A classic geometric design in bold yellow picked up from the headboard gives this bedroom a serene, restful feel. Get the look by applying crisp white over Farrow & Ball's Dayroom Yellow. Trousdale stencil, \$27; stencilcase.com

3. dramatic diamonds

To create this eye-catching design in her foyer, blogger Janell Beals (blog.houseoffifty.com) used a large-scale stencil pattern and a sophisticated tone-on-tone color scheme. Similar to shown: Anonymous and Worldly Gray, both from Sherwin-Williams. Mirium stencil, \$40; whitewallco.com

4. traditional tilework

In a subtle green-gray (Valspar's Jeckyll Grand Dining Sea Mist), this pattern, based on Moroccan tiles, makes a not-too-busy background that's a good fit in a variety of settings. Moroccan stencil, \$30; etsy.com/shop/cutestencils ■

TABLET BONUS!

To check out six more wallpaper-style stencil designs, get your tablet edition at thisoldhouse.com/tablet

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➔ **A MIRRORED MEDICINE CABINET** keeps your vanity as well groomed as you are, with storage for stashing toiletries out of sight. Building the cabinet yourself could save you hundreds of dollars. It means having a mirror cut to size or ordering one online, but the construction is straightforward. If you decide to paint the cabinet, select a semigloss finish, which will stand up to moisture and regular cleanings. If you want the warm look of stain, use a wood with an even grain, like oak or cherry, and seal the cabinet with a water-resistant finish, such as lacquer or varnish.

If you prefer to buy a cabinet, look for one with adjustable shelves to accommodate tall items. Choosing a surface-mount cabinet, like the three on the next page, means you won't have to cut a recess in your wall. Just be sure to fasten it to at least one stud for support. Whether you build it or buy it, you'll admire your bath's handsome new focal point.

GET MORE INFO

For the full cut list and the lists of tools and materials needed for this project, go to thisoldhouse.com/oct2013

Similar to shown: Milforde
Collection Medicine Cabinet, \$250;
signaturehardware.com



• **build it or buy it**

**BUILD
IT**

If you plan to paint the finished cabinet, clear pine is an inexpensive and readily available wood to use

COST \$89

TIME 6 hours

DIFFICULTY Easy. Using pocket screws and cove molding provides the look of a frame-and-panel door.

1] Build the frame. Use a compound miter saw and a circular saw to size the pieces according to the cut list at thisoldhouse.com/oct2013. Sandwich the top, bottom, and back of the cabinet frame between the sides, applying glue where they meet, and fasten them with 1½-inch brads. Position the cabinet's base board flush at the back, with a ¾-inch overhang on the front and sides. Glue it and nail it with 1¼-inch brads. Use ¾-inch brads to tack in the shelf supports at the height you like.

2] Attach the molding. Install the crosspiece flush at the top of the cabinet frame with 1½-inch brads. Measure and cut crown molding to fit, making 45-degree miters at the corners. Install the molding ¾ inch from the bottom of the crosspiece with glue and 1½-inch brads.

3] Construct the door. Dab the ends of the door rails with glue and clamp them between the stiles. Use a pocket-hole jig and 1¼-inch pocket screws to fasten the rails to the stiles. Fill the holes with wood plugs. Position the masonite mirror backing with a ¾-inch gap around the perimeter, and tack it in place with ½-inch brads. Flip the door over, apply mirror adhesive to the back of the mirror, and lay it in place. Cut cove molding to fit the inside of the door frame, making 45-degree miters at the corners, and glue it in place. Fasten the hinges 3 inches from the top and bottom of the door and onto the cabinet frame. Install the door pull.

4] Mount the cabinet. Use a combination countersink bit and 2-inch wood screws to fasten the cabinet to the wall, making sure to hit at least one stud in two places and using wall anchors at the remaining holes.



**BUY
IT**

Expect an upcharge for solid-hardwood construction over fiberboard or wood veneers

the basic model

\$169

An affordable fiberboard option, this cabinet sports a Craftsman-inspired door latch. zenith-products.com



the mid-range model

\$249

A beveled mirror, a birch frame, and tempered glass shelves give this cabinet a polished look. potterybarn.com



the luxury model

\$432

This showpiece boasts a solid alder door, a polished-nickel knob, and a mirrored interior. homedepot.com



Panasonic

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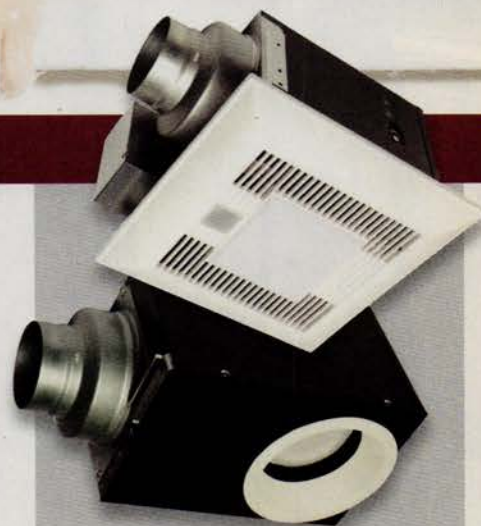


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Rising above

To survive the next big storm, more and more houses will need a lift. It's a smart move seen around the country—and on the current season of *This Old House* TV **BY JOHN CASEY**

→ **WE'VE ALL SEEN IT** on the news. Hurricanes are bigger and more frequent. Sea levels are rising. And severe flooding—which has long plagued homeowners on the coasts and on the floodplains surrounding major rivers—is hitting homes situated along smaller waterways, too. Fourteen months before last fall's Superstorm Sandy shocked the Eastern Seaboard, inland communities in New Jersey, upstate New York, and Vermont experienced the damaging effects of encroaching waters from Tropical Storm Irene. While coastal floods during hurricanes are relatively short-lived, inland river flooding, such as in Alberta, Canada, in June 2013 or in the aftermath of 2005's Hurricane Katrina, can last for days or even weeks.

And things are likely to get wetter. In its 2013 report on the likely effects of climate change, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) predicted that areas of the U.S. at risk for flooding will increase by as much as 45 percent by the end of this century. That's why many homeowners are bracing for the bad storms now, before the deluge.

Keeping a home habitable after an extreme weather event is all about putting multiple protective measures



October 2012



August 2013

ABOVE: Superstorm Sandy left the first floor of this 1890s house, in Bay Head, New Jersey, under 5 feet of water. The homeowners wanted to rebuild. **BELOW:** One year later, the home is raised to its new height on temporary cribbing, awaiting permanent pile supports.

in place, says Karen Durham-Aguilera, the director of contingency operations and homeland security for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A look at the Jersey Shore rebuilding featured on the new season of *TOH TV*, which begins airing this month, highlights what experts are calling “layered” design features that can help homes and their occupants survive potential weather catastrophes. And when it comes to flooding, it all starts with raising a house above the predicted danger zone. Here’s a closer look at how it’s done.

How high until you’re dry?

Raising an existing house on piles (also called piers) so that the lowest level is safely above the flood stage sounds like a complicated job—until you stop to envision what it would take to rebuild a life after a total washout. In fact, in high-risk areas, proving that your house meets your local building authority’s base-flood elevation (FEMA’s 100-year-flood-zone determination) is often the *only* way for homeowners to qualify for insurance and building permits.

One reason that rebuilding after a storm can be so frustrating is that FEMA is presently revising its flood-zone maps in response to rising sea levels. Community-based regulations, which are drawn up using FEMA guidelines as minimum standards, are being revised as these new minimum guidelines are published. To make sense of these changing regulations, FEMA recommends that homeowners work only with experienced engineers and contractors licensed in the homeowners’ state.

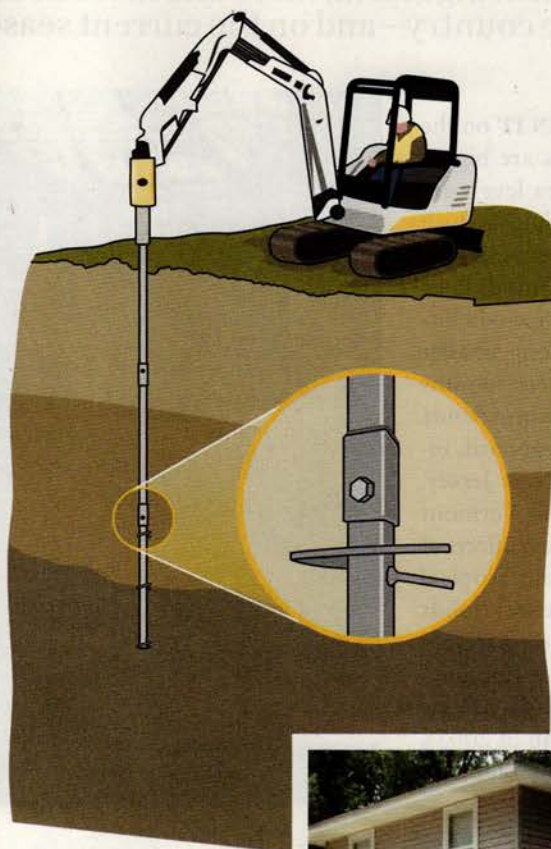
Dropping anchor on fragile ground

Carlos and Maria Santos own a 1950s home, just steps from the waterfront in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, that is one of the three rebuilds being featured on *TOH TV*. The couple took steps to temporarily elevate the house right after Sandy had filled their living space with 5 feet of water. Once the floodwaters receded, Carlos did all the remediation himself, tearing out wallboard, dousing the stud walls with anti-mold agents, and running dehumidifiers to dry things out. A few months later, they elevated the structure about 10 feet above grade on high-tech helical steel piles.

A more traditional method will be used to elevate Jed and Christine Laird’s 1890s home, in Bay Head, New Jersey, which is located on a narrow barrier peninsula between the Atlantic and Barnegat Bay. The clay subsoil beneath the house is stable enough for concrete-block piles anchored to below-grade concrete footings. But, to complicate matters, work on the house itself—as with many period homes—has run into unforeseen challenges. “The original wood framing had been exposed to

Pile supports

Site conditions influence whether wood or masonry piles with concrete footings will provide enough structural support or whether helical steel piles, which are installed in sections, are called for.



Helical piles: The optimal solution in unstable soils, such as sand or peat, these are made from short—about 5 feet long—steel segments bolted end-to-end on-site. They get rotated into the ground by machine (as shown) and can be installed where traditional wood piles cannot fit under an existing house. Screw-like plates (INSET) cause less soil disturbance than traditional excavation. The piles can be tied directly into the building structure or into conventional concrete footings.

Pile coverings: Whatever they’re made of, piles present an aesthetic issue. Many homeowners choose to cover them in brick, stucco, or fiberglass sleeves (shown) to help them blend into the rest of the house.



Is your house covered?

Hard fact: Flood damage is not covered in standard homeowners or renters insurance policies, according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

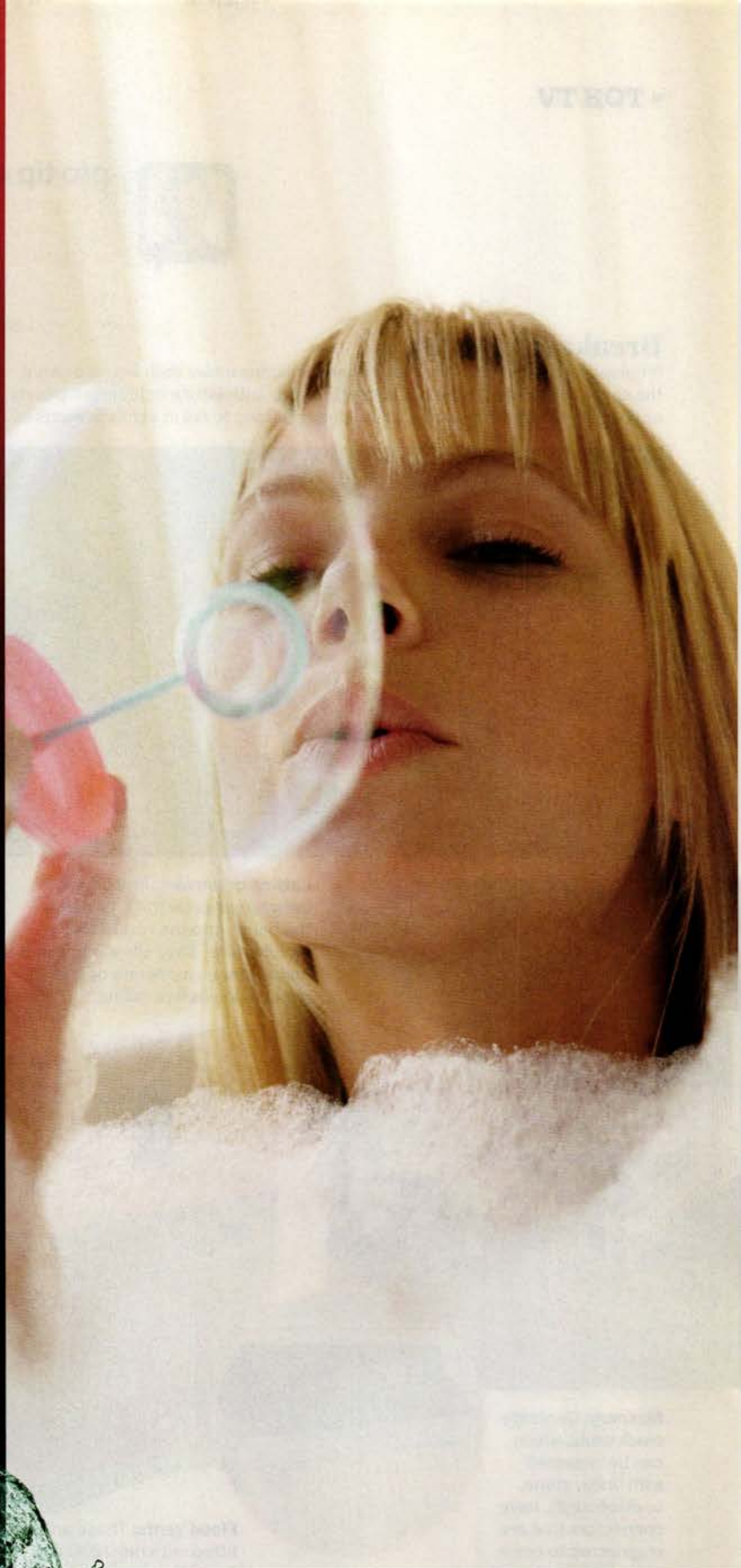
That means: You will need to purchase separate flood insurance. Check the FEMA site floodsmart.gov for information about how to buy flood insurance and a list of licensed flood-insurance sales agencies in the U.S.

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pro tip NORM ABRAM, TOH MASTER CARPENTER

"The mantra among contractors along the Shore is 'stronger, better, higher'—and that's the only way to rebuild in flood-prone areas."

Breakaway walls

If homeowners don't like the look of open columns under their house or want the space for storage, they can bridge the gaps with lattice or louvered panels or specially designed masonry walls, all engineered to fail in extreme weather.



Lattice or louvers: Airy panels between piles tie the area below the house into the rest of the architecture. They allow winds and floodwaters a moderate degree of penetration before failing.



Masonry: Concrete-block walls, which can be veneered with brick, stone, or clapboards, have connectors that are engineered to come apart under extreme pressure. Vents allow them to withstand mild storm surge.



Flood vents: These are fitted with mechanized floats that open them automatically, allowing floodwaters to enter and exit without damaging the walls.

flooding before and altered several times, and all of it was inadequate," says Jack A. Purvis, the project's architect. "So we ended up having to jack the house from the second story and entirely rebuild the first story underneath."

Aesthetics, storage, and safety

At the Santos home, breakaway walls were installed between the piles, around the foundation's perimeter. These walls are attached to the piles in ways that allow the connectors and walls to be swept away during a flood without damaging the structure or the raised living space above it. Ranging in design from louvered wood panels to unreinforced hollow concrete blocks that can be veneered with stone or brick, breakaway walls give homeowners the option of utilizing the space underneath an elevated house to store their lawn furniture, kayaks, bikes, or car. "We will essentially have an aboveground basement," Carlos says, "with a lockable door to keep it private. But we won't be keeping anything irreplaceable there."

For the Lairds, the struggle is how to deal with the radically altered look of their historic home. "For Jed and me, the key is to make it feel as much like our old house as possible, rather than drawing attention to the new elevation," says Christine. They are leaning toward camouflaging their concrete-block piles with brick veneer salvaged from the house's original foundation and installing breakaway lattice or louvered panels in the areas between them.

At a new prefabricated home being built for Rita Gurry, of Manasquan, New Jersey, breakaway walls will consist of painted concrete block. Her builder, Zarrilli Homes, was able to use pressure-treated wood piles with concrete footings for support because Rita's old home, a 1940s Cape-style cottage, was so damaged by Sandy that it had to be demolished.

As at the first two homes mentioned, the major mechanical systems for Rita's home—water heater, electrical panel, and furnace—are being installed above the flood zone in the upper living areas of the house. These will be serviced by waterproof utility connections attached to interior piles. Raising this equipment improves the odds that the house can survive a major storm in habitable condition.

To learn about these and other Jersey Shore rebuilds, tune in to the season premiere of *This Old House* on October 3. (Check local listings for airtimes.) ■



From the
Editors of
**Health
and
This Old
House**

**YOUR
HEALTHY**

Fall Gardening Guide



Cooler temperatures make fall a perfect time to step outside and dig into gardening tasks that lay the groundwork for the growing season to come. "Gardening can be a great way to get some exercise in the fresh fall air," says Kim Gladden, MD, a sports and exercise medicine physician at Cleveland Clinic. "Just be smart about how you do it, to prevent muscle strain and overuse injuries."

Follow our advice on these pages to get off to a strong start—and ensure that you finish with a smile. After all, autumn's golden sunlight isn't just good for your mums: The vitamin D it confers is a proven mood brightener, too.



1. PADDED GAUNTLET GLOVES

Puncture-proof goatskin protects hands and wrists from cuts and scratches, which could become infected. \$40; duluthtrading.com



2. LOW-EFFORT LOPPERS

The gears on these lightweight loppers pack up to three times the usual power on each cut, reducing hand and wrist strain. PowerGear Lopper (25-inch), \$38; fiskars.com

Bringing back the charm

Traditional siding and a gracious porch restore curb appeal to a 1930s house BY ANNE E. STRATTON + ILLUSTRATION BY DRAWGATE INC.



BEFORE

“NOTHING ABOUT the facade stands out,” says Aimee Mattiolo of the 1930s Dutch Colonial in East Moriches, New York, that she and her husband, Mike, bought two years ago. “It’s sturdy, it’s friendly, but it could be so much more.” To find out how to give the house that something extra, we consulted architect Charles Roberts of Amherst, Massachusetts.

“Natural materials are often what give old houses their charm,” says Roberts, who would trade in the vinyl for stained cedar shingles on the second story and clapboards on the first floor. The mix of siding plays up the house’s gambrel roof and shed dormers, while a paint scheme with more contrast highlights the details. Rather than open up the enclosed front porch and lose a sitting room inside, Roberts suggests adding a new porch. Combined with the expanded windows on both levels and bright-blue cottage-style door, it makes the whole facade more inviting.

“I just love the front porch,” says Aimee. “The house really looks like a home now.” ■

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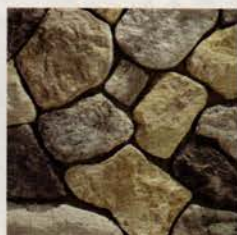
Send snapshots to redo@thisoldhouse.com



Side stairs provide a convenient entrance from the driveway.

finishing touches

Earthy materials and a warm color palette help establish an old-house look.



stone veneer

Refacing the undersize brick chimney adds heft and ties together the facade’s mix of hues. Eldorado Stone; from \$6 per square foot



sconce

This wall-mount lantern-style fixture has an old-fashioned look that’s enhanced by its oil-rubbed bronze finish. Lowe’s; \$79



paint

Blue pops against gray siding and cream trim, making the entryway a focal point. Manitu Blue, Mindful Gray, and Creamy. Sherwin-Williams; \$54 per gallon



door

A raised beaded panel gives this wood door vintage appeal, while the six-light window invites sun into the foyer. Simpson; \$750

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Apply panel molding to a featureless door to create a grand entrance to any room BY JOHN CASEY + PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN BENYI

COST \$50

TIME 4 hours over two days

DIFFICULTY Easy. A miter saw and a pneumatic nail gun make the project go smoothly.



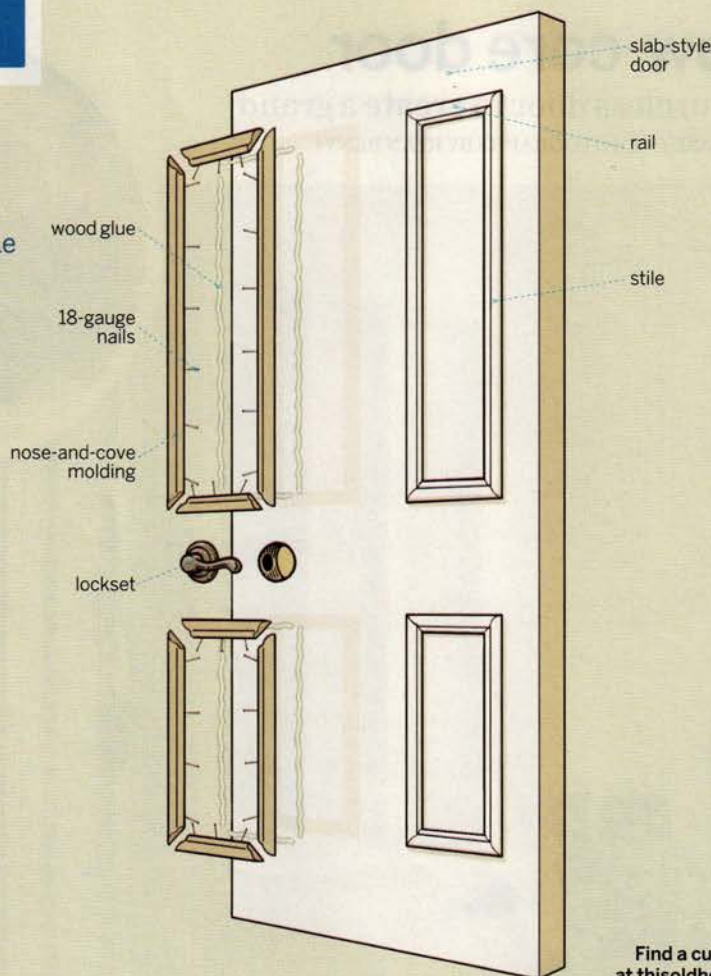
→ **IF YOU'RE LIVING WITH** builder-grade slab-style doors, just think of them as so many blank canvases. You can mimic the look of a traditional panel door simply by applying frames of molding. It's an easy project with endless possibilities, since you can match the moldings to any existing ones and re-create the look of any panel style you like. Follow along as *This Old House* contributor Christopher Beidel, owner of Pernt, a handmade-furniture company in Brooklyn, New York, leads us through the simple steps of adding character to a plain door.

Molding: Poplar nose-and-cove molding, \$1.20 per linear foot; at home centers

DAY-TO-DAY TIMELINE

SATURDAY Cut and install the panel frames (Steps 1–4).

SUNDAY Hang the door and install the lockset (Step 5).



Find a cut list at thisoldhouse.com/oct2013.

TOOLS

flathead screwdriver
Phillips-head screwdriver
combination square
framing square
miter saw
clamps
pneumatic nail gun
rounded chisel
mallet

MATERIALS

1½-by-1¾-inch poplar nose-and-cove molding
Get four 8-footers.

18-gauge 1-inch nails for pneumatic nail gun

wood glue

wood putty

120-grit sandpaper

latex primer and paint

new lockset (optional)

Note on proportions: A typical interior four-panel door has three equivalent stiles with a matching top rail and a deeper base rail. Mock up simple patterns cut from cardboard to see what size panels will look best on your door.



A



B

1 LAY OUT THE PATTERN

A] Draw the stiles. Use a flathead screwdriver to remove the hinge pins, and remove the door from the jamb. Set the door on your work surface, unscrew the hinges, and pop out the lockset. We opted for a traditional four-panel look using heavy nose-and-cove molding that complements the built-up door casing. (See note on proportions, above.) Use a combination square to mark the outside stiles of your panel frames along the stiles of the door, as shown.

B] Draw the rails. Use a framing square to draw perpendicular lines for all the rails. Now your door is marked with three of the four sides of each panel frame. You'll fit the fourth side—the inside stile—between the other three.



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2 ROUGH-CUT THE MOLDING

A] Cut blanks. Take the measurement of the rails from your door layout, and add 1 inch to account for the miter. With your miter saw set at 0 degrees, straight-cut eight blanks to that length from your molding stock.

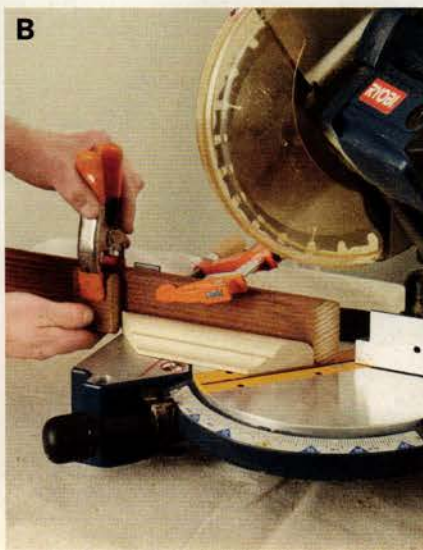
B] Miter one side. Set the blade on the miter saw to 45 degrees to cut the left inside miters. Make your cuts, as shown.

3 MITER THE PIECES TO SIZE

A] Make a template. You'll want to set up a stop block to make all your like pieces identical. Place one of the blanks on your door layout, and mark where the right inside miter should be cut. Make that cut and double check it against the pattern. Now you can use it to position the stop block. Clamp a piece of scrap wood to the miter saw's fence. Set the blade to a right inside 45-degree angle, and cut one end of the scrap, as shown.

B] Clamp the stop block. Set the template against the scrap piece and match up the right-hand miters. Then clamp a block to the scrap at the left tip of the template, as shown.

C] Make the right inside miter cut. Set a blank in your miter saw with the left miter against the stop block and cut the right inside miter. Repeat the process on the remaining rail blanks. Then repeat all of Steps 2 and 3 to make the stiles.



SEE HOW IT'S DONE

To watch a video of this project, use a tablet or smartphone to scan this page with the Blippar app, or go to thisoldhouse.com/oct2013

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A



B



C

4 BUILD THE PANEL FRAMES

A] Lay out the pieces. Dry-fit all the pieces on your pattern to make sure the corners are tight and the frames are even. Begin installing the molding, one frame at a time, starting with the outside stile. Install the two rails next, then the inside stile. Apply wood glue to the back of each piece, as shown, and press it in place.

B] Nail the molding. Use a pneumatic nail gun to tack each piece in place, shooting nails in at opposing angles every 2 or 3 inches. Make sure you have good contact between the door and the molding. Repeat the process on the other three frames.

C] Check the miter joints. If any miter joints have gaps, use your finger to apply wood putty, as shown. Fill visible nail holes, too. Once the putty has dried, use a piece of 120-grit sandpaper to smooth any sharp edges or excess putty. Paint the molding and the door with a latex primer and a finish paint, and let dry.

5 FINISH THE DOOR

A] Chisel the mortise. We upgraded to a lever handle more in keeping with the look of a four-panel door, but its latch required a larger mortise. Trace the outline of the new plate on the edge of the door. Use a rounded chisel and a mallet to cut a mortise, as shown. Screw the hinges back onto the door. Stand the door in the jamb and pin the hinges to rehang it.

B] Install the lockset. Place the handle assembly through the face bore, aligning the spindle with the opening in the latch mechanism, as shown. Fit the handle in place on the opposite side, and use a screwdriver to hand tighten the screws on the escutcheon plate. ■

TIP For a clean, rounded mortise, use a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch drill bit to make a hole $\frac{1}{8}$ inch deep at each corner before chiseling out the rest of the field for the latch plate.



A



B

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WHAT'S old IS new AGAIN

A 19TH-CENTURY FARMHOUSE'S SIDE ADDITION
MAKES ROOM FOR A SPACIOUS KITCHEN AND
A MORE OPEN FLOOR PLAN—WHILE EVOKING THE
HOME'S ORIGINAL SHAPE

BY CAROLE BRADEN/PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRIA GIOVAN/
PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCANLON/STYLING BY ANNA MOLVIK



A farmhouse table with ladder-back chairs takes the place of an island in the new kitchen. Random-width floorboards, made of eastern white pine and finished with tung oil, contribute to the room's warmth and character.

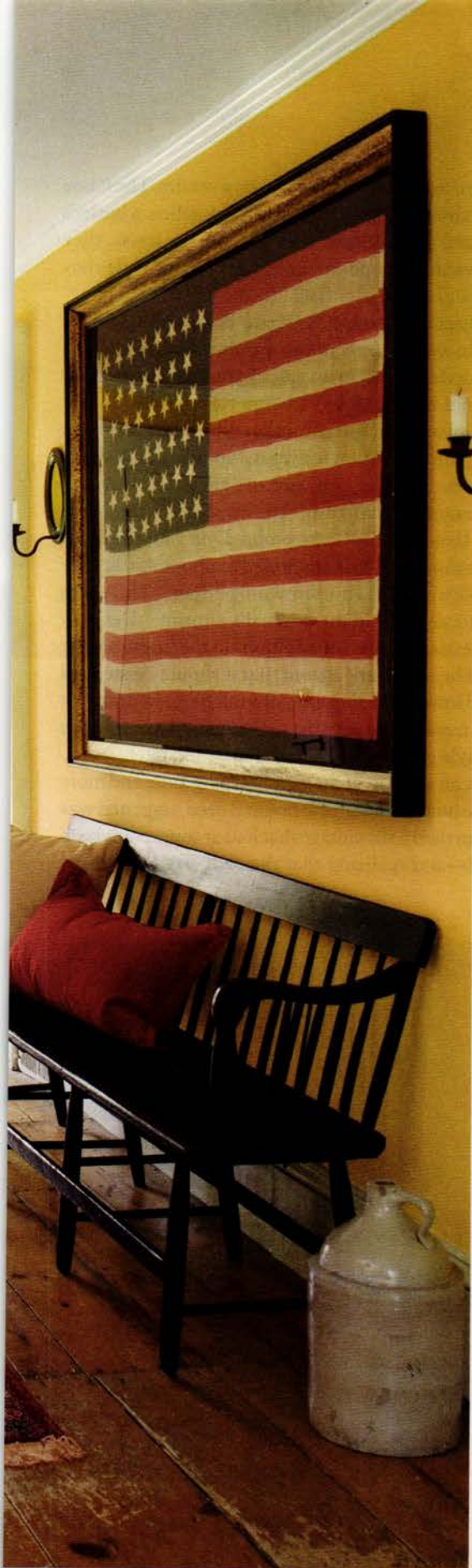


Things have a way of coming back around. Especially in old houses—woodwork resurfaces, doorknobs return, pantries reappear. Heck, entire porches find their way back from oblivion. But in these days of frenzied family life, function almost always trumps nostalgia. And so the oldfangled elements that rise again, or simply endure, must find a place of peaceful coexistence alongside the new. That's what happened at the house on Four Corners Road.

This four-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath farmhouse, on five acres in Warwick, New York, belongs to Mark Silvestri, a commercial real-estate developer with a sincere respect for the time-honored. Some years ago, when he first saw the place, he was recently married, ready to start a family, and drawn to the rural setting and the creaky feel of the rooms. The home had plaster walls, wide-plank floors, and double-hung windows with wavy single-pane glass. "It was the only Warwick house I looked at," he says. "What I liked was that it hadn't been modernized. Nothing had been done."

Actually, some things had. At different points, the 19th-century home's kitchen had most likely been moved from the basement to the first floor, joined by a bath, two closets, and a couple of claustrophobic hallways





19TH-CENTURY STYLE

OPPOSITE: The new wing, with its porch and lowered roofline, mimics traditional farmhouse additions. LEFT: The core of the house and its center hall predate the Civil War. ABOVE: New double-hung windows and an apron sink echo the period look.

connecting the rooms. The revisions had in some ways made sense, but they had robbed the 3,000-square-foot house of its formal dining room, along with some original woodwork and detail, and left one side of the house feeling chopped up, recalls Jeff DeGraw, the architect Mark hired to improve the flow. DeGraw says the desire his client had is a common one: "He wanted to open up the convoluted space and restore the original bones."

By the time DeGraw entered the picture, Mark and his wife, Lisa, had been in the house for five years and were the parents of two daughters. They had an idea of what they wanted to preserve and let go. "The kitchen was bad," Mark says, recalling a few stingy feet of counter space and a utilitarian electric stove. The small dining room, at the back of the house, zigzagged too far from the kitchen. The downstairs bath supplemented the one on the second floor but was hardly handy to the bedrooms. A screened porch off the right side of the house, a 20th-century addition, was terminally infested with carpenter ants and had to come down.

The couple agreed with DeGraw's assessment: The first floor's previously renovated side and the second-floor area directly above it, which included a master bedroom with no bath, needed a redo. They settled on a



HIDDEN FUNCTION

Coordinated cupboards and panels mask modern amenities, including a water line for the espresso machine and refrigerator drawers (ABOVE), and swing-out spice shelves and a microwave (RIGHT). FAR RIGHT: Crown molding gives open shelves a finished look.



two-phase renovation, beginning downstairs. The Phase One wish list included a cook-friendly kitchen, a butler's pantry, and a traditional dining room; upstairs, they simply wanted to update the existing bath while they figured out how to approach the master suite, a large-scale project to be tackled in Phase Two. Also slated for the first round of renovations: window improvements, systems updates, and an overall streamlining of the first-floor layout to make it work better for a family.

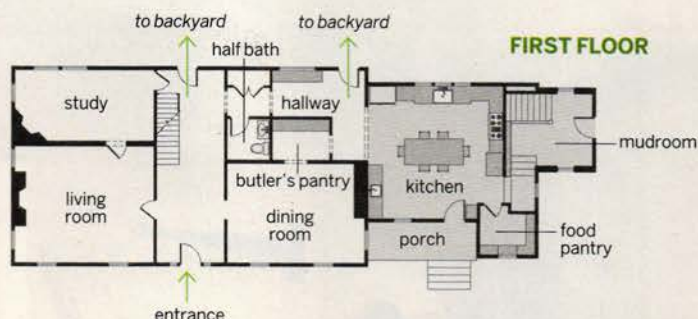
There was little question that Mark, who'd been planning the renovation for years, would call the shots. But first, he and DeGraw had to synch their visions. Mark wanted to change as little as possible about the original structure. DeGraw pointed out that the main floor's mishmashed half amounted to about 450 square feet, a clue to how the overcrowding began. "There was no way to stay within the original footprint," DeGraw says. The answer was an addition on the house's right side, and he and Mark agreed that it should be stepped back and lower than the original roofline, to fit under an old pine tree in front. On the side, it would line up with a barn-style garage the couple hope to add later.

Mark, an avid researcher, was learning more and more about the house—which the original deed suggested was older than the 1850s vintage that had at some point been assigned—and realizing that the property had under-



FLOOR PLANS

The nearly 1,300-square-foot addition holds the new porch, kitchen, pantry, and step-down mudroom, as well as space above them intended for a future master suite. The dining room and half bath were relocated, and the second-floor bath was redone.



gone many revisions. A barn out back had bitten the dust in the 1920s after being hit by a tornado. (Its replacement went up in a spot more accessible to the home and the road.) A porch spanning the house's front, visible in a 1904 photo he'd unearthed, had been an add-on that vanished some 70 years ago. It dawned on him, Mark says, that as a house ages, even big changes can eventually come to feel like they have always been there.

Mark signed off on DeGraw's plan for a two-story side-gabled wing of almost 1,300 square feet, with a fully loaded kitchen and a second-floor space that would remain incomplete until the reno's next phase. The new wing, taking roughly the space vacated by the screen porch, would also add a stepped-back front porch.

A number of interior reconfigurations were also on the roster, and they came first, led by general contractor and cabinetmaker Robert Singer. The house's left side sat undisturbed while the right side was torn apart. "I came home one day and the floor was gone," Mark remembers. Galvanized-aluminum pipes were replaced with PEX and copper, and new wiring went in.

LIVING ROOM UNTOUCHED

The original sitting room provided a handy "look book" of molding and trim details for the renovation.





IN AND OUT ABOVE: The mudroom has a barn-style door and a pine floor painted to mimic old linoleum. RIGHT: White finishes reflect natural light in the upstairs bath.



SHOP THIS STYLE

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STEP-BY-STEP LOCKERS A set of descending built-ins, finished with wood clasps, provides coat and boot storage in the mudroom.

Piece-by-piece removal of the titanic furnace—"Old Ironsides," as Singer called it—made way for a three-zone forced-air heating and cooling system, and rotted joists necessitated some reframing. The bath was pushed to the rear in order to reclaim the original dining room space at the front of the house; the new butler's pantry would connect the dining room and kitchen.

A funny thing happened during all the poking around. Singer discovered that the original house was an asymmetrical structure, much smaller, that had been added on to over the years. The left side, and possibly a portion at the back, dated to different times. While DeGraw says his plan is all about function and flow, both on the first floor and leading outside, it may also recall the profile of the house before its 20th-century modifications. "The home's new shape and form most likely echo those of the original house," says Richard Hull, a historian whose family has owned the house across the street for the better part of a century and who remembers playing in the Silvestri home as a child.

All this historical head-scratching and cautious updating took time. Mark asked Singer to save and restore the existing double-hung windows. New copies for the addition, made by an expert a couple of states away, took the better part of one summer. Singer painstakingly re-created five-piece moldings around some of the windows, as well as decorative panels beneath.

As often happens during drawn-out renovations, the shape of the house wasn't the only thing that changed. The timeline was extended once again when the team decided to add a mudroom to the plan. The revision also stretched the budget, more so as Singer customized that space with storage lockers and a hand-painted checkerboard floor. Mark, clearly pleased, calls the room a "happy accident."

Though the groundwork laid in Phase One is complete, it leaves the house with a new set of quirks: The second-floor space DeGraw planned for the master bedroom and bath is currently accessed via a closet and houses laundry and exercise equipment. But, per Mark's priority list, the house looks period-perfect from the road. "I thought it was very important to design from the outside in," Mark says. "Even if it means that we now have to figure out how to make the upstairs work." Stay tuned for Phase Two. ■

45 essential survival skills for homeowners

Our household troubleshooting guide will get you out of all-too-common jams around the house, whether they're true emergencies or everyday annoyances ■ by Josh Garskof

illustrations by Zohar Lazar and Jason Lee



Homeowner Basics: How to...



1. Tighten a stair baluster

Use a thin flat bar to gently pry off the end cap on the stair tread, which will expose the mortise that holds the baluster. Insert a shim to push the baluster tight against the banister on top. Then reattach the tread cap.

2. Unclog a caulk nozzle

Chuck a drill bit into your driver and zip through the dried-up gunk in the tip.

3. Remove porcelain-sink stains

Start with toilet cleaner and scrub in circles. If that doesn't work, try Bar Keepers Friend, which contains pumice, a mild abrasive. If that doesn't work either, wet the sink and use a pumice stick; it's the most aggressive technique that's safe for porcelain. If that also fails? Sorry, you'll need a professional refinishing.

4. Get your radiators to heat up all the way

Trapped air can cause a hot-water or steam radiator to stay cold at the top. Releasing the air restores efficiency. On a hot-water unit, let the air out through the bleed valve, a square nut located near the top of the unit. Using either a special valve key or a flathead screwdriver (depending on your model), open the valve a quarter turn until you hear hissing. When water begins bubbling out, close the valve again. Steam units trap air if the valve's air vent is clogged with paint or dirt (or not pointing up). With the heat off, clean out the little hole at the top of the valve with a wire, or just replace the whole thing. But with either system, warns *This Old House* plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey, "be careful with those valves. That radiator is way older than you are, and if those threads break, you've got a big problem." For a stubborn valve, he recommends holding the outside nut with a crescent wrench as you turn the



valve. You can also use WD-40, but not too much elbow grease: Better to leave a bubble than to bust a radiator.

5. Install a motion-detector light

So long as there's an existing light fixture, this job is a cinch: Kill the power, remove the old unit, and wire up the new one, says *TOH's* go-to master electrician, Scott Caron. "Hot" black wire to black, neutral white to white, and don't forget to connect the green ground to the bare copper wire wound around the ground screw. "Really," he says, "the most important thing is to buy a high-quality unit." Sophisticated circuitry guards against false triggers, and you can adjust the sensor to ignore animals—or not. "I like to know when our neighborhood skunk is around so I don't get surprised," Caron says. Set the light to test mode and aim the sensor so that it doesn't pick up traffic or pedestrians. Or late-night hot-tub action.

6. Fix curling wallpaper

Use an artist's paintbrush to dab wallpaper-repair adhesive on the wall, and press the paper in place with a seam roller. Remove excess adhesive from the paper with a damp sponge.

7. Use an extension ladder without breaking your neck

(1) Check that the ladder is leaning at a safe angle by standing with your toes touching the side rails and by grabbing the rung at shoulder height. If your arms are fully extended and roughly parallel to the ground, the ladder is pitched properly, says Jeff Inks, executive director of the American Ladder Institute.

(2) Always maintain three points of contact with the ladder as you climb. "That can be two feet and one hand, or two hands and one foot," says Inks. "And, yes, it means always carrying your tools and supplies in an apron or on a belt—not in your hands."

(3) Do not overextend your ladder. A 32-foot ladder needs at least 3 feet of

overlap. Longer ladders need up to 6 feet. Check your ladder's label for details.

(4) Never stand on a rung that's less than 3 feet from the top.

8. Pick the right-length screw or nail

TOH's general contractor Tom Silva's rule of thumb is to choose fasteners that are two and a half times the thickness of the material he's attaching. So ½-inch drywall gets a 1¼-inch screw, for example, while ¾-inch plywood gets a 1⅞-inch screw or nail. Tack on another ½ inch, and angle the fastener if the base material is end grain, since it has less holding power. And, of course, always make sure the fastener won't go clear through the substrate.

9. Get firewood to burn

It's all in how you season it. Find a sunny outdoor spot away from wood structures, to keep insects from migrating. Lay two 2×4s on the ground to raise the pile, and stack the logs parallel to one another, loosely enough for air to circulate, says *TOH's* landscape contractor Roger Cook. Cover only the top course with a tarp, to keep the logs dry while letting the stack breathe.

11. Patch a hole in a gutter

Grab some tin snips and cleanly cut away rusted or corroded material around the hole. Fashion a patch from flashing made of the same material—aluminum, copper, zinc, galvanized steel, or even vinyl—several inches larger than the hole. Glue the patch inside the gutter using a thick bead of roofing cement, available in caulking-gun tubes.

12. Hibernate your gas-powered lawn equipment

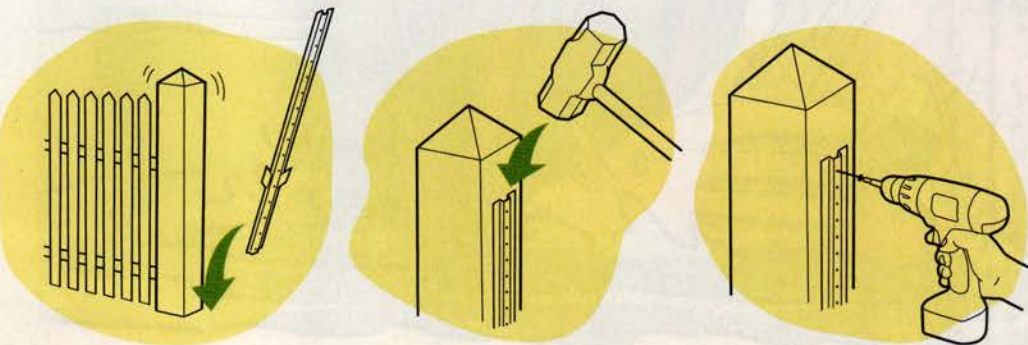
Forget the old pearl about running the tank dry. Today's gas contains ethanol, which can cause damaging moisture buildup in the engine even after it burns away. You're better off leaving fuel in the tank after the season's last mow. Just add a fuel stabilizer, such as Sta-Bil, and run the motor for five minutes to coat the internal parts; this prevents corrosion and makes it easier to start up the motor come spring.

13. Get your neighbors to go halvesies on a privacy fence

First, bone up on local zoning rules and covenants to make sure that you do, in fact, have the right to build a fence,

10 Fix a wobbly fence post

If the post is completely rotted out—usually because it's been set in concrete, which traps moisture against the wood—you'll need to dig it out and replace it. Otherwise, try this Tom Silva trick: Get a U-post, a metal stake designed for light-gauge wire fencing, and use a sledgehammer to drive it into the earth right next to your fence post, about 1½ feet down. Screw it to the fence post to add rigidity to your fence.



advises Doug Brown, an estate attorney in Southport, Connecticut. "Your neighbors will see that fence every day, too, so they're going to care what it looks like," he says. And there's your in. Approach your neighbor in a friendly manner, sharing your ideas. Then drop the hint that you're happy to work together on a design and, *ahem*, a budget. Maybe they'd prefer a two-sided frame-and-panel number? Or a nice evergreen hedge? Anything besides the standard stockade, with the bulwark facing their yard, no?

14. Seal out air leaks around outlet and light-switch covers

No, you may not squirt spray foam into an electrical box. The foam can lock in heat from the wires, creating a fire hazard. Instead, with the power off and the cover plate removed, caulk the seam where the electrical box meets the back of the wallboard or plaster, says energy auditor Paul Scheckel, author of *The Homeowner's Energy Handbook*. Then get a foam gasket, sold for pennies at home centers, and place it around the receptacle before reinstalling the cover plate.

15. Get rid of a bee's or hornet's nest

Under the cover of darkness, when the stinging pests are all tucked into their hive, soak its entrance with a jet-spray insecticide from a safe 10 to 15 feet away. If the hive shows no activity the next day, discard it. For carpenter bees, spray each hole they've bored in your house, "and expect it to be an ongoing battle," says Tom Scollins, a longtime pest-control pro who's now at Baltimore County Animal Control. If you have honeybees, look for a local beekeeper who might come and take the nest so they can live to pollinate another day.

16. Select the right finish coat

Oil-based clear finishes don't adhere reliably over water-based stains. And although some water-based

17 Get rid of invasive weeds

Hand weeding won't work on these guys because you'll never get 100 percent of the roots out of the ground, so they keep coming back. The only effective solution is a systemic herbicide, such as Roundup. "The problem is, weeds are usually mixed in with garden plants and the spray will kill anything it touches," says Roger Cook. "So I like to cut the weed down to the ground and, as soon as it leafs out again, paint the chemical onto the leaves using a foam brush." Coat all of its leaves, and it will finally die, roots and all.



finishes will work over some oil-based stains, that's a tricky call based on wood, climate, and other factors, says *TOH* master carpenter Norm Abram. The safest and surest choice is to stick with the same base—oil or water—for both the stain and the finish.

18. Measure without a tape measure Aside from memorizing the length of your stride, here are

handy approximations to know: Dollar bill: 6 inches long. Credit card: 2 inches wide. Soda can: 5 inches tall.

19. Calculate "squares"

Many materials—from roofing to siding to flooring—are sold by the "square." That's the quantity required to cover a 100-square-foot area. Measure your square footage, divide by 100, and you'll know how many squares you need.

Emergency Procedures: What to do when...

20. Your carbon monoxide alarm goes off

Immediately get to a source of fresh air—outside the house or at an open window or door. Then call 911. Emergency responders will use high-grade detectors to determine whether the alarm is genuine. If there's really a leak, they'll find and shut off the source of the gas and air out your place.

21. You accidentally mix bleach and ammonia

These compounds hide in all sorts of products that live cheek by jowl in the pantry—Tilex contains bleach and Windex has ammonia, for example—and combining them releases toxic chloramine gas. Exposure can cause severe lung trauma, but first it will make your throat and eyes burn, hopefully driving you to head toward fresh air. Once outside, call the fire department, which will clear the air with high-powered fans.

22. You get wood chips in your eye

Resist the urge to rub it, and don't try to pluck out the debris. Instead, rinse your eye with water—ducking your head under the shower, hose, or tap—doing your best to open your eyelid. If that doesn't flush everything out

or you still feel irritation, visit the ER. A doctor may remove anything lodged in the eye using the medical version of a Dremel tool, a far better option than you and a pair of tweezers. Then you'll be given antibiotic eyedrops. "A scrape of your cornea will heal in a few days—unless it gets infected," explains Dr. Howard Mell, a spokesman for the American College of Emergency Physicians.

23. You hear a cracking noise from a branch overhead

Do not gather your picnic leftovers or peer up into the tree to investigate the source. Run! Like heck—in the opposite direction of the sound if you have a sense of which part of the tree it came from.

24. You spill solvent, acid, or bleach on your skin

"Dilution is the solution to pollution," says Dr. Mell, in a catchy little singsong. "For any chemical exposure, rinse the area under cool water for 15 minutes," he says. In most cases, that's all you need to do, but head to the hospital if you see a visible burn mark or if the exposed area includes your face, palms, feet, or groin. The size of the exposure may also force you to the hospital: If the

area is larger than your two hands—2 or 3 percent of your body—you need medical attention.

25. You smell burning near an electrical receptacle

Trip its circuit breaker and unplug whatever's in the outlet. Assuming the smell dissipates, call your favorite electrician for a nonemergency visit to investigate the cause. If the smell persists, however, you know the drill: Exit the house and call 911.

26. You cut yourself

If there's spurting, like in a B-horror flick, you've hit an artery and need an ambulance—*now*. While you wait, slow the bleeding with a tourniquet; loop a belt or cloth around the

limb and twist it tight with a stick to clamp off the blood supply. If there's no spurting, apply pressure to the wound. Don't worry about searching for the cleanest possible material—just grab what you have and hold it against the cut. You can add fabric as the first compress becomes saturated, but don't pull the first piece off the wound, because it could remove the initial clot. You need to call 911 only if the bleeding doesn't stop within one to two minutes or you feel light-headed. "People get very freaked out by blood loss," says Dr. Mell, "but picture the mess from spilling a 12-ounce soda. We don't get worried until an adult has lost the equivalent of three to six cans."



27. Install a dimmer switch

After you turn off the circuit's power and pull the existing switch from the box, snap digital photos of the wire connections before disconnecting them. Then purchase a dimmer switch (single pole for one switch or a three-way if there are two or more) that is suitable for the type of bulb you use. Make sure it's also rated for the lights you have on the circuit: Add up all the wattages and buy the lightest-duty unit that will cover the sum plus 10 percent. That's because the higher the wattage rating, the larger the switch, and the high-power ones are often too big for old electrical boxes. With the snapshots as your guide, attach the new switch's leads to the house wiring using wire nuts and electrical tape.

28. Clean rust stains from concrete

We're talking walkways and walls here, not polished floors and countertops, which have a hardened surface that resists staining. (Should you one day discover a rust stain behind the toaster oven, hit it with Soft Scrub and an abrasive pad.) The only way to remove rust stains that have worked their way into a slab is to (a) etch the area with muriatic acid, or (b) cut it out with a grinder, says Bob Merkt, of Kettle Moraine Professional Cleaners, in West Bend, Wisconsin. Then you have to patch in new concrete and wait for it to blend in over time.

29. Get rid of ants First off, don't take the invasion personally. The ants are just as likely looking for water as for food, so their presence may have nothing to do with your slovenly ways. Infestations depend mostly on soil type and the proximity of the colony. Forget about spraying them with poison. Instead, set out bait that they'll ferry back with them, killing off the entire colony. You can do that with ant traps from the home center. Or hire a professional to set out a buffet of more powerful gel bait. You don't get the instant gratification of seeing them die,

but after a week, you'll have eradicated the hundreds of thousands of ants back in the colony. Nothing personal.

30. Use a pressure washer

"The secret to pressure-washing is to use the gentlest possible pressure," says painter Mauro Henrique, a TOH TV veteran. Start with the lowest-pressure setting and either the green or yellow spray tip to minimize any surface damage. You can always ratchet up the pressure if necessary. Also, skip harsh bleach in favor of a green product to protect any surrounding plants. Try D/2 Biological Solution mixed with an equal amount of water. With siding and roofing, never spray up at the bottom edge of a course; the water can dislodge shingles or get into the structure of the house.

31. Get your neighbor to keep it down Forget about filing a complaint or calling in lawyers, says estate attorney Doug Brown, who's turning down your good money in saying so. You may resolve the immediate situation, but the behavior will persist—with an extra dose of angry

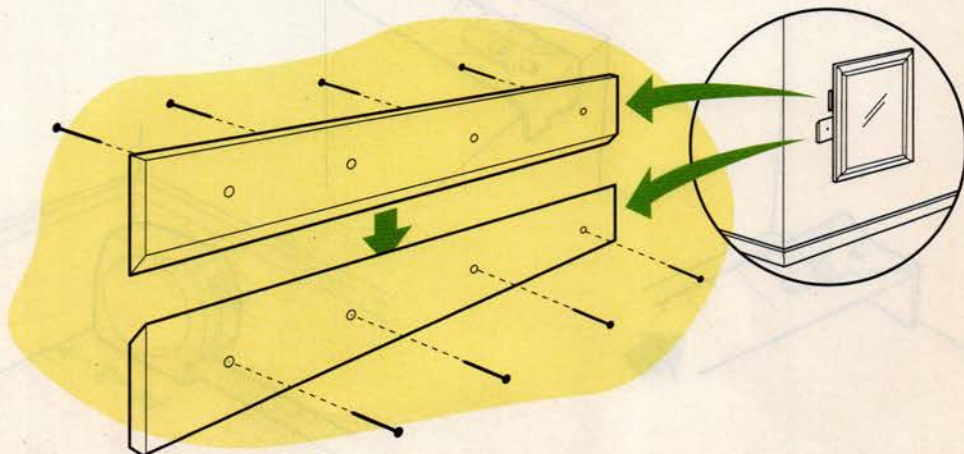
mixed in. "The only way you'll get any real resolution is if you can convince your neighbor that he *wants* to change his ways," says Brown. The better your relations are, the easier this task will be. (One more reason to always have a kind word to share on the street.) So don't approach Mr. Ruckus with a confrontational attitude. Be pleasant but straightforward: "I'm sorry, but my 3-year-old keeps getting woken up at 5 A.M. by the barking. I've tried cranking up the white-noise machine, but it's just not helping. Is there any way you can wait until 6 to let Sparky out?" Don't expect change to happen immediately—it'll take a few conversations—and don't expect a 100 percent resolution. And if you live in an urban neighborhood, says Brown, "the thing you should expect? Some compromises on noise."

33. Speed up your compost

Mix in a bit of completed compost (from last season, the nursery, or a friendly neighbor) to your working pile. "It's almost like sourdough starter," says Roger Cook. "It brings in beneficial fungi that jump-start the process."

32 Hang a heavy cabinet or some other item

Adjust the blade of a table saw or a circular saw to 45 degrees, then rip a length of 1×4 in half. Use screws to attach the top half to the object being hung, with the bevel facing the object. Screw the bottom half to the wall at the studs, placed so that its bevel will interlock with the top one. Voilà—you've made a French cleat.



34. Take furniture marks out of carpet

For nylon and wool, you can coax the indentation right out of the material. Use a laundry steamer to heat up the fibers, then fluff them up with a hard-bristle hairbrush or something called the Handi Groomer, a product made just for this purpose. "The process is a lot like teasing hair while blow-drying it," says Doyle Bloss, product manager for HydraMaster, the company that makes truck-mounted carpet cleaning machines. Heat, moisture, and brushing will add volume to the carpet fibers.

35. Fix a smoke detector that keeps going off

The two most common reasons a smoke alarm malfunctions (before it is a decade old and should be replaced anyway) are dust that has collected inside and nuisance triggers, such as cooking fumes or bathroom steam, says Judy Comoletti, of the National Fire

Protection Association. Clean the unit first: Just remove the cover and vacuum it out. Replace the cover and press the test button to ensure that it's working. If the problem persists, relocate the unit away from steam or smoke sources. And always cover it with plastic when you do renovations, to prevent more dust buildup.

37. Keep birds from nesting on your house

Pigeons and starlings aside, federal law prohibits disturbing a bird nest before the chicks fledge, says pest-control pro Tom Scollins. Once they're gone, however, you can remove a nest and make the spot less attractive to future generations. "Birds are cavity nesters," he says. "They look for spots that are protected from sun, rain, and predators." Repair any openings in the fascia, or they'll find their way in. They also flock toward gutter downspout returns that are near horizontal. You

can curb that urge by replacing the downspouts with steeper runs. For ledges and cozy spots you can't eliminate, install bird spikes, but make sure to get the right size for the birds you're dealing with. "Small birds will nest between large spikes, and large birds will nest right on top of small spikes," Scollins says. So first identify the species, then order spikes sold specifically for those birds.

38. Level a hump or hollow in the lawn

Use a sharp shovel to slice an X in the lawn over the uneven spot, says Roger Cook. Peel back the four triangles of turf to expose the soil underneath, using a utility knife to help slice the roots as you go. Then either dig out the hump—usually a rock or an old stump—or fill the divot with topsoil and compact it. Lay the lawn back in place, and water daily for a week or so.

39. Repair dings on outside drywall corners

If the metal corner bead is badly damaged, you'll need to tear it out and replace it entirely. For minor dings, Tom Silva suggests trying to sand out the uneven spot with standard 100-grit paper and a wood block. Then apply several coats of joint compound to resculpt the corner.

40. Remove brown spots on a painted bathroom ceiling

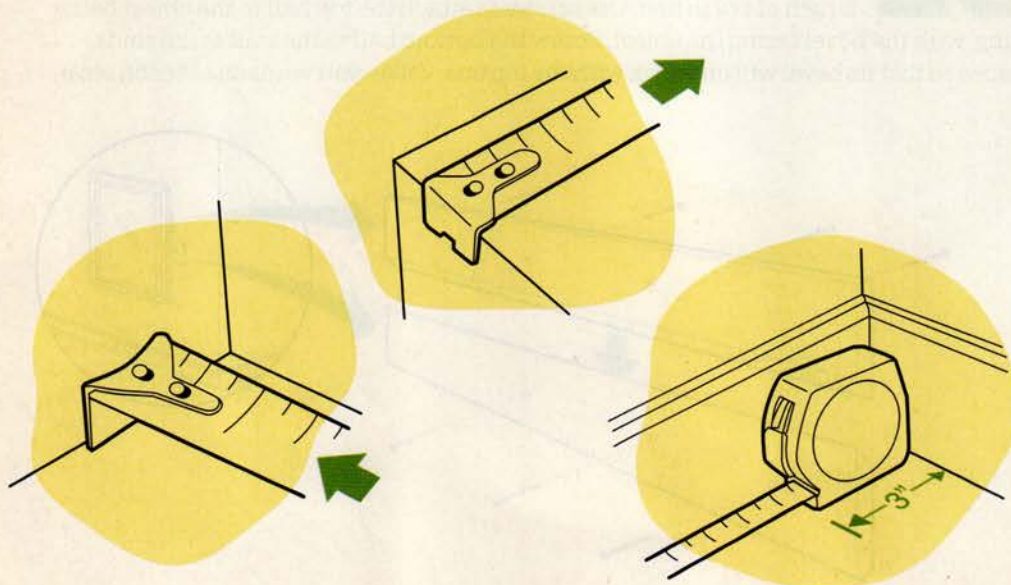
Those unsightly blotches are mildew caused by humidity in the bathroom. Kill it with a standard bleach-containing bathroom cleaner (which thou shalt not mix with Windex, as per Skill No. 21), then prep the ceiling and repaint it. Prime with a sealer primer, such as Kilz, to cover the stain. Finish with a premium bathroom paint that contains a mildewcide to prevent any new growth. Then, let your vent fan run for 20 minutes after every shower.

41. Troubleshoot a fixture that keeps blowing bulbs

With the power off, run through this decision tree from electrician Scott Caron:

36 Take inside measurements

There's a reason the hook on the end of your tape is loose on its rivets—and why the first inch is a few hashmarks shy of a load. When you put the hook over an edge and pull the tape taut, the hook shifts to make the first inch a full $\frac{1}{16}$ ". When you push the tape against a wall, it slides in to compensate for the thickness of the hook, again giving you an inch for an inch. At the other end of an inside measurement, add the length of the tape measure's box to the last number you can read on the tape.



(1) Is there black around the socket?
If No, go to (2). If Yes, replace the fixture. It's likely been "overlamped," meaning that 100-watt bulbs, say, were used in a 60-watt-max socket.
 (2) Check whether the tab at the bottom of the fixture is pressed down.
If No, go to (3). If Yes, that could be causing a short. Gently lift the tab with a flathead screwdriver back to its original position.
 (3) Does the tab look corroded?
If No, go to (4). If Yes, clean with an emery cloth to clear the way for a better electrical connection.
 (4) Plug a digital multimeter into a receptacle on the same circuit and see if you're getting more than 120 volts.
If No, go to (5). If Yes, the extra juice is blowing the standard-bulb filaments. Buy a rough-service or 130-volt bulb.
 (5) Is there a kid's play space or bedroom overhead?
If No, go to (6). If Yes, excessive vibration could be breaking the filaments. Buy a rough-service bulb.
 (6) If all else fails... Swap in an LED bulb (making sure to replace any dimmer, too, with an LED-friendly unit). These solid-state illuminators aren't bothered by excessive voltage or vibration, and their low energy consumption won't tax an old socket.

42. Safely dispose of fireplace ashes Do not remove the ashes—or close the damper—until at least 12 hours after a fire has burned out. Then skip the ash dump that may be built into the fireplace, which only postpones the cleanup and can potentially leak fumes into the house if the chimney is old. Instead, use a hearth shovel to transfer the ashes into a metal container with a cover. "Move that outside and away from the house



BONUS TIPS

Unlock 11 more essential skills by opening this story on our tablet edition. For access, scan this page using your favorite device and the Blippar app, or go to thisoldhouse.com/tablet



43 Thaw a frozen pipe

This is not the time to break out the blowtorch. It's a fire hazard—remember? Anyway, just about any other household heat source will do, from a hair dryer to a heating pad to a space heater pointed in the right direction.

and let it sit for a couple of weeks, because coals can smolder for a long time," says Judy Comoletti, of the National Fire Protection Association. Then douse the ashes with water and sprinkle them over your lawn and non-acid-loving garden plants to add nutrients and raise pH levels. You can even mix the ash into your compost pile to help maintain a neutral pH and encourage the breakdown of organic materials.

44. Free a jammed garbage disposal

Your disposal came with a key designed for turning it via a hole in the underside when it gets stuck (the key is essentially a hex key wrench, which will work just as well). But that won't give you enough torque to clear a major jam, says Richard Trethewey.

"Turn off the power at the breaker, remove the rubber splash guard, and insert two broomsticks into the drain opening at cross angles," he says. Give those a spin and you'll break the chicken bone or whatever's causing the jam. Then check that you didn't also loosen the disposal from the sink, and retighten if necessary.

45. Calculate how many bags of mulch you need

Roger Cook buys mulch in bulk, and he can tell you that one cubic yard covers 100 square feet at 3 inches deep. But bagged mulch is sold by the cubic foot, so here's the conversion: One cubic foot is one twenty-seventh of one cubic yard. A bag containing 2 cubic feet, therefore, will cover about 7 square feet at 3 inches ($100 \div 27 \times 2 = 7.4$). ■

charming change-ups— ON THE cheap

At This Old House, we have a soft spot for thrifty ingenuity, so when we saw these readers' clever handiwork, we just had to share. From a sweet window seat to a vintage-look kitchen to a playful kids' hideaway, these DIY projects give high-end redos a run for the money

BY MEGAN BAKER

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHAN KIRKMAN

STYLING BY BRIAN CARTER



BEFORE



1 WELCOMING WINDOW SEAT

MELISSA THORN, GEORGETOWN, KENTUCKY



"I ALWAYS DREAMED OF having a window seat," says Melissa Thorn. "They're so quaint, and just what I imagine in a country cottage." Lucky for

her, the expansive windows in her family's dining room—hidden behind stuffy formal drapery—were begging for just such a built-in to open up the room and highlight the garden view. Melissa got the project rolling by salvaging a bank of butler's-pantry drawers (free!) from a nearby 1916 house that was destined for demolition. Once home, she found they perfectly spanned the windows and that two narrow prefab bookcases filled the spaces alongside. She used sections of medium-density fiberboard (MDF) and some 2×4s she had on hand to join the drawers and shelves and to create the seat. Up top, she framed the window with a wall-length shelf and an arch she built with wood salvaged from the same vintage home. Sconces

discreetly plug in just behind the drawers. After adding molding to the bookcases and top shelf and covering the sides of the bookcases with leftover beadboard, she painted it all white. Melissa sewed the seat cushion from foam bought on sale and two canvas drop cloths. Today the space is a sunny spot where the whole family likes to curl up with a good book or take in the outside view—exactly what she'd hoped for.

THE PROJECT TALLY

Used a free set of drawers and two IKEA bookcases with doors as the skeleton of the built-in.....**\$240**

Joined the seat to the shelf units using leftover 2×4s and MDF.....**\$0**

Mounted a shelf and an arch built from salvaged wood.....**\$0**

Trimmed the shelf and cabinet tops with molding.....**\$18**

Covered the sides of the cabinets with her dad's leftover beadboard.....**\$0**

Added two yard-sale sconces....**\$10**

Painted everything a warm white.....**\$35**

Made a cushion with on-sale foam and two canvas drop cloths.....**\$43**

TOTAL.....\$346

BEFORE The space was overly formal and light-deprived. **AFTER** Bright white built-ins accent the window and provide an extra-wide seat to hang out on.



THE PROJECT TALLY

Removed the old tile, then installed new marble floors.....**\$125**

Added a water-saving toilet from a big-box store.....**\$100**

Installed a marble-topped vanity from a discount center, plus a new mirror.....**\$230**

Had a pro friend move the wiring for the lights, then installed new sconces and an overhead fixture.....**\$190**

Painted the walls a soothing gray.....**\$25**

Refinished the shower tiles with specialty tile paint.....**\$40**

Installed floating shelves for extra storage above the toilet.....**\$15**

TOTAL.....\$725



BEFORE The space's drab 1960s style needed a revamp. **AFTER** A marble-topped vanity brightens the cool gray bathroom. **TOP LEFT** Floating shelves provide extra storage space.



BEFORE

2 ELEGANT GRAY-AND-WHITE BATHROOM

JENNA AND ANDREW LAFEVOR, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE



THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG with Jenna and Andrew LaFavor's spare bath—in fact, everything worked perfectly. But it hadn't been updated since being built in the 1960s, and its once stylish touches were starting to look a little dated. After months of adopting a "we'll just live with it" attitude, Jenna and Andrew decided to give the space a style reboot. Gone are the ho-hum tile floors, replaced by Andrew with marble—a materials splurge, but affordable for the small room. They nixed the old toilet in favor of a big-box, low-flow model and added a new marble-topped vanity and a faucet bought at a discount at a clearance center. After a fresh coat of gray paint on the walls, the existing white cast-iron tub looked right at home, but old, mottled beige tile above it stuck out like a sore thumb. Since the tub was still in great shape, Jenna gave the ceramic squares a coat of durable white tile paint to bring the look in line with the rest of the room. After adding chrome sconces, and shelves above the toilet, Jenna couldn't be happier with the new space. "Now when you walk in," she says, "it's so relaxing."

3 COTTAGE-STYLE DINING ROOM

LINDA BRADEN, CHICAGO



LINDA BRADEN AND HUSBAND Mike loved their 1890s house, despite the fact that

it lacked many of the charming architectural features she had always expected in an older home. So when Linda decided to finally take the plunge and redo the dining space, a graphic navy-and-white rug snagged on clearance set the tone.

To complement the carpet, she painted the upper part of the walls navy and the rest clean white to set the stage for tall board-and-batten-style wainscot. Linda completed the look by adding preprimed medium-density fiberboard (MDF) 1×6s for the top rails and slimmer 1×2s for the vertical stiles, placing them about a foot apart. To beef up the almost nonexistent baseboards, Linda layered on MDF 1×4s and 1×2s finished with quarter-round molding. With the gaps caulked and the assembly painted, the wainscot was complete. She was so pleased with the results that she continued the look in the adjoining living space.

An electrician friend helped remove the old chandelier and install a new fixture at a discount. Finally, Linda used paint specially formulated for glass to give her window a leaded effect. Now, she says, the space seems to better fit the character of the house, "and the first thing we did was toast it with a sit-down family meal."



BEFORE Blank walls and barely-there baseboards made for a dull dining room.
AFTER A fresh white board-and-batten wall treatment, a faux-lead window, and a handsome new iron-look chandelier boost the cottage charm.

THE PROJECT TALLY

Bought a large navy-and-white rug on sale to inspire the new look.....**\$222**

Primed and painted in a navy-and-white scheme.....**\$80**

Added MDF for faux board-and-batten wainscot, and beefier baseboards finished with quarter-round molding.....**\$200**

Caulked gaps where boards meet the walls**\$25**

Hired an electrician friend to wire in a new chandelier.....**\$190**

Created a leaded effect on the window with specialty paint.....**\$11**

TOTAL.....\$728



BEFORE

BEFORE

The tiny room couldn't accommodate adult-size furniture, and the skimpy closet offered impractical storage.



BEFORE

4 BUILT-IN STORAGE BED

RACHELLE AND SHANE MOES,
SOUDERTON, PENNSYLVANIA



ONCE THEIR TWIN SONS

OUTGREW their cribs, Rachelle and Shane Moes learned

that big-boy beds presented a big-boy problem: namely, not enough space. While one of the twins' rooms in their 1927 Craftsman home was large enough to fit new full-size furniture, the other lacked legroom. So Rachelle and Shane decided to take advantage of the hidden square footage next to and behind the closet, tapping into an unused attic stairwell, to make room for a built-in twin bed with shelves at one end and below. With the help of visiting family, Shane cut out the closet's old plaster-and-lath walls and built the frame of the bed with old 2x4s found in the basement. They used plywood to create the mattress platform and frame the shelves below and at the end of the bed, then wired for new lights before lining the nook with beadboard. To frame the space, they cased the opening and added quarter round. After painting the assembly white, Shane built the guardrail and the ladder using stock and on-hand materials. "We wanted a space that would grow with our son," Rachelle says, "but for now, his favorite part is going up and down the ladder."

THE PROJECT TALLY

Opened up the alcove, then built a bed frame using scrap wood.....	\$0
Added a plywood platform for the mattress and boxed out the shelves.....	\$50
Paneled the alcove with beadboard.....	\$60
Cased the opening and added quarter-round molding.....	\$400
Painted the assembly in durable white semigloss.....	\$45
Installed two sconces and two dimmable LED overhead lights.....	\$125
Built a guardrail and a ladder from scrap wood and stair risers ripped in half.....	\$60

TOTAL..... \$740



AFTER The new alcove sleeping area keeps the floor free for playtime.
ABOVE A book nook at the end of the bed showcases some of the old stairwell's original wainscot.



THE PROJECT TALLY

Built the coffered ceiling using birch plywood and alder.....	\$250
Assembled bookcases by facing plywood frames with alder.....	\$370
Stained all the wood and gave it a coat of polyurethane.....	\$80
Added hardware to cabinets.....	\$30
Installed an electric fireplace insert.....	\$330
Mounted stone veneer on cement board to create a rustic surround.....	\$280
Added thick wood baseboards.....	\$60

TOTAL..... **\$1,400**

BEFORE The mostly empty living room lacked detail.

AFTER Storage-rich bookcases and a stone fireplace surround add warm Craftsman style, while the coffered ceiling ties the space together.



BEFORE

5 WARMED-UP LIVING ROOM

DAN AND KANDI HERMAN, HERRIMAN, UTAH



THE BLANK-BOX LIVING ROOM in Dan and Kandi Herman's house sat mostly empty for six years, serving only as a storage spot for old furniture. "We knew we wanted a cozy sitting room, but the only thing in here was a pendant light and a couple of chairs, so we didn't know where to start," Dan says.

Inspiration struck when Kandi found a picture of a coffered ceiling, which Dan plotted out using plywood planks. Then he fashioned hollow beams by boxing out the plywood with alder scored on the cheap from a local supplier. At the far end, Dan built a feature wall of bookcases using plywood and alder, with open shelves above to create plenty of room for display, and covered cabinets down below to give the couple a place to conceal storage boxes. Between the shelves, he installed a slim electric fireplace and a stone-veneer surround. On top, Dan added an elegant arched mantel he created himself to match the one in the adjacent great room. To complete the look, he finished the space with hefty alder baseboards to tie ceiling and shelving together. Now, filled with natural wood and stone touches and lined with books, the room has become an inviting escape for bibliophile Kandi—just the place to kick back with a good read.



BEFORE Vinyl floors and a drop ceiling dragged the kitchen down.

AFTER Dark wood underfoot and exposed joists above open up the space and highlight Shaker-style cabinets fitted with warm brass pulls.



THE PROJECT TALLY

Opened up the ceiling, then painted the exposed joists, cabinets, and walls white.....\$24

Gave the cabinets new vintage-style hardware.....\$89

Took down the old pendant light, and rewired for new pendants made from off-the-shelf hardware.....\$45

Pulled up old vinyl and linoleum, and refinished the wood floors underneath.....\$95

Painted the old white fridge with green chalkboard paint.....\$9

Created a retro centerpiece with a stylish vintage stove.....\$45

Added a distressed-wood display shelf underneath the existing pot rack for cookware and accessories.....\$7

TOTAL.....\$341



LEFT A new open shelf and an existing pot rack display cookware above the showstopping vintage stove.

ABOVE Notes and doodles cover the green-chalkboard-painted fridge; a small wood dresser provides space for odds and ends.

6 VINTAGE-LOOK KITCHEN

KATHERINE AND CONAN FUGIT, WICHITA, KANSAS



ALTHOUGH IT HAD good bones, Katherine and Conan Fugit's kitchen had a style

that was all over the place. To give it a unified look, they decided to make a few cosmetic changes to boost its vintage vibe. After removing the drop-ceiling tiles, damaged by a leaky pipe above, they painted the exposed joists white for an airy look. The room's poorly placed three-light pendant also got the boot; instead, Katherine rewired to fit four small cage pendants that she made herself using stock parts from the hardware store. With the help of her parents, the couple scraped through five layers of vinyl and linoleum before uncovering wood floors they stained a rich dark brown. A coat of green chalkboard paint gave the white refrigerator a fresh look, and brass bin pulls warmed up the white cabinetry.

Katherine had her heart set on replacing the electric stove with a vintage model, but months of hunting proved fruitless—until a friend discovered a working vintage Roper for only \$45 while riding her bike past a garage sale. The Fugits crowned it with a distressed shelf made from wood they found in their basement. "I had always said, 'If I ever remodel a kitchen, I'm going to remodel it around a vintage stove,' and it's my favorite part," Katherine says. "I stare at it every day!"

7 STYLISH LAUNDRY SPACE

KELLY MARZKA, ATLANTA



IT WAS THE HARDEST-WORKING ROOM in the house, but Kelly Marzka's laundry room was a real drag. Previous owners had installed a popcorn ceiling, a wallpaper border picturing a hanging clothesline—"as if you needed to clarify what the room was for," says Kelly—and dingy vinyl floors that never really looked clean. A first-round spruce-up nixed the ceiling texture and the wall art, but the room still lacked both style and storage. Finally, Kelly decided it was time to bring the room's look and function up to snuff. She started by adding a flourish to the back wall using a stencil and a pretty pearlescent teal paint that she already had on hand. Her husband, Andy, installed a cabinet found at a garage sale and used leftover wood to create the shelves on either side for added storage. Knowing the vinyl floor had to go, but wanting to spend less than \$1 per square foot, the couple ended up adding punchy stripes underfoot using durable porch paint. Above, they hung a homemade light fixture modeled after a designer piece. The finishing touch: a drying rack scored from a high-end store's clearance center at a quarter of the retail cost. Says Kelly: "It feels so fresh and organized—it's finally a place where I'm happy to do laundry." ■

BEFORE Even without the cheesy wallpaper border, the room was lackluster and storage-starved.

AFTER A bold floor and a stenciled wall add a visual kick; the new cabinet makes room for supplies.



THE PROJECT TALLY

Scraped off the popcorn ceiling, removed a wallpaper border, and painted everything white.....	\$25
Stenciled the back focal-point wall using materials she had.....	\$0
Hung a yard-sale cabinet and scrap-wood shelves for storing supplies.....	\$20
Made a designer-inspired light using on-hand poplar and a yard-sale pendant.....	\$8
Revived the vinyl floors with stripes created with porch paint.....	\$62
Mounted a drying rack scored at an outlet.....	\$25

TOTAL..... \$140



BEFORE

<ALL ABOUT>

Prefinished Wood Floors

With the classic good looks of solid wood in a DIY-friendly package, these floors are easy to love—and install. Here's how to choose the right ones for your home **BY SARAH STEBBINS**

WHEN IT COMES TO ADDING WARMTH, beauty, and value to your home, hardwood can't be beat. And thanks to the wide array of prefinished solid-wood flooring now on the market, it's never been easier to replace or find a match for your old floors. These wood strips and planks are typically coated with multiple layers of an aluminum-oxide-infused polyurethane and cured under UV lights; this process creates an exceptionally hard finish that will outlast one applied in your home on unfinished wood. Equally appealing: You can walk on the floor the day it's laid, since there's no messy sanding or long wait times for clear top coats to dry.

Since their appearance in the late 1940s, prefinished solid-wood floors have improved dramatically in look and performance. There's a species to suit every style, from traditional pine planks and heavily grained oak strips to exotic varieties featuring rich red and chocolate shades. You can even choose from a range of sheens and surface effects, such as a hand-scraped finish that delivers a distressed, old-world look.

Budget-conscious homeowners can install prefinished boards themselves, cutting out the cost of hiring a pro and getting gorgeous results in a weekend. Once it's in, the flooring is a breeze to maintain, requiring only basic cleaning and occasional touch-ups to the clear coat. And if the surface starts to look worn, it can easily be brought back to like-new condition without a lot of effort.

Follow our guide to choosing, installing, and caring for prefinished solid-wood floors, and you can count on the boards you ultimately pick to last as long as you own your home—and beyond.

Oak-strip flooring in a dark, low-gloss finish is a classic choice for a dining room. Similar to shown: Rivermont oak in Saddlebrook, \$7.60 per square foot; mohawkflooring.com for dealers





VITALS

WHAT DOES IT COST? From \$3 to \$20 per square foot, depending on species and grade. That's about 30 to 50 percent more than unfinished strips, but you'll save on installation because you won't need to sand and finish the floor.

HOW TO CARE FOR IT? Sweep regularly to remove grit that can abrade the finish, or vacuum with a soft brush attachment. Mop with a microfiber cloth and a cleaner specified by the manufacturer. Skip oil soaps, which break down the finish and leave a residue that attracts dirt.

DOES IT HOLD UP? Warranties range from 10 to 100 years and cover only wearing through the finish, not dents; surface scratches; and gapping or warping. With proper care, a prefinished wood floor can last the life of the house.



DIY OR HIRE A PRO?

A handy homeowner can install prefinished wood flooring in a medium-size room over a weekend. For installation by a certified pro, tack on an additional \$3 per square foot, minimum, to the cost.

Is a prefinished wood floor right for you?

It brings warmth and character to a room—but it's a big investment. Here's what you need to know

PROS

> **It's easy to install.** Instead of the multiple-day process of sanding, staining, and then applying three polyurethane top coats to unfinished wood, these DIY-friendly floors can be put down in a single day.

> **It looks good for a long time.** The tough, UV-cured, factory-applied top coat lasts longer than a typical one applied on-site. With normal wear, you can expect the finish to last 30 percent longer before you need to screen-and-poly.

> **It lasts for centuries.** Like all solid-wood flooring, it can be sanded and refinished multiple times. To refinish an older floor, there must be at least $\frac{1}{8}$ inch left between the top of the boards and the tongue. Check by sliding a piece of paper between two boards and marking the distance or by removing a floor vent to see a side profile of the floorboards.



CONS

> **It's pricey.** The cost is steep compared with other DIY options, such as vinyl, laminate, carpet, and ceramic tile, some of which can go for as little as 50 cents per square foot.

> **It doesn't weather all weather.**

All wood expands and contracts with changes in moisture, so boards may cup in high humidity and gap during dry spells. This is why solid wood can't be installed below grade and isn't a good idea in baths or laundry areas.

> **It can still scratch and dent.** Dog toenails, unprotected furniture feet, a dropped cast-iron pan—all can do a number on prefinished wood. You can conceal scratches with a manufacturer's touch-up kit, but you'll need to refinish if the damage is extensive.

SHOP SMARTER

Get schooled on the basics before you buy

BEVELS Most prefinished flooring has beveled edges and ends, which protect the finish from chipping during installation and hide unevenness that would be sanded smooth on unfinished wood. When installed, the bevels form a small groove, some as deep as $\frac{1}{8}$ inch; others have barely noticeable micro-bevels. Keep in mind that deep grooves can collect dust and dirt and be a pain to clean. You can also opt for bevel-less "square-edge" flooring that mimics the look of site-finished boards. These work best when the subfloor is perfectly flat; otherwise you may see exposed edges.

WIDTH Wood flooring is sold in strips up to 3 inches wide and planks that are wider than 3 inches. Narrow boards are less expensive than wide ones and have a more traditional look. Rustic-feeling planks are more sensitive to swings in humidity, so there's a greater chance you'll see warping and gaps between boards. The wider the boards, the worse these problems will get.

THICKNESS The standard is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, but you can find boards as slim as $\frac{5}{16}$ inch. Thinner boards can be handy during remodels, when you're trying to ease the transitions at doorways and stairways. But they also have a shorter life—think one or two sandings at most.

GRADE Mills classify flooring by grade, which refers to the number of surface defects, such as knots and color variations, and the length of the boards. Fewer defects and longer boards mean a higher grade and cost. All grades will make a structurally sound floor; the choice is more about whether you look at a piece of knotty pine or maple and see defects or character.

GRAIN When boards are cut from a log, they may be flatsawn, or plainsawn, so that the growth rings are roughly parallel with the face, creating a wavy grain pattern, or quartersawn, with growth rings perpendicular to the face and a straight grain. Most wood grades include a mixture of both, or you can opt for all quartersawn boards, which are less prone to shrinking, swelling, and cupping. But expect to pay a premium price for this cleaner-looking flooring.

CALCULATOR

To estimate how much a new prefinished wood floor will set you back, measure the room's square footage and add a percentage for cuts and waste (5 percent for strip flooring, 7 percent for planks). Multiply that number by the price per square foot to get your final cost.

$$\left(\text{SQUARE FOOTAGE} + \begin{matrix} 5 \text{ TO } 7 \text{ PERCENT} \\ \text{OF SQUARE} \\ \text{FOOTAGE} \\ \text{(for cuts} \\ \text{and waste)} \end{matrix} \right) \times \text{PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT} = \text{COST}$$

Pick your board

This sampling of current styles shows how varying stains, widths, and surface treatments create very different looks

White maple

PRICE: \$11–\$12 per sq. ft.

MAKER: Armstrong
HIGHLIGHTS: Micro-bevels and a white-washed stain create a Scandinavian vibe.

Natural hickory

PRICE: \$7.20 per sq. ft.

MAKER: Mohawk
HIGHLIGHTS: Alternating strips and planks make gapping less likely; a natural finish lets the grain's beauty shine.

Traditional oak

PRICE: \$4.99 per sq. ft.

MAKER: Somerset
HIGHLIGHTS: High-gloss oak strips adapt to many styles; the strips have square-edge ends instead of bevels.

Ebonized oak

PRICE: \$6.50 per sq. ft.

MAKER: Mullican
HIGHLIGHTS: Standard oak gets an unexpected update in a just-shy-of-black midnight stain and 5-inch planks.

Warm maple

PRICE: \$7.50–\$7.99 per sq. ft.

MAKER: Bruce
HIGHLIGHTS: Uniform graining makes it look seamless; a reddish hue warms it up.

Rustic pine

PRICE: \$10 per sq. ft.

MAKER: Carlisle
HIGHLIGHTS: Plenty of knots and a textured watermill finish add character; comes in a variety of plank widths.

Textured hickory

PRICE: \$18–\$20 per sq. ft.

MAKER: Shaw
HIGHLIGHTS: Each 8-inch plank is made up of four solid boards for stability; has a vintage hand-scraped look.

Shadowy maple

PRICE: \$4.09 per sq. ft.

MAKER: Casa de Colour
HIGHLIGHTS: The gray trend makes its way from walls to floors; this one is widely available at Lumber Liquidators.

Reclaimed Douglas fir

PRICE: \$10–\$11 per sq. ft.

MAKER: Viridian
HIGHLIGHTS: Nail holes add a rustic touch; comes in a mix of 4- to 6-inch-wide planks.

Rich Brazilian cherry

PRICE: \$8.99 per sq. ft.

MAKER: BR-111
HIGHLIGHTS: Its natural orange undertone adds warmth; an exotic, it's hard to scratch or dent.



DIY LIKE A PRO

Solid-wood strips and planks have a tongue on one side and a groove on the other, allowing them to interlock. Because the boards shrink and swell, they must be fastened to a plywood subfloor. For best results, keep your home between 60 and 80 degrees F and 30 to 50 percent relative humidity (measure both with a thermometer-hygrometer), and leave flooring in the room where it will be installed for at least a week. This allows the wood to acclimate and prevents issues like cupping and gapping down the road.

1> Strip flooring Face-nail the first board, then toenail the tongues of subsequent strips with a floor nailer

or a stapler and a compressor (rent them from home centers for about \$70 a day). Ask for the nailer's adapter plate; it prevents damage to the factory finish. Fasteners driven through the tongue are hidden by the groove of the next board. Be advised: Staples may be cheaper than nails but are more likely to fracture the flooring's tongues.

2> Plank flooring Wide boards move more than strips do and require additional holding power. Nail or staple planks, as above, applying beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor every foot or so. Or face-nail the boards by hand, using square-head nails for an old-world look.



The lowdown on top coats

Comparing the durability of brands is nearly impossible. Manufacturers may tout the number of finish coats, but the thickness of the coats varies, meaning a floor with three layers may have a thicker coat than one with seven layers. Bring samples home and try

to scratch them to get an idea of how they'll wear over time. As for sheens, higher glosses intensify color and grain but make scratches and dents more visible; satin or matte comes closest to matching the look of a site-applied polyurethane. Once the flooring is installed, a family with kids and pets can expect to maintain the floor in high-traffic areas with a screen-and-poly every five to 10 years. Sanding and restaining may be needed only every 15 to 30 years.

Wood flooring to suit every style

Whether your interiors are traditional, modern, or somewhere in between, there's a surface to complement any look

1> WARM CRAFTSMAN

Rich, reddish-brown maple floors add depth to this classic Craftsman home. Using oak on the stair risers and the cabinets creates enough variation in the color to keep the room from feeling one-note. Similar to shown: 3¼-inch Admiration Maple Canyon, \$10.12 per sq. ft.; miragefloors.com for dealers

2> COOL MID-CENTURY

Flooring in a stylish gray finish updates a classic ranch. The hue looks striking against the white-painted brick walls and complements the clean-lined furniture. Vintage accessories, such as the lamp and suitcase, add more personality to the space. Shown: 3¼-inch Rockford maple in Flint, \$5.95 per sq. ft.; mohawkflooring.com for dealers

3> RUSTIC COTTAGE

With its noticeable knots and dark finish, wide-plank hickory feels right at home with the painted beadboard cabinets, open shelving, and antique furnishings in this cozy kitchen. Similar to shown: 8-inch Signature grade hickory in Bradford Umber, \$18 per sq. ft.; wideplankflooring.com for showrooms

4> ECLECTIC TRADITIONAL

To anchor a dining room that hosts a mash-up of styles—a Mission-style table, classic American ladder-back chairs, and a modern, scaled-down wing chair—stick with a neutral, goes-with-everything flooring, such as oak in a warm golden stain. Shown: 5-inch Dundee oak in Gunstock, \$6.29–\$6.69 per sq. ft.; bruce.com for dealers



THE COMPETITION

Learn the difference between unfinished wood, engineered wood, and laminate



UNFINISHED SOLID WOOD

Bare wood strips and planks (about \$2 to \$12 per square foot) are sanded, usually stained, and topped with three protective polyurethane coats after they've been installed.

The process takes several days and isn't DIY-friendly for the average homeowner, so it's best to hire a pro. But some prefer the even look of bevel-less boards topped with a lower-gloss (though less durable) site-applied finish. You can also stain unfinished flooring almost any shade. And when it's time to refinish, site-finished floors save money. Removing or abrading a factory finish requires special products and takes more time and skill, so many contractors build an extra 30 percent into the cost.



ENGINEERED WOOD

It looks like a solid board but consists of wood veneers glued together like plywood and topped with a factory finish. The sandwich-like construction, typically $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, lends stability and allows engineered boards to go where solid wood can't, such as in basements or directly over concrete slabs. Engineered flooring is great for DIYers—some types simply snap together—and its cost is on par with unfinished solid wood, at about \$2 to \$12 per square foot. But the durability can vary greatly depending on how thick the top veneer is; an average board can withstand just a few sandings, while others can be refinished as many times as solid wood.



LAMINATE

A sheet of fiberboard topped with a high-resolution wood-grain image on paper and coated with melamine mimics the look of solid boards but is just 6 to 12 millimeters thick; a surface embossing gives it texture. These DIY-friendly click-and-lock floating planks go everywhere engineered wood can and are a safer bet in bathrooms and laundry rooms, where drips can wreak havoc on real wood. Laminate is about half the price of wood, costing just \$1 to \$6 per square foot, but you may notice a hollow, clicking sound when you walk on this thin floor. And while the clear top coat resists scratches and stains, this type of floor can't be refinished if damaged.

HEED HARDNESS RATINGS

The durability of wood is ranked by the Janka hardness rating, which measures the pounds of force per square inch needed to embed a steel ball in the surface. The higher the number, the harder the wood and the more resistant it is to dents and scratches. To put the figures in perspective, consider this: A 125-pound woman in high heels exerts 2,000 pounds of force per square inch on a wood floor. Keep in mind that the noticeable grain of certain woods will hide wear and tear better than others. That said, you can always enforce a no-shoes policy in your home if you fall for the look of one of the softer species.

SOFTER

EASTERN WHITE PINE {380}
DOUGLAS FIR {660}
AMERICAN CHERRY {950}
AMERICAN WALNUT {1,010}
HEART PINE {1,225}
BIRCH {1,260}
RED OAK {1,290}
WHITE ASH {1,320}
WHITE OAK {1,360}
SUGAR MAPLE {1,450}
WENGE {1,630}
HICKORY, PECAN {1,820}
SANTOS MAHOGANY {2,200}
BRAZILIAN CHERRY {2,820}
PURPLEHEART {2,890}
BRAZILIAN TEAK {3,540}
BRAZILIAN WALNUT {3,680}



HARDER

Get rustic character with reclaimed flooring

Weathered wood salvaged from old barns and factories or milled from logs pulled from river bottoms has a timeworn appeal—nail holes are common—and means fewer trees harvested from forests. The wood may also be harder than freshly cut boards because it comes from old-growth trees with compact growth rings. Companies such as Viridian, TerraMai, and Goodwin Heart Pine offer boards prefinished with hard-wearing UV-cured polyurethane. Expect to pay \$3 to \$4 more per square foot for this ready-to-install, refurbished wood—but you get a great story to go with that price.



Pick a pattern

Start with standard flooring, then use your imagination to create an unexpected and eye-catching design in any room

1> SMART ANGLE

Laying flooring on the diagonal can visually expand a small or narrow room, such as a galley kitchen. It's also a good solution for older homes that aren't square, where a parallel-to-the-wall installation might make that flaw more noticeable. And it doesn't take any more flooring than a typical install. Shown: 2¼-inch St. Andrews red oak in Natural, \$5.99 per sq. ft.; mullicanflooring.com for dealers



2> DOUBLE BORDER

Outlining the floor with two high-contrast stripes creates a decorative border that helps balance the rest of the room's architectural detail. If you can cut mitered corners on the floorboards, this project should be a cinch to do. Similar to shown: 3¼-inch Nantucket maple in Summer House Tan and Brant Point Brown, \$8–\$10 per sq. ft.; shawfloors.com for dealers



3> HAUTE HERRINGBONE

This stylish pattern looks best in rooms that don't have competing architectural focal points. Precise cuts are key, and, because of the difficulty in laying out the pattern, this is a job best left to pros or experienced DIYers. If you're up for the challenge, get the how-to at thisoldhouse.com/oct2013. Similar to shown: 2¼-inch Bellawood select white oak, \$4.99 per sq. ft.; lumberliquidators.com

4> SIMPLE STRIPES

Alternating bands of light- and dark-stained maple bring color and a sense of energy to this otherwise all-white kitchen. Using stripes in a hallway can also be a smart way to create a bridge between rooms with floors that have different finishes. Similar to shown: 4-inch Kennedale Prestige maple in Natural and Cappuccino, \$8.29–\$8.99 per sq. ft.; bruce.com for dealers ■



PRO TIP

"To make a room seem larger, lay flooring parallel to the longest wall. Orienting boards parallel to the shortest wall creates the illusion of width in a narrow room and makes a cavernous space feel cozier."

—CHARLES PETERSON, WOOD FLOORING EXPERT, GALES FERRY, CONN.



LEAGUE OF DENIAL

The NFL's Concussion Crisis

TUESDAY, OCT 8 9/8c

FRONTLINE



Ask

THIS OLD HOUSE

INSIDE
PAVER PATIOS/DRAFTY DOORS/MORE

22

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

Q I scored these bits at a yard sale, but they don't fit in my drill. How can I use them?

—KRISTOPHER BICE,
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

A These are auger bits, made to fit in a bit brace, a U-shape crank for drilling holes by hand. Variations on its simple design have been used for centuries.

You can put your augers—and your muscles—to work by picking up a brace online or maybe at another yard sale.

You won't break any drilling-speed records, but you'll be in perfect control.

Some may consider it sacrilege, but you can also cut off the end of the shaft and put it in a regular drill. I'm guilty of doing that.

—NORM ABRAHAM,
TOH MASTER CARPENTER



PHOTOGRAPH
BY PLAMEN PETKOV

*Our cast
of veteran
experts*



TOM SILVA
General Contractor



NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating
Expert



ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR
Host

We'd like to install a large stone-paver patio where a small concrete slab is now. Can I avoid the agony of jackhammering and install some pavers over the slab?

—ERIC AGNEW, FORT WORTH, TEXAS



ROGER COOK REPLIES: In a word, no. The pavers on the ground will be moving independently as the soil underneath shifts due to freeze-thaw and dry-wet cycles, while the pavers on the slab will all move together. The boundary between the different substrates will always show itself no matter how hard you try to hide it. If a paver patio is what you want, then the slab has to go.

Once it's gone, dig down 10 to 12 inches in the area where you want the patio to be. If you have sandy or gravelly soil that drains easily, fill the area with 3-inch layers of gravel or paver base, tamping each layer firm with a rented plate compactor until the base is about 10 inches below the top of the doorsill. (Make sure the last layer is pitched $\frac{1}{4}$ inch per foot away from the house.)

But if, like most Texans, you have clay soil, then before you put in the base layers, place a perforated plastic drainpipe in the lowest part of the excavation and run that pipe to a dry well. Without this extra

After each paver is installed, Roger Cook checks it with a level to make sure it's even with its neighbors and pitched $\frac{1}{4}$ inch per foot away from the house.

drainage, your clay-lined excavation could fill with water.

Spread an inch of dry stone dust or concrete sand over the packed base, and set your pavers in place, starting next to the house. When you're done, the step between the top of the patio and the top of the sill should be at least 6 inches high. Anything less is a tripping hazard. To see all the steps I follow when installing a stone patio, go to thisoldhouse.com/oct2013.

By the way, jackhammering is not the only way to break up concrete. If it's at least 4 inches thick, let an expansive grout, such as Ecobust (ecobust.com), do the work for you. Drill a series of 1½-inch holes 8 inches apart with a rotary hammer, and pour in the grout. It slowly expands with enough pressure to split the slab into easily managed chunks. If there's steel reinforcing, cut through it with a grinder. (Grinders and rotary hammers can be rented.)

Q Tile for the ceiling

I'd like to tile the ceiling above my tub. How do I support the tiles while the adhesive sets?

—AILEEN TOCE, JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

MARK FERRANTE REPLIES: You won't need supports if you use a no-sag thinset, a latex-modified cement-based adhesive. I've used it to stick heavy 12-by-12 marble tiles on a ceiling, and they stay up without any help.

Apply thinset to the ceiling in small areas so it doesn't skin over before setting the tile. And always back-butter—trowel thinset on the back of a tile—if the tile is 8 by 8 or larger.

Tile contractor Mark Ferrante of Ferrante Tile has worked on This Old House TV projects for 30 years.



What is it?

A

Core-box mortiser

B

Bulb borer

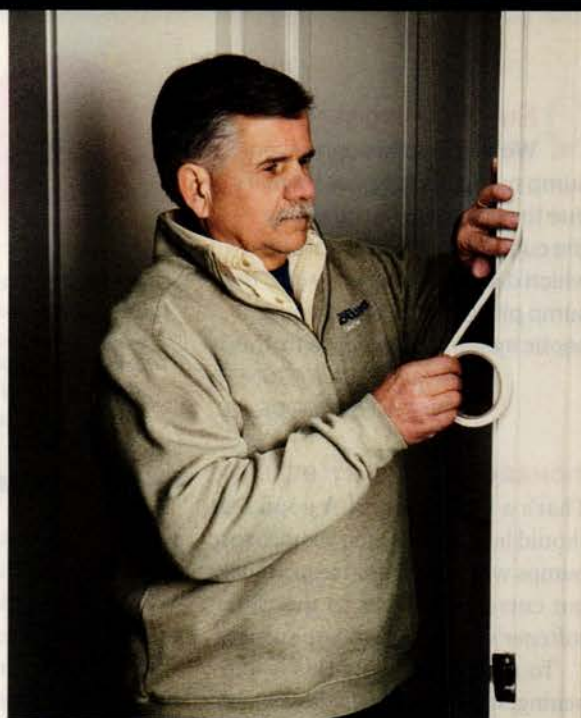
C

Pipe descender

D

Paint stirrer

FOR THE ANSWER, SEE PAGE 112



To stop air infiltration around the edge of a door, Tom Silva applies a closed-cell foam weatherstripping to the inside edge of the doorstop.

Q Weatherstripping for a wood door

Our entry once had a metal door, but now the door is wood and the old magnetic weatherstripping isn't sealing very well. How do I remove the strips, and what should go in their place?

—HENRY HUNDLEY, OOLTEWAH, TENN.

TOM SILVA REPLIES: Magnetic weatherstripping, like the stuff on refrigerator doors, is better than nothing, but a wood door needs something more flexible. The good news is that the old weatherstripping should come out pretty easily from kerfs—slots—cut in the jambs. Just grip the strips with pliers and pull.

Your best bet would be to replace the old material with kerf-mount weatherstripping, which has a barbed edge that fits into those same slots. A vinyl-covered foam flap, such as Q-lon, is available online and at home centers and hardware

stores. Press the barb completely into a kerf, with the end opposite the barb pointing toward the jamb. For a tight seal, miter the ends where the strips meet at the top of the jamb.

If Q-lon makes your door too hard to latch, try a more flexible weatherstripping, like the kerf-mount silicone tubes and flipperseals sold by Resource Conservation Technology (conservationtechnology.com). Or look for an adhesive-backed strip of closed-cell foam similar in size to the magnetic weatherstripping. Though not as durable as Q-lon or silicone, the foam is inexpensive and easy to install, and comes in a variety of widths and thicknesses to suit most any situation. It also works on jambs without kerfs. Just peel off the backing and stick it to the inside edge of the stop.

Avoid weatherstripping made of felt; it hardens with age, limiting its ability to make a seal, and holds water like a sponge—an open invitation to mildew and rot.

Q Sump-pump woes
We've gone through seven sump pumps in the past 10 years due to corrosion. I'm guessing the culprit is our water softener, which discharges directly into the sump pit. We have a well and a septic system. How do we fix this?

—MARCELA WAGONER,
HAWTHORN WOODS, ILL.

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES:

That's a lot of pumps! A good one should last five to seven years. Most pumps wear out from frequent use, but corrosion points to the water softener's discharge, as you suspect.

To understand why this is happening, it helps to know how water softeners work. Most have two tanks, one filled with small beads of resin, the other filled with salt brine. Your well water comes into the tank

What is it?

B Bulb borer

Attached to a drill, the Bulb Bopper digs holes 2 inches in diameter and up to 9 inches deep, making fast work of fall bulb-planting chores. \$35; gardeners.com



with the resin beads, which capture the calcium and magnesium that make water "hard." When those beads become too encrusted to do their job effectively, the softener flushes them with salt water from the brine tank. The residue from this flush, called backwash, is what's going into your sump. It's salty enough to rust steel and kill any plants it waters.

The obvious solution—to pipe the backwash into the house's main drain and out to

the septic system—is also controversial. Some states ban the discharge of backwash into a septic system because of concerns that the salt will keep solids from settling and breaking down in the septic tank, the way they're supposed to. On the other hand, studies sponsored by the Water Quality Association, a trade group representing the water-treatment industry, show that backwash actually improves settling, if it doesn't contain too much salt.

There's no ban in Illinois, so you can connect the backwash line to your drain, if you like. But, personally, I don't like messing with the delicate chemistry of septic systems. I'd follow the practice recommended in states with backwash restrictions and feed the line to a dry well buried in a location with sufficient drainage. Companies that test soil-percolation rates will be able to tell you the best spot for a dry well and help you determine how big it should be.

Whatever you do, consider upgrading to a more efficient softener that flushes when necessary, not by a timer. It will use less water and less salt, and reduce the amount of backwash going into the environment. ■

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Directory

OCTOBER 2013

COVER: For information, see the listing for "Charming Change-ups—on the Cheap."

BEFORE + AFTER KITCHEN: A fitting cook space for a gracious home (pp. 26–30) **Marble island top:** New England Stone; Milford, CT; 203-876-8606. **Cabinets and refrigerator front:** Hibernian Wood Design, hibernianwooddesign.com. **Refrigerator:** Sub-Zero; subzero-wolf.com. **Refrigerator drawers:** GE; ge.com. **Refrigerator hardware:** Roseland Icebox Company; iceboxes.com. **Range:** Lacanche; french-ranges.com. **Pendant fixtures:** Visual Comfort & Co.; visualcomfort.com. **Countertops:** M. Teixeira Soapstone; soapstones.com. **Faucet:** Rohl; rohlhome.com. **Knobs and pulls:** Merit Metal Products; meritmetal.com.

BEFORE + AFTER LIVING ROOM: An elegant space for work and play (pp. 35–38) **Designer:** Kyle Schuneman, Los Angeles, CA; kyleschuneman.com. **General contractor:** Mark Aller, Malkoe Design, Los Angeles, CA; 323-301-6613; malkoe.com. **Pillows:** Crate & Barrel; crateandbarrel.com. **Blue chair:** Mortise & Tenon Handmade Furniture, Los Angeles, CA; 323-937-7654; mortisetenon.com. **Light fixtures:** Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.; schoolhouseelectric.com. **Art over mantel:** Kudu Voodoo (oil on canvas), by Rachael Harryman, Los Angeles, CA. **Desk chair:** Design Within Reach; dwr.com. **Knobs and pulls:** Restoration Hardware; restorationhardware.com. **Sink:** Wayfair; wayfair.com. **Bar countertop:** Caesarstone; caesarstone.com. **Tile:** Somertile; somertile.com. **Paint:** HC-7 Bryant Gold (reading nook) and HC-17 Huntington Beige (window wall), Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com.

PHOTOSHOP REDO: Bringing back the charm (p. 67) **Thanks to** Charles Roberts, Kuhn Riddle Architects, Amherst, MA; 413-259-1630; kuhnrididdle.com. **Stone veneer:** Top Rock in Montana, Eldorado Stone; eldoradostone.com. **Sconce:** Cascadia Lighting New Haven Outdoor Wall Light, Lowe's; lowes.com. **Paint:** SW 6501 Manitou Blue, SW 7016 Mindful Gray, and SW 7012 Creamy, Sherwin-Williams; sherwin-williams.com. **Door:** Bungalow Series, Simpson Door Company; simpsondoor.com.

WEEKEND REMODEL: Dress up a hollow-core door (pp. 69–74) **Designer-builder:** Christopher Beidel, Pernt, Brooklyn, NY; perntstudio.com.

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN (pp. 76–83)

Landscape designer: Summerset Gardens; summersetgardens.com. **Architect:** DeGraw & DeHaan Architects, Middletown, NY; degrawanddehaan.com. **General contractor and cabinetmaker:** Robert M. Singer Construction, Warwick, NY; 845-986-3615. **Paint:** 950 Natural Wicker (kitchen walls), HC-111 Nantucket Gray (kitchen cabinets and trim), HC-172 Revere Pewter (exterior siding), HC-30 Philadelphia Cream (exterior trim), PM-15 Cottage Red (front door), 1671 West Coast (fireplace surround and trim), 950 Natural Wicker (mudroom walls), 208 Da Vinci's Canvas (mudroom cabinets and trim), and HC-111 Nantucket Grey (upstairs bath), Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com. **Pale Cowslip 4** (entry walls), Valspar; valspar.com. **2005-10 Red Rock;** benjaminmoore.com, and **Coach Black,** Sherwin-

Williams; sherwin-williams.com (mudroom floor). **Kitchen:** **Light fixtures:** Lighting by Hammerworks; hammerworks.com. **Countertops:** Stone Surfaces Inc., East Rutherford, NJ; stonesurfacesnj.com. **Sinks and faucets:** Shaws and Perrin & Rowe; rohlhome.com. **Range:** Thermador; thermador.com. **Table and chairs:** Lillian August; lillianaugust.com. **Front entry:** **Vintage flag:** Jeff R. Bridgman; jeffbridgman.com. **Coffee bar:** **Espresso machine and grinder:** Fiorenzato Bricioletta and Macap, 1st-Line Equipment; 1st-line.com. **Mirror:** R Squared Mirrorglass Company; oldmirrorglass.com. **Addition:** **Windows:** Smith Restoration Sash, Providence, RI; smithrestorationsash.com.

CHARMING CHANGE-UPS—ON THE CHEAP

(pp. 92–99) Homeowners' blogs: **Window seat:** My Cottage Charm; mycottagecharm.com. **Bathroom:** Rain on a Tin Roof; rainonatinroof.com. **Dining room:** It All Started With Paint; itallstartedwithpaint.com. **Kitchen:** Keep Smiling; keepsmilinghome.blogspot.com. **Laundry room:** View Along the Way; viewalongtheway.com.

ALL ABOUT PREFINISHED WOOD FLOORS

(pp. 100–107) **Thanks to** Charles Peterson, Charles Peterson Signature Flooring, Gales Ferry, CT; charlespetersonflooring.com. **Brett Miller,** National Wood Flooring Association; woodfloors.org. **Pick your board:** High Gloss in Natural White Oak;

somersetfloors.com. **Highgrove Manor** maple in Winter Neutral; armstrong.com. **Kennedale** maple in Sumatra; bruce.com. **Coleridge** in Natural Hickory; mohawkflooring.com. **Castillian** oak in Midnight; mullicanflooring.com. **Prefinished old-growth Douglas fir;** viridianwood.com. **Grand Canyon** hickory in Thunder River; shawfloors.com. **Casa de Colour** maple in Pewter; lumberliquidators.com. **Brazilian cherry;** br111.com. **Eastern white pine** in Dark Brown Barnwood, watermill texture; wideplankflooring.com.

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE (pp. 109–112) **Tile for the ceiling:** **Thanks to** Mark Ferrante, Ferrante Tile, Woburn, MA; 781-396-6327; ferrantetile.com.

SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE (p. 120) **Thanks to** M. Skip Gaynor II and Judy Stone, Danberry Realtors, Toledo, OH; danberry.com. ■

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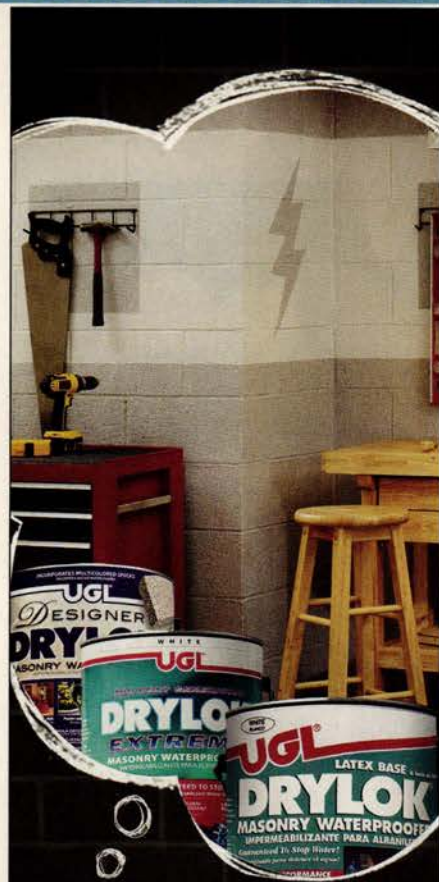
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THE HISTORY In the late 1800s, Toledo's Old West End neighborhood was a place for the city's affluent bankers and factory owners to escape the hustle and bustle of downtown. The streets were lined with grand houses, including this 1897 American Foursquare, first owned by Louis and Harriet Ottenheimer, who raised their son, Jack, here.

Louis worked as a vice president of a cloak manufacturing company and in the 1920s became a banker. The Great Depression ended Toledo's banking and manufacturing boom, and many houses in the Old West End, including the Ottenheimer residence, were converted to rentals. The house has been vacant for three years.

WHY SAVE IT? The exterior of the 3,632-square-foot house has the symmetrical facade typical of foursquare homes, including a pair of box bay windows on the second floor. The surrounding streets are lined with striking examples of restored Queen Anne, Tudor, and Colonial Revival houses.

WHAT IT NEEDS While the house has plumbing and electrical hookups from the city, it requires all new systems and extensive structural repair. One of the brick chimneys needs rebuilding. The Old West End has made a comeback in recent years, which makes this a perfect time to snatch up the worst house on one of the best blocks of grand old homes in the city and to make the place your own. —PAUL HOPE



1] The six-bedroom, three-bath house needs major repairs, but renovated homes in the area have sold for up to \$290,000. **2]** The front porch, supported by Corinthian columns, provides a view across the street of the lavish Queen Anne built by Jacob Freeman, a Toledo jewelry maker. **3]** Built-ins, such as this bedroom dresser, can be found throughout the house. **4]** Original trimwork on the box bay windows. **5]** A side dormer is embellished with decorative corbels.



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