

Peace of mind in the palm of your hand.

If you have ever worried that you left the garage door open or been concerned about the security of your home while you're away, the Chamberlain[®] MyQ Garage[™] is the solution you've been waiting for.

The MyQ Garage not only alerts you to any opening and closing activity, it allows you to operate your garage door via your smartphone anywhere, anytime.*

The MyQ Garage requires no wires, can be installed in minutes, and works with most standard garage door openers manufactured after 1993.** Just download the free Chamberlain MyQ Home Control app and follow the simple steps for installation, and you're on your way to total control and peace of mind—wherever you are.

ADVERTISEMENT



For more information on MyQ Garage or Chamberlain's full line of residential garage door openers, accessories, and other cutting-edge garage solutions, visit www.Chamberlain.com.



Places

ð

Garage Door Opener

CLOSED FOR 3 MINUTES

AMBERLAIN

www.chamberlain.com

* MyQ Home Control app available from the App Store[™] or Google Play.[™] Requires Wi-Fi access via your home Wi-Fi router.

** Compatible with the majority of garage door openers manufactured after 1993. To verify compatibility, visit www.chamberlain.com/MyQGarage.

Introducing Chamberlain[®] MyQ Garage[™] Control your garage door from anywhere.



Chamberlain MyQ Garage. Smartphone Garage Door Controller.

Never worry about leaving your garage door open—ever again. With your new Chamberlain MyQ Garage, it alerts your smartphone. You control your door from anywhere, at anytime, on most garage door openers.





How many geckos does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

Two. But one is saving people money on car insurance. Get your quote today.



geico.com | 1-800-947-AUTO (2886) | Local Office

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company. Washington, D.C 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2013. © 2013 GEICO

THIS OLD HOUSE ©2013 THIS OLD HOUSE VENTURES, INC. NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

Contents THIS OLD HOUSE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

Holiday-ready home ideas

- 40 get this look for less Colorful holiday hearth
- 92 29 super-fast fixes, upkeep shortcuts, and easy upgrades Ensure that your house

will pass even the most demanding visitor's scrutiny

idea file

- 31 before + after: kitchen Thanks to a low-key recipe, a dark and downbeat cook space becomes a bright, cheerful family gathering spot
- 35 **before + after: bath** A tweaked layout, warm finishes, and vintage accents bring a touch of serenity—and privacy—to a master bath
- 46 Photoshop redo Craftsman-style details and a larger porch give a bland bungalow a pop of personality
- 82 **Cleaning up a classic Craftsman** A wife's old-house love affair inspires a couple's thoughtful (and green) renovation project
- 88 **dining room drama** Use bold colors to create a visual feast where you dine



Cover Photograph by JOHN GRUEN Styling by JORGE ARANGO







Contents THIS OLD HOUSE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013



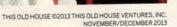


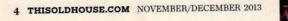
Watch videos and see more photos!

Now on the iPad, Nook Color, and other select tablets. Available at thisoldhouse.com/ tablet and iTunes.













home solutions

17 Serve guests from a festive beverage cart you can DIY in a day; 10 uses for wood dowels; burglar-proof your house; Christmas-tree buying guide; budget-friendly home-office redo; the 411 on electric knife sharpeners; and more

upgrades 67 the TOH top 100

All the coolest new products to make your house smarter and more stylish

how-to projects

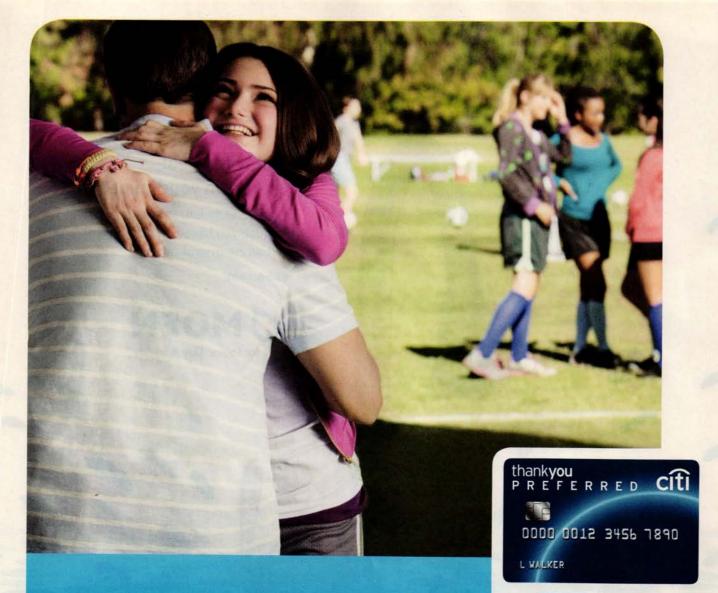
- 43 paint ideas Give bookshelves and display pieces a character boost with these shades
- 50 build it or buy it Upholstered headboard
- 59 weekend remodel Our step-by-step shows you how to give a room an elegant upgrade with a low-profile coffered ceiling

ask this old house

- 99 Q+A Get the air out of a water-heating system; deter foliage-feasting deer; remove cracked and peeling wood veneer: when to use nails and when to use screws; and more
- 102 step-by-step Install cabinet doors with concealed hinges

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 9 letter from This Old House
- 11 reader mail
- 12 digital highlights
- 14 checklist
- 106 directory
- 114 save this old house



With 2x points on concert tickets, "Dad of the Year" status isn't far off.

From music downloads to purchasing concert tickets for your daughter, the Citi ThankYou® Preferred Card now offers 2 points for each dollar spent on both entertainment and dining out – at no annual fee.

To apply, go to citi.com/thankyoucards or visit your local branch.



2X Dining & Entertainment

Purchases

The standard variable APR for purchases is 12.99%, 17.99% or 22.99%, based on creditworthiness, standard variable APR for cash advances is 25.24%. The variable Penalty APR is up to 29.99% and may be applied if you make a late payment or make a payment that is returned. The annual fee is \$0. Minimum interest charge – \$0.50. Fee for Foreign Purchases – 3% of the U.S. dollar amount of each purchase made outside the U.S. Cash advance fee – either \$10 or 5% of the amount of each cash advance, whichever is greater. Balance transfer fee – either \$5 or 3% of the amount of each transfer, whichever is greater. New cardmembers only. Subject to credit approval. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. You will be given further information when you apply. © 2013 Citibank, N.A. Citi, Citi with Arc Design, ThankYou and Citi ThankYou are registered service marks of Citigroup Inc.

Spots are great, just not on your faucet.

Spot Resist^{**}finish, only from Moen. Because you have better things to do than clean your faucet.

moen.com



e 2012 Moen Incorporated

TIME INC. EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Martha Nelson

GROUP EDITOR, LIFESTYLE GROUP Sid Evans



EDITOR Scott Omelianuk

DESIGN DIRECTOR Hylah Hill | DEPUTY EDITOR Kathryn Keller MANAGING EDITOR Maureen Shelly

EDITORIAL

HOME STYLE DIRECTOR Colette Scanlon ARTICLES EDITOR Deborah Baldwin SENIOR EDITOR Michelle Brunner SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR Eric Hagerman

BUILDING TECHNOLOGY EDITOR Thomas Baker

SENIOR TECHNICAL EDITOR Mark Powers SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR John Casey ASSOCIATE EDITORS Paul Hope. Ann E. Stratton ASSISTANT EDITOR AND ASSISTANT TO THE EDITOR Gillian Barth ASSISTANT EDITOR Megan Baker CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Mark Feirer, Amy R. Hughes INTERN Katelin Hill

COPY COPY CHIEF Timothy E. Pitt DEPUTY COPY CHIEF Leslie Monthan

APT ART DIRECTOR Jamie Dannecker DEPUTY ART DIRECTOR Douglas Adams ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR Cynthia Ng ART/ONLINE ASSISTANT Robert Hardin

> PHOTO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Denise Sfraga ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR **Stephanie Broad**

EDITORIAL BOARD, THIS OLD HOUSE MASTER CARPENTER Norm Abram GENERAL CONTRACTOR Tom Silva PLUMBING AND HEATING EXPERT **Richard Trethewey** LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR Roger Cook HOST Kevin O'Connor

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION SENIOR EDITORIAL PRODUCTION MANAGER Yoshiko Taniguchi-Canada

ONLINE ONLINE EDITOR Alexandra Bandon WEB DESIGNER Bill Mazza ONI INFASSISTANT EDITOR Karen Zida DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT CONTRIBUTOR Tabitha Sukhai CONTRIBUTING PRODUCER Elizabeth Lilly

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR Jennifer Zawadzinski PUBLICIST Kristen McElhone

HUMAN RESOURCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Kate Weiss

DIGITAL

DIRECTOR Russ Vance

ASSOCIATE MARKETING MANAGER Jackie Perez

COORDINATOR Lauren Greenberg

CONSUMER MARKETING

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT Carrie Goldin

CONSUMER MARKETING DIRECTOR Michelle Korchinski-Ogden

MARKETING DIRECTOR Cari Adelson

SENIOR MANAGER, ACQUISITION Karla Correa

SENIOR MANAGER, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT Sonia Ocasio

SENIOR MANAGER, RETENTION Karen Paek

FINANCE

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL MANAGER Alison Fried

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Sherry Wolfe

DIRECTORS Don Lichter, Amy Thind

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Brad Scharff

SENIOR MANAGER Patti Brasfield

SENIOR ADVERTISING MANAGER Jeremy Adams ASSOCIATE MANAGERS Mike Healy, Lisa Press, Kristen Sietsma

ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER Linda Luke SENIOR ANALYSTS Nancy Kim, Colleen Schohl

ANALYST Zachary Brazo

TIME INC. BRANDED SOLUTIONS

PRESIDENT Leslie Picard

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL MANAGER Andy Blau

VICE PRESIDENT Dave Watt

VICE PRESIDENT, DETROIT Dan Riley VICE PRESIDENT, CREATIVE DIRECTOR Cara Deoul Perl

VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING

AND SALES DEVELOPMENT Mary Haskin

VICE PRESIDENT, DIGITAL Tom Kirwan

VICE PRESIDENT, DATABASE MARKETING Mary Wojciechowski

VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE Lori Dente

LEGAL

VICE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

CORPORATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENTS

DIGITAL Kevin Heery VIDEO J.R. McCabe

Rebecca Sanhuez SPECIAL COUNSEL Michele McHugh

TIME INC. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Joseph Ripp GROUP PRESIDENT, LIFESTYLE GROUP Evelyn Webster

PUBLISHER Nathan Stamos

ADVEDTISING SALES EAST COAST AD DIRECTOR Alex DeSanctis SENIOR INTEGRATED ACCOUNT MANAGER Jonathan Toback SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER Taryn Guillermo SALES ASSISTANT Hillary Volkert DETROIT SALE GROUP DIRECTOR Lori Stanley ACCOUNT MANAGERS Bela Kogler, Mary Murphy SALES ASSISTANT Debra Jacott

COUTHEAST SA SALES MANAGER Sibyl de St. Aubin MIDWEST SALE

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER Phil Reynolds ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE Brigette Hackett SALES ASSISTANT Chanda Plepel

SOUTHWEST MANAGER Tanva Scribner (940-387-7711)

LOS ANGELES MANAGER Gary Thompson SALES ASSISTANT Catherine Kay

SALES MANAGER Deb Rutledge (415-986-7762, ext. 13) RESOURCES Jennifer Izzo (212-779-7172, ext. 235)

> INTEGRATED MARKETING VICE PRESIDENT Claudia Jepsen DESIGN DIRECTOR Don Charles ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Jen Fabry ASSOCIATE MANAGER Kayla Gambino

LIFESTYLE GROUP VICE PRESIDENT, INTEGRATED MARKETING Jennifer Evans DIRECTOR, INTEGRATED MARKETING Priya Junnarkar

PRODUCTION VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS Thomas C. Colaprico MAKEUP, POSITIONING, AND PRODUCTION MANAGER Rosemarie lazzetta AD PRODUCTION SPECIALIST Matthew Salvador

> TIME INC. PREMEDIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Rick Prue IMAGING MANAGER Brian Fellows

TELEVISION VICE PRESIDENT, TV OPERATIONS Michael Burton

CORPORATE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENTS Jeff Bairstow, Teri Everett, Mark Ford, David Geithner, Greg Giangrande, Todd Larsen, Evelyn Webster

This Old House (ISSN 1086-2633) is published ten times a year by This Old House Ventures Inc. @2013 This Old House Ventures Inc. This Old House and the This Old House window logo are registered trademarks of This Old House Ventures Inc. SUBSCRIPERS: If the post office alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. SUBSCRIPTIONS: You can order or manage your subscription online at thisoldhouse.com / customerservice or call 800-897-237. BACK ISSUES: Order at House hold in thisoldhouse control or call 800-897-2466. ADVERTISER CONTACTS. Product information at homeownershelpine.com et 800-424-0055. FOR INFORMATION ON REPRINTS AND E-PRINTS: Please contact Brian Kolb at Wright's Reprints: 877-652-5295 or biolb@wrightsreprints.com.

ADVERTISEMENT

motionsense



Your Everyday, Made Easier.

Through vigorous research and in-home testing, Moen has designed a handsfree faucet that utilizes two advanced sensors to set water in motion:



The Wave Sensor starts and stops the flow of water with the pass of vour hand.

Ready Sensor detects when an object or a hand

is placed beneath the spout, then it runs water only until you exit the sensor zone.

Only MotionSense actually senses what you need from your faucet, making kitchen tasks easier-every day.

> **Discover MotionSense** in a variety of timeless styles for your kitchen at moen.com



Vacuums dirt. Wipes grime. In one action.

The Dyson Hard vacuum combines powerful suction and a wet wiping action to clean hard floors thoroughly and efficiently. Its dual suction channels suck up dirt from the front and rear of the cleaner head, while its wet wipe removes grime. All in one action.

See it work at dyson.com/dc56

dyson hard

Letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

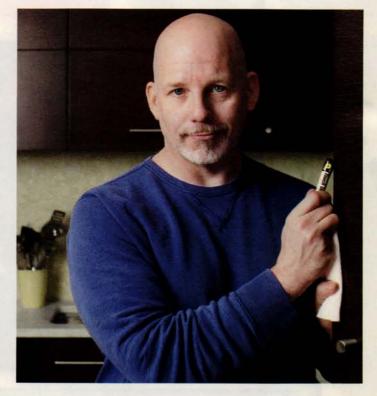
Genie? Genius is more like it

f you're a regular reader of Letter From *This Old House*, you know the picture at right usually matches up with my note pretty well. This issue it doesn't. I figured I'd spare you, since this story starts with me standing in ankle-deep water in the shower.

You're welcome.

It had been that way each morning for a week, ever since I dropped my razor and watched it hit the tub and break, with half its handle slipping down the drain to lodge somewhere in the trap, impossible to reach.

Why didn't I deal with the clog sooner? That's hard to say, but I think you'd find part of the answer in the same place that you'd learn why I've left that last foot of living room baseboard unpainted for a month, why the second of the three bulbs in the chandelier has never been replaced, and why I still haven't caulked between the counter and backsplash since I installed them, in 2009. Maybe you have some of those same lingering bothers in your own home. I understand: You've got



more pressing maintenance to do, the problem's inconvenient but not unlivable, there's an NCIS marathon on cable...

In the case of my slow drain, some of the delay was also due to the fact that I didn't know exactly how to fix it. Liquid-Plumr wasn't going to dissolve plastic. A snake wasn't likely to bust through it.

And so my shower included a footbath—until one day at work, when special projects editor Eric Hagerman had his team call in scores of products to review for our annual TOH Top 100. Mixed in with that pile, the best of which you'll find starting on page 67, I saw something called The Drain Genie, an attachment for your Shop-Vac that promises to "clear clogs in seconds."

Seemed improbable to me, sucking up clogs. But, I thought, what, besides pruny feet, have I got to lose? And so I pinched the product to use over the weekend.

That Saturday, as soon as I flipped the switch on the vacuum, I knew I had—along with the razor handle, a couple of chips of soap, and a hair ball (clearly not mine)—the 101st product for the Top 100. Let's call it the Top 100 Editor's Pick, a bonus item that you've just got to try. It may well be the second-best 10 bucks you'll ever spend.

SCOTT OMELIANUK, EDITOR scott@thisoldhouse.com

P.S. The first-best 10 bucks is, of course, a gift subscription to *TOH* for a friend or family member. Actually, it's only eight bucks if you buy two, but you get my point: Where else can spending so little save someone unspent hundreds in plumber's bills? Get 'em at thisoldhouse.com/give-gift.

The editor, not in the shower.



Super sucker THE DRAIN GENIE, BY GREAT INNOVATIONS

Hook this clog remover to a wet vac, and busted razors, AWOL army figures, lone earrings, and other plumbing obstructions don't stand a chance, \$9.99; draingenie.com

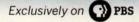
ALL NEW PROJECTS. ALL NEW PLACES.

Tune in to Ask This Old House during November and December

as we travel across the country to tackle your everyday home improvement projects.

And be sure to watch full-length, current episodes at thisoldhouse.com/watchasktoh





Presented by

For local listings, visit thisoldhouse.com/tvschedule

SPONSORED BY



More saving. More doing:



ADVERTISEMENT

Reader mail



THE BIG REVEAL of This Old House editor Scott Omelianuk's rowhouse redo brought many e-mails of congrats. We also received thanks for our feature on avoiding invasive plants, plus a painting tip and a reader project that transformed a plain porch floor.

Scott's remodel

Thank you for the story and photos of Scott's remodel ["Colorful Story," September 2013 or thisoldhouse.com/ novdec2013]. After reading about it in so many of his columns, it was wonderful to see the finished product! The indecision and compromises on color choices he and his wife experienced are major elements of redoing a house with a partner. -MICHELE EIFERT FERGUSON.

SPENCERPORT, N.Y.

EDITORS' NOTE:

A number of readers also wrote to ask for help in finding the paint color of the master bedroom, Windmill. It turns out this shade has been discontinued, but the manufacturer, Valspar, suggests Thorny Brush as a close match.

VALSPAR Thorny Brush

Noninvasive alternatives

I want to express a sincere thank-you for "Plant This, Not That!" [September 2013]. As the coordinator of a local cooperative's weed-management program, I work with land managers and landowners to control invasive plants. Some of our most costly plant infestations could be prevented if folks were more aware of the invasive nature of some of their favorite ornamentals.

-KARI HAGENOW, GREEN BAY, WISC.

Spindle headboard

[Re September's Home Center Project, on making a headboard from staircase parts] I usually try to prime all the pieces (and sometimes top-coat also) before putting a multipiece together. It saves a lot of time, and you get a smoother finish, even if you may have to touch up some spots. -BOB HINES, BENTON, KY.



Painted porch floor

COLLETTE CROYLE, LEWISTOWN, PA.









HOW TO **INSTALL A** DISHWASHER



If you are ready to replace your outdated dishwasher, be sure to select an ENERGY STAR-gualified model, which can save you more than \$30 a year on power and almost 500 gallons of water. These units have sensors that self-adjust to wash with just the right amount of water. And today's models are so good at scrubbing, you don't have to prerinse in the sink-which means even less of your hard-earned money will go down the drain. But the biggest cost-saver of all is that you can install one yourself

When replacing an existing dishwasher, all you need to do is break these connections from the old appliance and reattach them to the new one. Just be sure to shut off power at the breaker panel and close the hot-water valve under the sink first.

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

For step-by-step instructions and a shopping list of supplies you'll need, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

Digital thisoldhouse.com



The Get Ready to Celebrate Sweepstakes

Enter our annual holiday drawing for your chance to win a grand prize of \$10,000 cash. Plus, each week we're giving away prizes worth at least \$200 each—gift cards, small appliances, and more—chosen by you! Enter daily November 3–January 18. Go to **thisoldhouse.com/sweeps**



Your craziest home holiday disaster stories!

Floods, fire, and invading varmints are just some of the calamities you've endured while friends and family gathered. See them all at thisoldhouse.com/ holiday-disasters



Get bonus content on your device

Access extras instantly. Just scan the pages that have this icon. Here's how to get started

On your mark... Download the free Blippar mobile app

from the App Store

or Google Play.

Get set...

With the app open, hold your smartphone or tablet over any page that has the Blippar icon.



Blipp! Watcht

Watch the page jump to life on your screen! Then tap through to view videos, discounts, and more.

Here's what you'll find when you scan these pages:



Page 41 Exclusive discounts and a video of how to make a magnolia-leaf garland



Page 50 Cut list, tools, and materials for an upholstered headboard



Page 61 Video of how to build a coffered ceiling



Page 86 Shortcut to the TOH Wayfair boutique to shop for a similar look



Page 91 Instructions on how to access our tablet edition for more color palettes



Page 97 Even more fast fixes and easy upgrades to ready your house for guests

WHO KNEW HOT WATER COULD OFFER SO MUCH **freedom**.

You have enough things to worry about every day—hot water shouldn't be one of them. That's why Rinnai Tankless Water Heaters provide an endless, energy-efficient supply of hot water whenever, wherever, and for as long as you need it. Even for multiple tasks at the same time. No tank, no planning your hot water usage, and no risk of running out.

It's a whole new way to think about hot water. One we're sure you'll find quite enjoyable. Learn more at www.rinnai.us/thisoldhouse

Tankless Water Heaters

RI IQRA

Rinnai.

88

RUAR

Checklist NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

Easy ways to improve your home right now

6 FAST FIXES

Change smoke detector batteries: You're resetting the clocks on November 3, so now's the time. While you're at it, replace the batteries in carbon monoxide detectors, too.



□ Insulate pipes: Add foam insulation to any exposed plumbing to keep the lines from freezing when the cold sets in.

□ Stock the guest room: Get it ready for overnight company with plenty of hangers, a place to stow visitors' belongings, and enough towels and blankets for their stay.

Protect tree trunks: Shield young trees from sun scald and frost damage by wrapping their trunks in burlap.

□ Prep your entry for guests: Tighten handrails and add a slip-proof doormat outside; keep deicers or sand on hand in case of snow flurries.

□ Tune up your garage door: Don't get left out in the cold! Use motor oil to lubricate the door's track and ensure that it operates smoothly.

🗹 Pot some amaryllis

Plant these bulbs now to see their sensational blooms by the holidays. This tropical flower, native to South America and South Africa, does best in direct light and warm temps-68 to 70 degrees F is ideal. Pot bulbs in sturdy earthenware containers (lightweight ones may tip) about an inch or two larger in diameter than the bulb, and cover up to the neck with a fast-draining potting mix. Water sparingly until stems appear; you should see blooms in seven to 10 weeks.





Keep up your compost

Winter's cold can slow the decomposition that turns kitchen scraps into garden gold, but you can still get rich fertilizer for spring with a little help. To give bacteria more surface area to munch on—and help them break down organic matter faster—chop or shred waste before adding it to the heap, and keep the pile covered with a tarp to hold in the heat.



Prevent sap stains

If the sticky stuff gets on carpets or upholstery, freeze it with an ice cube before scraping it off; if that doesn't work, try drying it out with rubbing alcohol. Clean off messy hands by rubbing them with sap-busting olive oil before washing with soap and water.

□ Test sink shutoff valves

In a plumbing emergency, shutoff valves are a lifesaver, but otherwise they can be overlooked—which can make them tricky to operate when the need arises. For peace of mind when guests are expected, give all

the valves a turn, just to ensure that mineral deposits don't freeze them in the OFF position. (If they're stuck, use a wrench.) Then turn them on and off once or twice a year from here on out.



This is ultimate power.

When you want the world's longest-lasting AA battery in high-tech devices, look to *Energizer Ultimate Lithium.* It lasts up to 9x longer; which means up to 9x less waste." With superior performance like that, it's all the power you need.

that's positivenergy.

Check it out at energizer.com/ultimate

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





© 2012 Energizer Energizer, Energizer Bunny design and other marks are trademarks of Energizer GE Capital Retail Bank optimizer+plus

Introducing optimizer^{+plus} Great Rates + Safety = Peace of Mind.

Special Offer: **15-MONTH CD 15-MONTH CD 15-M**

Optimizer^{+plus} is a suite of savings

products from GE Capital Retail Bank. Build your savings safely with this CD.

- Great fixed rate for 15 months
- FDIC insured²
- Free Identity Theft Protection³

Call us at 1-800-753-6592 or visit us at myoptimizerplus.com to open an account using promo code OHM12.

² FDIC insurance up to \$250,000.00 per depositor, per insured bank, for each ownership category.

© 2013 GE Capital Retail Bank

^{*}Trademark of GE Capital Retail Bank.

¹ Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) are effective as of 11/05/13 and subject to change at any time without notice. The minimum balance required to earn the advertised APY is \$2,000.00 and must be deposited in a single transaction. The minimum balance to open a CD is \$2,000.00. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawals. Fees may reduce earnings. After maturity, if you choose to roll over your CD, you will earn the base rate of interest in effect at that time. Visit myoptimizerplus.com for current rates, terms and account requirements. Rates apply to personal accounts only. Funds must come from a source other than a GE Capital Retail Bank deposit account.

³ Identity Theft Protection Services are provided by Identity Theft 911.©

Deposit products and services provided by GE Capital Retail Bank. Member FDIC.

home Build Brunner Brunner Solutions 10 USES CREATIVE REUSE HOME SECURITY ENERGY-SAVERS MORE

INSIDE

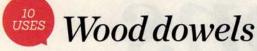
HENDRE

Raise the bar for entertaining

'Tis the season for company and cocktails, and that calls for a festive spot to mix libations. We turned a small bookcase into the drinks station shown here in a few steps. After coating it with glossy red paint-**Benjamin Moore's** Tomato Red-we installed a rack for stemware and a towel bar so that spill relief is never far (\$13 and \$11 each; amazon BEFORE .com). Adding casters

(\$6 for two; homedepot .com) allows for wheeling the party into any room. Let the good times roll!

home solutions 10 uses



There's more to these woodworking staples than reinforcing joints. Give them a whirl with these ideas

1> Spread grout evenly. Use the end of a small dowel to push in grout around a faucet or a hard-to-reach corner.

2> Relaminate a countertop. Apply contact cement to the underlayment and the backside of laminate that is starting to lift. Lay a dowel across the counter, then roll it while pressing down so that the laminate adheres evenly.

3> Make a twine dispenser. Using a jigsaw, cut a 6-inch circle from ¾-inch scrap wood. Drill halfway





4> Prepare pastry.

No pin? Use a 1½-inch (or bigger) dowel to roll out dough. Before you use the dowel, rub mineral oil on it and wipe off. Flour your rolling surface so that the dough doesn't stick.

5> Weigh down a wall hanging. Thread a dowel into

Thread a dowel into the bottom hem so that it lays flat.

6> Construct a lantern. Cut two

same-size squares from 34-inch scrap wood for the top and bottom. Using a ½-inch Forstner bit, drill holes at the four corners for equal lengths of ½-inch dowels. Use wood glue to secure the dowels in the holes. Set a glass-enclosed candle inside.

7> Support a shelf.

Mark the interior sides of a bookcase where you want to add a shelf. Drill holes for an equallength pair of 5/16-inch dowels. Use wood glue to secure the dowels; set the shelf on top.



8> Roast some marshmallows.

Toast a wintry treat over a crackling fire during the cold months. To minimize charring, soak 3-foot sections of small dowels in water for at least 30 minutes beforehand.

9> Hang curtains on the cheap. Cut a 1½-inch dowel to your desired length: the rod

desired length; the rod should extend at least 3 to 6 inches past the sides of the window casing. Drill pilot holes in the dowel ends to accept threaded cabinet-knob finials; hang on brackets.

10> Neatly store leftover giftwrap.

Roll wrapping-paper remnants around a large dowel; secure the paper's end with lowadhesion painter's tape. –KATELIN HILL



toyota.com/tundra Prototype shown with options. Production model may vary. ©2013 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.



Unlock the holiday spirit

Deck your halls-or even just a cabinet door-with a snowflake ornament made from vintage skeleton keys. To make it, secure keys to a 2-inch metal ring using 24-gauge wire, pulling it taut as you wrap. Spray on white paint, then rub with 220-grit sandpaper for a weathered patina. Add a ribbon and hang to make any space merrier.



lights on and off

your tablet or

Home security hit list

Planning on leaving town for the holidays? Your empty house is an easy target for burglars. Deter them with these tactical tips from Los Angeles-based security expert Chris McGoey -M. BRUNNER

DON'T ADVERTISE DO LIGHT UP AT NIGHT: Set manual YOUR ABSENCE:

Ask a trusted neighbor timers to turn indoor to collect your mail and newspaper every during evening hours, day. Also, resist the or try a remote device urge to update your that allows you to status on social media flick the switch using to reflect that you're away from home (for smartphone, like the instance, "Visiting the WeMo light switch folks in Delaware"). (\$50; belkin.com).

DO REINFORCE YOUR DOOR:

If you've got a wood doorjamb, the lock strike plate is the weakest point in your door. Upgrade to a heavy-duty strike plate, and use four 3-inch screws to secure it to the doorframe.

DON'T NEGLECT YOUR WINDOWS:

Adopt a second line of defense for groundfloor windows, where 23 percent of break-ins occur. Insert sash pins to secure double-hung styles, or consider arming windows with a wireless alarm.

MADE FROM sawdust or wood fiber

Cleaner air, same warm glow

MADE FROM cardboard hoxes

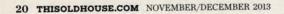
Clean

Wood fires are cozy, but they wreak havoc on air quality, emitting carbon monoxide and lung-irritating particulates. Luckily, home centers are stocked with plenty of greener options.

What's hot: You'll find several types of logs made almost entirely of recycled content. Some are made of wax-coated cardboard boxes once used to transport produce, such as CleanFlame (six for about \$22; cleanflame.com for retailers) and Enviro-Log (six for \$16; homedepot .com). Others use sawdust or wood fiber, such as North Idaho Energy Logs (six for \$12; northidaho energylogs.com).

Why they're healthier: Waxedcardboard logs emit up to 80 percent less carbon monoxide. They also emit about a third the particulates of real wood logs, and up to 86 percent less creosote, reducing chimney buildup. Wood-fiber logs with no added binders can produce as much as 80 percent fewer hazardous air pollutants and up to 75 percent less carbon monoxide; the material is compressed and heated, fused by wood's natural starches. Both types burn so cleanly, you could cook over them.

What you should know: Thanks to their density, these greener logs generate a lot more heat than real wood. Most 4- or 5-pound logs burn for up to three hours; North Idaho's, at 8 pounds, last as long as 8 hours. -NATALIA KNOCHOWSKI LEESS. ILLUSTRATION: EDWIN FOTHERINGHAM



CAN YOU SPOT THE VENT FAN?

Panasonic

WhisherRecess

When it comes to ENERGY STAR® certified bathroom fans, Panasonic continues to light the way.

Our durable, energy-saving fans are renowned for working silently behind the scenes, but our revolutionary WhisperRecessed[™] model is putting a spotlight on design. WhisperRecessed[™] features a powerful, 80 CFM fan hidden behind an elegant, recessed light and remains the industry's most quiet and efficient ENERGY STAR[®] certified recessed fan/light. The result? Clean air, clean design and a cleaner, healthier indoor environment. At Panasonic, ventilation's never looked so good. Just another way we're engineering a better world for you.

Spot it at us.panasonic.com/ventfans



home solutions shop smarter

Electric knife sharpeners

Blades too dull to slice a tomato? Straighten up your knife edges and make them cut cleanly with the right tool for the job



EdgeSelect® 120

ChefsChoice

You can't cook without a knife, so it's frustrating when the one you love no longer cuts it; if only maintaining a sharp edge were as easy as losing it. Pros keep their knives in shape by regularly honing them, drawing the blade down a butcher's steel at the perfect angle to realign microscopic finger-like serrations along the edge. When hard knocks—like hacking through chicken bones—wear the edge down, pros pull out a whetstone and expertly shave away just enough metal to create a sharp new one. No wonder mere mortals long for an easier fix than steel or stone. Cut through the clutter of options with these tips. –DEBORAH BALDWIN



KNOW YOUR KNIVES

Most knives have Europeanstyle edges beveled on each side at a 20-degree angle: Asian-style knife edges are narrower. And what about bread knives with scalloped edges? Choose a sharpener designed for your knives.

KNOW WHAT YOU NEED

While the most expensive manual "sharpener" on the market can hone—and maintain blades in basically good shape—cheaper, more-aggressive models create sharp but coarse micro-serrations that soon bend, requiring more sharpening. To put a new. long-lasting edge on knives that have been neglected. an electric sharpener is best. We like this model because it uses diamondparticle disks to make 20-degree bevels on an edge so that it curves outward like a Gothic arch: the disks also create microgrooves for more "bite." A second, gentler set of disks hones; a third set polishes for even smoother cutting. With regular honing and polishing, knives generally need the additional step of sharpening just once a year.

KNOW HOW IT WORKS

Electric sharpeners grind metal at high speed and must be handled with care. This model's slots guide the knife—first on one side. then the other—so with practice, getting the right angle is easy. The polishing disks sharpen serrated knives, too. Now if only they could make dinner....

Shown: Chef'sChoice Diamond Hone EdgeSelect Model 120. \$150; wayfair.com

Imagine if all that you needed for the holidays was all at one place. From ornaments to ottomans, everything comes together at IKEA. IKEA-USA.com/celebrate

EKTORP sofa \$499 Cotton, linen, viscose/rayon and polyester removable cover. Imported. Requires assembly. Svanby gray. EKTORP has a 10-year limited warranty. See IKEA store or IKEA-USA.com for details. Valid in US IKEA stores. See IKEA store for country of origin information.

THE WAY

10000

555 666 11



0.0

EKTORP sofa

Demystifying tree buying

You couldn't pick a better year to buy a real Christmas tree—experts say you'll see a wider variety of species and sizes. But which type is right for you? Read on for our guide to five of the best-selling conifers —PAUL HOPE



Blue spruce

SHAPE: Perfectly symmetrical, this tree looks full with few gaps.

NEEDLES: Short blue needles are 1 inch to 1½ inches long with an extremely sharp point at the end.

SCENT: Mild aroma, but if you crush the needles, they produce a resiny smell.

TRIMMINGS: Holds most ornaments; prickly needles make inner-limb decorating a challenge.



oruce White pine

SHAPE: Elegantly conical; needles are grouped in clusters, so you'll see more trunk.

NEEDLES: Long, flexible needles (2½ to 5 inches long) are gentle enough for delicate skin.

SCENT: Minimal fragrance makes it a good choice for sensitive noses.

TRIMMINGS: More of a tinsel-and-lights tree; soft needles can cause ornaments to slip.



Scotch pine

SHAPE: The most popular tree in the U.S., this pine is symmetrical and dense-looking, thanks to full branches.

NEEDLES: Bright green needles grow up to 3 inches long; resists shedding, even if you forget to water it.

SCENT: It has a lasting, pleasant piney aroma.

TRIMMINGS: The branches are sturdy, so bring on the heavy decorations.



Balsam fir

SHAPE: A thin, spire-like top (perfect for a star or an angel) sets this pyramidshaped tree apart.

NEEDLES: Short, long-lasting dark green needles are ³/₄ inch to 1¹/₂ inches long and tend to be flat or blunt at the tip.

SCENT: Its strong evergreen scent can easily fill a room.

TRIMMINGS: Dense limbs can hold weighty ornaments and larger globe or C-bulb lights.



Fraser fir

SHAPE: The branches turn slightly upward, giving it a full, compact appearance.

NEEDLES: Short dark green needles have a silvery underside and are ½ to 1 inch long; resists shedding.

SCENT: Its fresh, mild fragrance is subtler than the balsam's.

TRIMMINGS: Thick branches will hold most decorations; it's easy to reach interior branches, so cords are less visible.



Little ways to save big on your heating bill

Installing a programmable thermostat is only one step in making your home more energy efficient. Here are three additional changes you can make this winter that yield worthwhile returns.

Turn it down, not off: Set your thermostat to turn back 7 to 10 degrees F for eight hours while you're away each day; doing so can shave 10 percent off your yearly bill. The optimal temperature for energy savings is 68 to 70 degrees F. However, if you have cast-iron radiators or radiant floor heating, don't touch the dial—you'll waste more energy (and, ultimately, money) by changing the temperature than if you left it alone.

Pad your nest—in the right places: Beefing up the insulation will help cut heating costs, especially if your house is old and drafty. Focus on the attic first, where heat escapes. (For specifics on how to insulate your attic, go to thisoldhouse.com/novdec2013.) The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that proper insulation can cut as much as 50 percent off your heating bill.

Work with the weather: Boost the efficiency of your boiler by installing an outdoor reset control. On a 40-degree day, your boiler could fire to 180 degrees F every time you need heat, but it needs to reach that temp only when it's zero outside. A weather-sensitive system adjusts the temp based on how cold it actually is. For best results, install the sensor on a north-facing exterior wall away from drying or heating vents, and watch the savings—up to 12 percent—heat up. —KATELIN HILL

Who left the lights on?

Stop wasting. Start saving. with a motion sensor light switch from Lutron

Automatic. Hands-free. Smart.

Turns room lights off after you leave. Turns room lights on as you enter. Senses daylight and only turns lights on when needed.

Affordably priced—about \$20.

Pays for itself-Save up to \$25 a year.* Every year.

Install it yourself—Replace your existing light switch in about 15 minutes.

Works with all light bulbs-even LEDs.

Great for every room: bathrooms, laundry rooms, garages, kids' rooms.

Available from your local home center, lighting showroom, or electrical professional. Visit us at www.ChooseLutron.com.

LUCTION

Maestro® Occupancy Sensing Switch Interior Design Best of Year Award







Savings based on replacing a switch with a Lutron Occupancy or Vacancy sensor. Stated savings are based on the sensor controlling (4) 60W incandescent A19 lamps (rated at 1,000 hours each, costing \$:40 per lamp) and reducing the usage by 54% (from 5 hours to 2.3) by preventing the lights from being left on in unoccupied spaces with an electricity cost of \$:11/kwh. Actual savings may vary based on use and application. Typical residential savings are estimated to be \$10 per year.

An organized office for \$432

White-painted built-ins provide stylish storage from floor to ceiling—plus a bonus work surface





BEFORE: Clutter overwhelmed the small office, leaving little room to work. Dark, mismatched furniture made the space feel dreary. AFTER: Walls lined with fresh white shelves, drawers, and a second desk boost storage space and let the existing vintage desk take center stage. HOME OFFICES CAN BE clutter magnets, with too much stuff and not enough storage space. That's what Ronda Batchelor found in her workspace, where documents, books, and craft supplies had taken over the small room. To restore order, Ronda plotted out wall-to-wall built-ins; but to keep costs down, she knew she'd have to get creative. Rather than build shelves from scratch, Ronda scoured local resale listings and secondhand shops for old TV cabinets, bookshelves, and a desk, which she bought piecemeal. Once she had found enough to fill two adjoining walls, she and husband Les removed the room's baseboards and built a toekick platform out of 2×4s on which to rest the pieces. They fastened the storage units to the wall and bridged gaps with medium-density fiberboard (MDF). Above the built-in desk, Ronda created a paper-sorting station out of MDF and marked-down beadboard, embellishing it with molding and brackets. Finally, she reattached the old baseboards, topped the cabinetry with crown molding, and painted it all white. "It functions so well, and gives my kids room to work too," says Ronda. "Even if I'd spent thousands of dollars, I couldn't be any happier!" - MEGAN BAKER

THE PROJECT TALLY

Built in a used desk, entertainment center, and bookshelves, mounting them on a platform of 2×4s..... \$154

Used MDF to bridge gaps and add additional shelves......\$86

Made a paper-sorting station above the built-in desk, adding brackets and trim......\$33

Reinstalled the original baseboards, and topped the built-ins with crown molding scored at a garage sale......\$20

Finished the look with nickel knobs and bin pulls......\$33

Added a DIY pinboard made with cork, fabric, and an old frame to display notes and pictures......\$35



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 1-800-523-1446.

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.

CLICK & SAVE

ADVAIRsavings.com

- 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.

ADVAIR

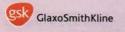
- Call your healthcare provider if breathing problems worsen over time while using ADVAIR. You may need different treatment.
- Get emergency medical care if breathing problems worsen quickly and you use your rescue inhaler medicine, but it does not relieve your breathing problems.
- ADVAIR should be 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, 14DVAIR 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, 14DVAIR 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:

- People with asthma who take long-acting beta₂adrenergic 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 guickly and
- you use your rescue inhaler medicine, but it does not relieve your breathing problems.
- 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.
- 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.

January 2011

 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 thyroid problems
 - have liver problems
- have osteoporosis

have seizures

have diabetes

- · 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 cal 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, shortacting bronchodilator, call your healthcare provider to have one prescribed for you.

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

- vour 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
- ADVAIR DISKUS, DISKUS, FLOVENT, and SEREVENT are registered trademarks of GlaxoSmithKline. NORVIR and KALETRA are registered trademarks of Abbott Laboratories. All rights reserved. Printed in USA. AD5972R0 April

- 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
- swelling of the face, mouth, and tongo - 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: COPD:

- upper respiratory tract infection
- throat irritation
 hoarseness and voice
- changesthrush in the mouth and
- bronchitis
- headache
 muscle and bone pain

throat irritation

changes

throat

. thrush in the mouth and

hoarseness and voice

· viral respiratory infections

April 2013

- cough
- headache
 nausea and vomiting

In children with asthma, infections in the ear, nose, and throat are common. Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that

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

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.advair.com

may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

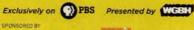
bothers you or that does not go away.

Rebuilding Rebuilding Repeval New Jersey

3210

ALL NEW EPISODES!

Tune in this November and December as TOH continues our coverage of the Jersey Shore recovery, 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.









facebook.com/thisoldhouse #TOHJerseyShore



There's a simple reason why our prices are so much better than the "other" guys...

Hardwood Floors

starting at

Scan, call or go online for a FREE CATALOG http://goo.gl/AL7pm



Highest Quality

Biggest Selection

> Expert Advice

Virginia Mill Works Marble Palace Maple Handscraped



... we cut out the middleman!

That's right! We deal directly with the mills so we can offer the best prices—guaranteed. Better yet, we have hundreds of top quality floors with the industry's longest warranties, and flooring experts that just can't be beat. Haven't you done enough for that middleman over the years?

Drop by your local Lumber Liquidators store and get more floor for less.

Lumber Liquidators flooring has been seen on: House

No bigger, lots brighter

A dim, dated space gets a clean sweep with large new windows and white-painted woodwork by deborah Baldwin + PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GRUEN

EVER WONDER WHAT A contractor chooses for his own cook space? One peek inside the home of Seth Churchill, who runs a design-build firm with his brother, Rafe, suggests that when you've seen it all, you may actually want less. The two men had put in countless kitchens before tackling the one Seth shares with his wife, Kelly, and their two young kids. Tucked at the back of an 1890s cottage, in Lakeville, Connecticut, the space hadn't been updated in decades. With Seth as general contractor, Rafe as designer, and Kelly as co-client, the kitchen could have veered toward luxe. But the home's low-key style turned out to be the design's big idea. "Too often, kitchens are overbuilt," says Rafe. "We wanted one that would follow the spirit of the house." The result: simple Shaker cabinets, whitewashed beadboard walls, and an island cantilevered to allow guests to pull up an extra stool or two.

Now, says Seth, "the family is there all the time." And no wonder. "We see a lot of kitchens," he notes. "It's refreshing to walk into one that is bright, clean, and crisp."

BEFORE Dark finishes and a low ceiling contributed to the downbeat feel. AFTER Painted beadboard, open shelves, large new windows, and a ceiling that angles up into attic space make the footprint feel bigger. The island serves as a social spot but also packs a dishwasher and drawers for pots and utensils. Butcherblock island top: John Boos

ODUCED BY COLETTE SCANLON. STYLING: ANNA MOLVIK



BEFORE

Crown molding marks the height of the ceiling before the redo. The sleek fridge helps ground the period-inspired kitchen in the present. Refrigerator: Jenn-Air. Pendant light: Rejuvenation

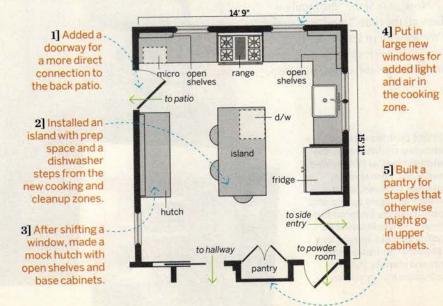
New wood-frame double-pane windows with nearly invisible screens amplify the flow of light and air. Windows: Pella. Sink and faucet: Waterworks



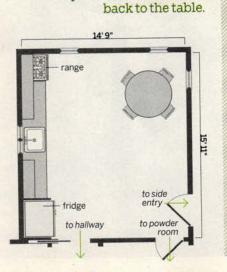


after

The new U-shape layout, with a 3½-by-6-foot island at its center, is all about function—and socializing.



before The one-wall kitchen in the 225-square-foot space turned the cook's



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 106

FLOOR PLANS, IAN WORPOLE



pro advice SETH CHURCHILL, GENERAL CONTRACTOR, SHARON, CONN. 'Prime beaded boards and give them a coat of paint before installing them. That way, if the wood expands and contracts, you won't see raw wood in between them."







Simple brackets pair well with the 3½-inch beadboard, which went up piece by piece.



20 MORE CHARMERS To check out This Old House editors' favorite cottage kitchens, scan this page using your mobile device and the Blippar app, or visit thisoldhouse.com/novdec2013

Windows flanking the range reward prep work with views of the yard. A beadboard hood camouflages the high-powered vent fan. Windows: Pella. Range and range-hood liner: Viking. Paint: Benjamin Moore's Decorator White



Turn your Dream Kitchen into a Reality!

Without compromising Quality, Style or Price!



*Valid in store only with this ad. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Excludes Masco products. Expires Jan. 15, 2014. Discount code A15

Smarter layout, vintage details

An outdated master bath gains function and flair, thanks to a makeover that maximizes space—and style by AMANDA LECKY + PHOTOGRAPHS BY NATHAN KIRKMAN

DEALING WITH THE unfortunate renovation choices of previous owners is a fact of life for many home buyers. When Marc and Sarah Chodera purchased their 1887 Stick-style house, in Chicago, the master bath was a major disappointment. "It was pure 1980s," Sarah says of the hard-edged, white-tiled space with its claustrophobic shower and jetted tub-and no privacy, a problem because the couple would be sharing the bath with their son, now 9, and daughter, 4. To the rescue: designer Aimee Wertepny, who tweaked the layout to reclaim wasted space without moving plumbing lines. The result is a distinctive room with warm cherry cabinets, vintage-style sconces, and earth-tone finishes that echo details found elsewhere in the period house. Just as important are the larger shower, accented with a panel of bronze penny tiles, the claw-foot tub illuminated by a small chandelier, and the separate toilet room. Says Sarah, "Now it's a quiet, serene place to start and end the day."

BEFORE The 1980s bath, with its expanses of white square tile and its clunky spa tub, was out of place in the 1887 house. AFTER Rich wood cabinets, vintage details, and a reconfigured layout make the room as stylish as it is efficient.





• before + after: bath

The generously sized shower features a frameless glass door and a panel of metallic penny-round tiles accented with cove lighting. Tile: Ann Sacks











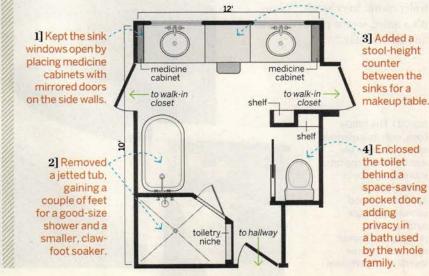
before + after

The fixture locations staved the same in the 120-square-foot bath, but better use of space allowed for a bigger shower and a toilet room.

A claw-foot tub with a wall-mount high-arc spigot is lit by a vintagelook chandelier. Lighting: Visual Comfort

The bronze-finish ceramic sinks, with their serpentine design, add a bit of unexpected pattern and texture. Sink: Kohler







pro advice AIMEE WERTEPNY, DESIGNER, CHICAGO Bath lighting is important not just so that you can see what you're doing but also to create focal points. Be sure to install dimmers to set the mood."

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.

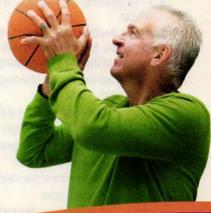
• Do not take ELIQUIS if you currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden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



©2013 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company 432US13BR01723-02-01 09/13

> Eliquis. (apixaban) tablets 5mg

FACTS

(apixaban) tablets

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-thecounter 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.

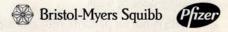
These are not all of the possible side effects of ELIQUIS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

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: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Princeton, New Jersey 08543 USA and Pfizer Inc New York, New York 10017 USA

COUMADIN[®] is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma Company.



PATIENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

© 2013 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company ELIQUIS and the ELIQUIS logo are trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Based on 1289808 / 1298500 / 1295958 December 2012 432US13CBS03602

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.bmspaf.org for more information.

Bristol-Myers Squibb PATIENT ASS

House blueprint

Events, Promotions, Advertiser Product News, etc.



Bare Mirror? Frame it with MirrorMate^{*}!

It's the DIY frame you install in just minutes. Installation is simple: just press the pre-taped frame right onto the mirror—while it's on the wall! Choose from over 65 frame styles and start your mirror makover today. Call **866.304.3372** or visit us at www.mirrormate.com

Energizer. Ultimate Lithium



When you want the world's longest-lasting AA battery in high-tech devices, look to **Energizer. Ultimate Lithium.** It lasts up to 9x longer*, which means up to 9x less waste**. that's positivenergy_{nu}

energizer.com/ultimate

*In digital cameras vs. Energizer, MAX, Results vary by camera. **Use fewer batteries, create less waste. ©2013 Energizer

Energizer.

that's positiv nergy

Angie's List

Reviews you can trust®

Angie's List has reliable reviews on the best local professionals for your home, yard, auto and pet and health care. For plumbers or dentists—and everything in between—more than 1 million members check AngiesList.com before they hire to ensure they get the best work and best price. Join today!

angieslist.com



Angies list. Reviews you can trust.



Waterpik*

Even at low water pressures, Waterpik® showerheads with OptiFLOW® technology can improve water force up to 30%. Upgrade to a more invigorating shower experience and find special offers at: waterpik.com/shower-head





This Old House Wants You! Become a TOH

HomeTeam member.

Did you know that you can influence what's included in *This Old House* magazine and on *thisoldhouse.com*? Simply go to tohhometeam.com to register. As a HomeTeam member, you'll help us improve our

magazine and website, and you'll receive exclusive offers, plus the chance to win This Old House notebooks, T-shirts, gift cards, and more.





Touch 'n Foam

Touch 'n Foam offers a product lineup of foam sealant for the do-it-yourselfer. These products are designed for many uses around the home—indoors and outdoors. For product information, uses,

instructions, and participating hardware stores across the country, please visit www.touch-n-foam.com and learn how to save up to 30% on energy costs.



Colorful holiday hearth

Cozy up a fireside seating area with seasonal trimmings and vintage-look accents from our Wayfair.com shop BY GILLIAN BARTH + PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN GRUEN

NO.

WREATH AND I

ININ

FIND ALL THESE

PRODUCTS

AND EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS at Wayfair.com/ TOHHoliday

NOTHING FEELS warmer than a conversation corner that hugs a woodburning fireplace. With the holidays approaching, architectural designers Rick and Liz O'Leary turned their living room hearth into a cheery focal point that welcomes guests. They had already updated the existing overmantel and built-in bookcase with new molding and panel details to bring classic colonial-era charm to the 1840s farmhouse. A club chair with updated lines and a modern floral fabric anchors the space and mingles with vintage treasures to personalize the overall look. A large silverware chest doubles as a coffee table, and silver trophy cups mix with other collectibles for a one-of-akind shelf display. An antique buffet mirror above the mantel reflects the holiday mood-and greenery.

Read on to learn how you can pull together a bright spot like this one that invites friends to sit and stay awhile.

> handsome log holder A fireproof copper-plated container keeps wood tidy and reflects the fire's glow. \$143

candleholders Shapely candle bases in a distressed paint finish add interest to a shelf even when they're off duty. \$62 for a set of three

get this look for less

mini wreaths

A trio of preserved boxwood rings hung with ribbon decorates a vintage looking glass. \$60 for a set of three

throw pillow A textured red pillow adds lumbar

A textured red pillow adds lumbar support and a pop of rich color. \$52



weathered mirror If a buffet mirror like the antique one at left proves hard to find, try using three square ones instead. This model's distressed wood frame gives it a timeworn look. \$52

orange print chair This updated perch sets a warm tone, and the bird-and-bloom pattern will cheer all year. \$419

maple tray

Keep prep simple by welcoming guests with a holiday spread on a cutting board that lifts out for serving. \$78

trunk table

The homeowners' vintage chest was originally designed to hold silverware. This storage trunk's lid closes flat to hold drinks and tidbits; its roomy interior has ample stowaway space. \$608

> classic mantel Frame a focal-point fire the way the O'Learys did with a traditional white-painted mantel. \$398



garland

Freshly cut greens arrayed on a mantel are a special seasonal

treat. Braid your own with a foundation of magnolia leaves and cedar strung on green floral wire. For more color in the mix, incorporate globe thistle, cedar roses, dried pomegranates, or pinecones.



SEE HOW IT'S DONE

To watch a video of how to make a garland, scan this page with the Blippar app using a smartphone or tablet, or go to

thisoldhouse.com/novdec2013





Powerful showerheads. Be prepared.

Even at low water pressures, Waterpik® showerheads with OptiFLOW® can improve water force up to 30% for a more powerful and invigorating shower experience.

For special offers go to: waterpik.com/shower-head

Inside job

Seven inspiring ways to capitalize on the blank canvas behind shelves by deborah baldwin

BOOKCASES have been quietly blending in with the woodwork for far too long. Fortunately, after years of providing a muted backdrop for artfully arranged objects and book spines, these hardworking built-in and freestanding furniture pieces are no longer doomed to disappear under a coat of plain white. In fact, controlled blasts of color at the back, and maybe on the sides too, can be an ideal way to make collectibles and other display items come alive. Options range from intense jolts of color to soothing neutrals. The only rule is to keep the rest of the space in mind, whether the goal is to create an accent wall, tie together the furnishings, or provide a bit of needed contrast and energy.

Read on for ways to emphasize shelf assets while giving a room a fresh new look.

L mix and match

A grid of uniform cubes becomes a playful display case with the help of outspoken colors in a five-way dialogue. Tangerine complements lime and partners with an equally warm yellow, while two additional variations on green keep things lively. Painting the sides as well as the backs gives the grid extra dimension. Similar to shown: Behr's Sweet Mandarin (orange): Citron (acid green), Dried Palm (pale green), Chickadee (yellow), and Par Four Green (deep green)



paint ideas

2_vibrant bands

Formerly white shelving is now an accent wall with an unexpected twist—easily done with paint samples in three hues of green. The color changes in a random fashion from shelf to shelf, inviting the eye to look up, down, and side to side. Similar to shown, on the right (top to bottom): Valspar's Lush Meadow, Lime Burst, and Jaunty Green

3_mood changer

A vintage-style hutch with glass doors and visible boards develops a little attitude when the back is an upbeat aqua blue. Similar to shown: Benjamin Moore's Tropicana Cabana

4_knockout niche

Recessed bookcases come to the fore with a bright orangey red that saturates each shelf area from back to front. The contrast also enhances the built-in's otherwise gray-green surfaces. Similar to shown: Olympic's Light Sage (built-in) and Candy Corn (shelves)













5_added depth

The dramatic deep red at the back of this built-in makes it and its pale serving pleces pop. Similar to shown: Glidden's Seal Grey (built-in) and Candy Apple (interior)

6_polished presence Salvaged barrister bookcases

Salvaged barrister bookcases with curated contents shake their curio-shop style with a shot of clear blue that cools off the dark-red floor and brick wall. Similar to shown: Benjamin Moore's Spectra Blue

7_natural match

Turquoise pulls together this crisp, sunny space, and using two dominant colors of equal intensity brings balance to the scheme. Framing them with white keeps the effect from being overpowering. Similar to shown: Sherwin-Williams's Straightforward Green and Fountain

Giving a plain box period charm

Craftsman-inspired upgrades, including a proper front porch, transform a dreary one-story into a cozy bungalow BYANNE.STRATION + ILLUSTRATION BY DRAWGATE INC.



WE BOUGHT IT to fix up and flip," says Darla Palmer of her 1940s house, in Astoria, Oregon. But once she and her husband, Ric, started tearing into the place, they got too attached to it to sell. Giving the facade an Arts and Crafts look is the next big project on their list, so we asked architect Karl Anderson, in nearby Salem, to draft a design.

The flush eaves are one of the first things he'd change. "They're not practical in our rainy climate because they can let water drip behind the siding," says Anderson. He would extend the eaves 2 feet and support them with Craftsmanstyle brackets, and also enlarge the entry porch, giving the entrance more weather protection and a roomier feel. Centering the windows boosts symmetry, while board-and-batten siding beneath the gable helps complete the bungalow look. Darla loves the proposed changes. "The style really fits our little neighborhood," she says. "It's just perfect."

WANT A PHOTOSHOP REDO? Send snapshots to redo@thisoldhouse.com



finishing touches

Upgraded entryway details and a palette of earthy hues punch up the facade.

Triple windows with Craftsman styling are the right scale, negating the need for shutters.





window Wood-frame threeover-one windows reinforce the Craftsman theme. Andersen; \$600 each



paint Contrasting shades of green and a pop of wine red accentuate the new architectural details. Behr; \$33 per gallon



SCONCE Seeded glass and a distressed-bronze finish give this lantern-style light a vintage look. Minka; \$78



A rustic-bronze entry set with a single-cylinder dead bolt offers security with style. Weiser; \$154

WHEN SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

YOU DON'T LOOK FOR EXCUSES. YOU LOOK FOR ANSWERS.

More than half of men over 40 have some degree of erectile dysfunction (ED).^{*} If you think you're one of them, talk to your doctor about VIAGRA (*sildenafil citrate*) and see if America's most prescribed ED treatment is right for you. 20 million men already have.

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. 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.

*Data taken from the *Massachusetts Male Aging Study*. Of 1,290 respondents, 52% stated that they had some degree of ED.

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.

The blue diamond tablet shape is a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.



VGU585505-01 ©2013 Pfizer Inc. All rights reserved.

IMPORTANT FACTS



(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:

- · Feeling flushed · Upset stomach
- Less common side effects are:

Headache

· Trouble telling blue and green apart or seeing a blue tinge on things · Eves 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).



Pfizer Helpful Answers*

Need help paying for your Pfizer medicines? Pfizer Helpful Answers® may be able to help, regardless of your insurance situation. Learn how at www.PHAHelps.com

Distributed by: Pfizer Labs

Division of Pfizer Inc., NY, NY 10017

Rx Only ©2013 Pfizer Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. VGIF Rev 6 01/13

Registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

ADVERTISEMENT

This Old

House **Good News for Subscribers** The Tablet Edition is Included!



Getting your tablet edition is easy:

Go to thisoldhouse.com/allaccess

NOW WITH



Tap "Add the tablet edition!"

Enter your account information or address to include the THIS OLD HOUSE tablet edition

Visit thisoldhouse.com/allaccess to begin enjoying the tablet edition today!

Available on iPad[®], Kindle Fire[™], NOOK[™], Google Play[™], Next Issue[®] and on the Windows 8 operating system through the Next Issue[®] and NOOK[™] apps.

iPad is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Kindle and Kindle Fire are trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates. NOOK is a registered trademark of barnesandnoble.com IIc or its affiliates. Google Play is a trademark of Google Inc. Windows 8 is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries. THIS OLD HOUSE is a trademark of This Old House Ventures, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

Upholstered headboard

Build a headboard from fabric and plywood or buy one ready-made and turn in early BYPAULHOPE

A PLUSH headboard doesn't have to be a luxury reserved for fancy hotels. Hanging one in your bedroom adds an element of warmth without the cost that comes with buying an entire bed frame. And building a headboard vourself is easier than you might imagine. You'll use 34-inch plywood as the backing and wrap it in 1-inch-thick foam padding to create soft, rounded edges before attaching the fabric. Then you'll finish it with nailhead trim sold in strips, saving you hours of tapping in individual nails around the perimeter. If you'd rather buy a headboard, expect to pay a premium for a tufted design or upscale fabrics. Whether you build or buy your new headboard. position it on the wall so that the bottom lands below the mattress, giving the impression that it extends all the way to the floor.

> Similar to shown: Premier Prints Houndstooth Fabric, \$7.48 per yard; fabric.com





Find out what tools and materials you'll need to build this project. Just use a tablet or smartphone to scan this page with the Blippar app, or visit **thisoldhouse.com/** novdec2013

BUILD TT

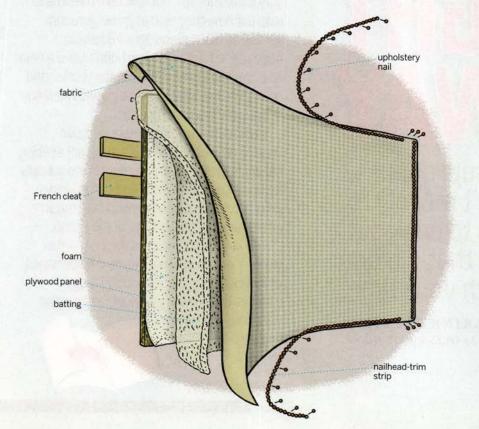
Choose thick batting and dense foam for a finely finished headboard

COST \$84, not including fabric, which can vary widely in price TIME 3 hours **DIFFICULTY** Easy, but aligning the fabric pattern takes patience.

POSITE PAGE) EMILY J FOLLOWILL/COLLINSTOCK. ILLUSTRATION (THIS PAGE) GREGORY NEME

1] Size the materials. Clamp a straightedge to the plywood, and use a circular saw to cut the panel. Lay the panel on the foam, and cut the foam to the size of the panel with a utility knife. If your fabric has a pattern, find its middle and align it with the center of the panel. Then measure and mark the fabric and batting 3 inches wider than the panel on all four sides so that they can wrap over the plywood edge. Use fabric shears to cut the material to size.

2] Upholster the headboard. Using fast-drying adhesive, spray the panel, one side of the foam, and the edges of the foam. Stick the foam to the panel, except along the perimeter. Then fold the edges of the foam down to meet the plywood, creating a gentle curve. Wrap the panel in batting, and use a staple gun with 3/4-inch staples to fasten it to the back, always working from the center out. Lay your fabric facedown and center the panel on it, soft-side down. Pull the excess fabric over the edge of one side and staple it onto the back. Pull the opposite side taut and staple it down. Staple the top and bottom, too. 3] Trim it. Cut the nailhead trim into four strips to line the perimeter. Use a small rubber mallet to nail the first strip down at a corner, and work out from that point; for any strip that doesn't end at an opening for a nail, cut the strip short and fill the gaps with individual nails. 4] Hang it. Using a circular saw with the blade set to 45 degrees, rip a 1×4 in half to make a French cleat. Use 1¹/₄-inch wood screws to fasten the top of the cleat to the back of the headboard, 6 inches from the top. Install the bottom half to the wall, mitered edge out, using 21/2-inch wood screws, making sure to hit at least two studs. Hang the headboard and push your bed against it.



Expect an upcharge for fancy fabrics and cushy padding

\$240

BUYTT

the basic model

Line up three square panels finished in linen, and the overall width fits perfectly with a queen-size bed. hsn.com



the mid-range model

This plush headboard \$306 features a thick layer of foam, and it's wrapped in soft, micro-suede fabric. wayfair.com



\$449

the luxury model This customizable option comes in 16 colors, or you can upgrade to a dozenplus different fabrics. westelm.com



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 106

FROM THE EDITORS OF Money -and-House

> For entrepreneurs, the goal isn't merely to expand—it's to seek out new business that's truly worth your time

> > By ELAINE POFELDT Illustrations by OLIVER MUNDAY

Not all small-business owners intend to stay small forever, but few take the time to map out how they plan to grow. A recent survey by the National Small Business Association found that most don't have a new ad or marketing campaign in the works, and one in five has absolutely no growth strategy in place for the coming year.

Instead, many entrepreneurs move toward new opportunities like a plant seeking sunshine, going where the light is most easily found. Some never slow down to consider whether those jobs are profitable, rewarding, or ultimately efficient uses of their time.

The key is not always to think big at the start—it's to focus. Over the next three pages, you'll learn how to hone your strategy, cultivate the growth you want, and pay for your build-out safely and wisely.

SPECIAL

for Small

Business

Owners



Finance your Growth Wisely

BE RELENTLESS WHEN IT COMES TO PRESERVING YOUR CASH

F YOU GROW FASTER than planned, even a momentary cash crunch can have a lasting effect. "Not stocking enough cash is probably why the majority of firms go out of business," says Bill Klein, president of Consero Global, a financial consulting and outsourcing firm that works with small and midsize companies.

To avoid a cash crunch, take a page from SpareFoot, an online search firm based in Austin that is trying to become the Hotels.com for self-storage space.

Monitor your cash flow maniacally

Part of making your firm attractive to a lender down the road is ensuring that

there aren't wide gaps between money flowing in and out. At SpareFoot, owners check their cash flow statement every day.

Then they do something rather unique: They let every one of the company's 88 employees look at those financial reports too, says CFO Lucas Walters. That way, when it comes to spending decisions, "everyone on the team is rowing in the same direction"—and focused on savings, he says.

John Egan, editor-in-chief of Spare-Foot's website, agrees. "Because we know the financial situation and feel like we have a stake in it, we are careful with how we spend our money," he explains. "If I have to book a plane ticket, I'll look for the best deal. Why wouldn't I?"

2 Keep staffing costs as low as possible

Since labor is one of your biggest expenses, maintaining tight cost controls over your payroll will go a long way toward protecting your cash. Sure, you can always hire full-time staffers now and lay them off down the road should business slow. But that approach can get expensive, says Jaime Klein, president of Inspire Human Resources.

SpareFoot's owners avoided this by relying when they could on temporary workers and by outsourcing early on. When the company did need to add permanent employees, it tried them out for 90 days—without benefits—before committing.

Today, as SpareFoot plans to increase its workforce to 96 by year-end, "we still evaluate every position to determine what solution makes sense, including outsourcing," says Walters, who himself started out as an outsourced CFO for the firm before joining permanently later on.

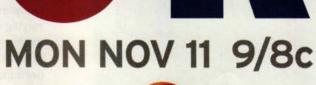
Line up financing before you expand

The time to position yourself for a lowinterest bank loan isn't when you're running out of money and struggling, says Consero Global's Bill Klein. Obtaining credit is a lot like landing new customers. You have to invest time and effort to build a real relationship with potential lenders—and you have to cast a wide net.

SpareFoot's owners did just that. They kept deposits in several local banks for years knowing that they'd eventually need financing for expansion. That day came in 2012, when the firm required a seven-figure loan to pay for two acquisitions (one of which it did not complete). By maintaining relationships with lenders for years, says Walters, "we got the loan on more favorable terms than we could have otherwise."

MEET THE REAL JACK KENNEDY

AM TRICAN



Be more. PBS.

erty Mutua

#pbsJFK pbs.org/JFK

Install a simple coffered ceiling

Apply basic carpentry techniques to primed boards and molding to add a formal, elegant touch to any room by JOHN CASEY + PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN BENYI



FYOU'D LIKE to add dimension and character to a plain room, nothing beats the traditional look of a coffered ceiling, with its grid of bold beams. Constructing coffers on your own may seem daunting, but we'll show you how even the average DIYer can create this hallmark old-house feature. The secret is our lowprofile coffer design, which greatly simplifies the task of working overhead because you're installing flat boards and molding rather than assembling box beams.

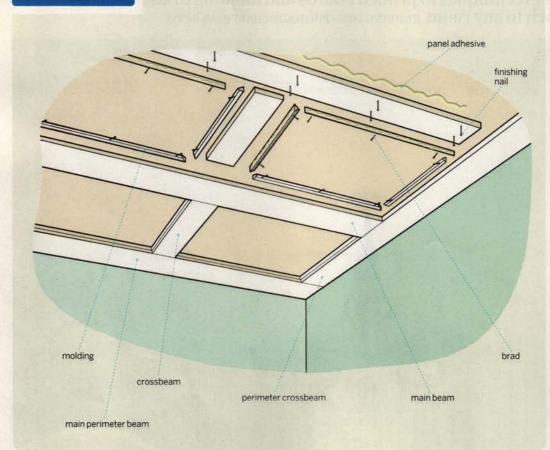
See for yourself in the following pages as *This Old House* contributor Chris Beidel, owner of Pernt, a handmade-furniture company in Brooklyn, New York, walks you through the steps of this ceiling beautification project.

Primed lumber: WindsorONE+1×6 finger-jointed pine, \$1.35 per linear foot; windsorone.com

weekend remodel



SATURDAY Install the beams (Steps 1–5). SUNDAY Install molding, and paint (Step 6).



TOOLS

measuring tape painter's tape stud finder ½-inch drill bit drill/driver miter saw pneumatic nailers (16 gauge and 18 gauge) chalk line with nonstaining chalk rafter square putty knife caulk gun 2½-inch sash brush small paint roller

MATERIALS

1×6 primed finger-jointed pine Get six 16-footers. cove-profile shoe molding panel adhesive 2-inch 16-gauge pneumatic nails 1 inch 18-gauge pneumatic brads wood shims wood glue wood putty latex caulk semigloss paint



LAY OUT THE GRID

A Locate the joists. Work out your design on graph paper, mapping lights and major features of the room. We centered our nine-coffer grid around an existing chandelier. Measure and mark where your "beams" will meet the walls, and use painter's tape to simulate them, to see how the pattern fits the room. Use a stud finder to locate the ceiling joists. Mark both ends of each joist where it meets the sidewalls. Put a ½-inch drill bit in your drill/driver and make test holes near the walls—they'll be covered by the beams—to verify joist locations and make sure you catch their centers.

B] **Make a deadman.** Use scrap lumber and your drill/ driver to make a T-shaped deadman, as shown, ³/₄ inch shorter than the height of your ceiling. It will hold one end of the beam against the ceiling as you work.

Introduct in contractor

2 INSTALL PERIMETER BEAMS

A] **Cut a beam.** Measure for the first main perimeter beam. If your room is square or irregular, start with a perimeter beam that runs perpendicular to the joists, to create a firm connection to the ceiling. (If you need two boards to span the length of your room, join them with a plain scarf joint at a joist.) Cut the beam on your miter saw ¼ inch too long. Dry-fit the piece, then apply panel adhesive to the length of the beam. Butt one end into the corner and hold it there with your deadman, as shown.

B] Nail the beam in place. Tuck the other end into the opposite corner, creating a bow. Begin at one end and work across, firing two 16-gauge pneumatic nails into each joist with your pneumatic nailer. Voids will be covered with molding and caulk. Measure and cut the opposite perimeter beam, and repeat the installation process.

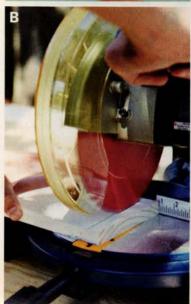
A



TIP The beams need to be tight to the ceiling at the joists, but any gaps that appear between joists will be covered later by the molding.

COMPLETE THE PERIMETER

A Scribe the perimeter crossbeams. Measure between the main perimeter beams at each end of the room. On a miter saw, cut two 1×6s 3 inches too long. Using the deadman, hold a rough-cut board overlapping the main beams at each end, and mark where it crosses a beam at one end, as shown. To mark its back edge, lay the board face to the wall. Use a straightedge to connect the front and back marks, creating a scribe line. Scribe one end of the other beam, too. B Cut along the scribe. At the miter saw, adjust the blade to match the angle of the scribe line, and make the cut. Repeat for the other beam. Now scribe and cut the opposite end of each beam,





leaving them 1/2 inch too long, for a tight fit.

C] **Shim the seam.** Apply adhesive to a perimeter crossbeam and hold one end in place with your deadman. Fit the other end in place. If the joint is not flat, use shims to bring the surfaces of the two beams flush, as shown. Use the nailer to fire two nails at opposite angles every 12 inches along the perimeter crossbeam. Remove excess shim by scoring it with a utility knife and snapping it off.



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/novdec2013

weekend remodel



4 INSTALL THE MAIN BEAMS

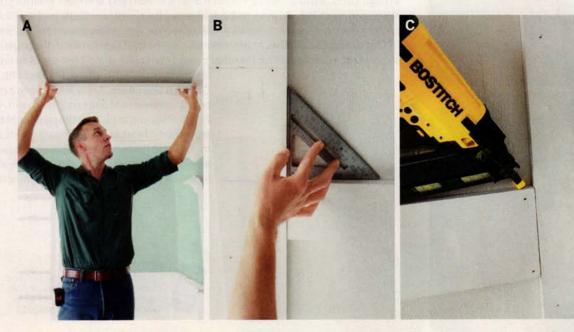
A **Shap a chark line**. With the perimeter installed, you can measure and mark locations for the main beams and crossbeams. Use your marks to snap a line with nonstaining chalk to mark one edge of each beam, as shown; then snap lines over each joist.

B] **Cut the main beams.** Scribe and cut the main beams the same way you did for the perimeter crossbeams in Steps 3A and 3B. Then apply adhesive to a beam and pressure-fit it in place, using your deadman to hold one end. Use shims to make the joints flush as needed, nailing through them and into the ceiling at every joist. Install the other main beam the same way.

S INSTALL THE CROSSBEAMS

A] **Cut the crossbeams.** Cut the board for the first crossbeam 1 to 2 inches too long for the space between two main beams. Then use the scribing technique from Step 3A to cut first one end and then the other, to create a tight fit. Dry-fit the piece in place, as shown. If sized correctly, the crossbeam should fit snugly in place.

B] Mark joint locations on the crossbeams. Use a rafter square to confirm that the joint at each end is at a 90-degree angle, and mark where both edges of the crossbeam meet the main beams. C] Toenail the joints. Pop the piece out, apply adhesive to it, and set it back. Shoot a nail through each corner of the crossbeam into the ceiling. Then, with your nail gun held at about a 45-degree angle to the joint, toenail through the corner of the crossbeam and into the main beam. Toenail the other corners of the crossbeam, too. This will help hold the joints together as the wood expands and contracts with the seasons.



NEW WALLS

WITHOUT TEARING THE OLD ONES DOWN.

Some of the ugliest walls imaginable can be given a new lease on life with a little prep and a fresh coat of KILZ® primer. By blocking stains and unwanted colors, KILZ primer lays the foundation for a successful room transformation. It's like a fresh start for your walls.











Find your priming solution at solutions.kilz.com or scan here



Shop all-American style for your home in the This Old House Shop.

Visit www.wayfair.com/TOH





www.wayfair.com/TOH







weekend remodel







6 TRIM AND FINISH

A **Scribe the molding.** Measure the interior dimensions of all four sides of the first coffer. On your miter saw, cut inside 45-degree angles on each end of your molding, leaving each piece about ¹/₄ inch too long. Then scribe each piece by holding it in place, as shown, and marking the overhanging material.

B] **Finish-cut the molding.** Trim the excess on your miter saw, as shown. Then dry-fit the piece in the coffer. Repeat the process until all the pieces fit snugly in place.

C] **Glue and nail the molding.** Apply wood glue to each piece of molding. (Panel adhesive is thicker than wood glue and could cause the molding to stand off the beams.) If you have gaps between the ceiling and the beam, split the difference when you set the molding in place to hide any variation across the coffer. Use an 18-gauge brad or pin nailer to nail the molding in place. Repeat the process on all the coffers. Apply latex caulk as needed to finish the joints and cover any gaps.

D] **Prep and paint.** Apply wood putty with a putty knife to the nail holes. Sand the putty smooth. Use a 2½-inch sash brush and semigloss paint to finish the molding. Then use a small paint roller to finish the beams.

TOUGH ^{Clear, Repair} Anything TAPE





Gorilla Clear Repair is a heavy-duty, crystal clear tape that will fix, patch, seal, hold, and protect almost any surface with an air-tight, weatherproof hold.

For the Toughest Jobs on Planet Earth*

©2013 The Gorilla Glue Company



LOCK

LIGHT

CUT

Available only at

SUDDENLY, JOBS DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH WHEN YOU HAVE THESE THREE NEW UPGRADES FROM KOBALT. TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THESE TOOLS VISIT LOWES.COM/KOBALTTOOLS.



THE TOH JOJUJU BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS

HIGH HONE 2013 2013



2013

People always ask, What makes a TOH Top 100 product? Tough question. The truth is, there's no single answer that covers everything in the following pages. Many items on our list impressed us for their ingenuity. like the kitchen knife that won't dull (page 69). A good number are terrifically original, like the handmade tile you customize online (page 80). We always look for breakthroughs, of course, like the most efficient water heater (page 74). Other honorees surprised us by how well they work, like the Paint Handy (page 72). Some products are just too cool to pass up, like the fridge that dispenses sparkling water (page 68). In the end, our decision making comes down to another question altogether: Is it useful, and is it relevant for our readers? Now it's your turn to be the judge.



KITCHEN

Chop-chop PRO LINE SERIES 16-CUP FOOD PROCESSOR, BY KITCHENAID

At long last, you can use the food processor to make fresh salsa without ending up with gazpacho. A dicing attachment cuts veggies into strips that are then fed through a slicing disk and deposited in perfect little cubes—an industry first in a noncommercial model. Don't worry: For this price, it also slices and shreds like a champ and can knead dough. \$599; kitchenaid.com

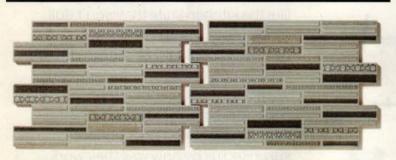




Still or sparkling? FOUR-DOOR REFRIGERATOR WITH AUTOMATIC SPARKLING WATER DISPENSER, BY SAMSUNG

\$

This dreamy four-door fridge is the first to offer carbonated water, compliments of a builtin SodaStream dispenser. Yes, please. \$3,899; samsung.com



Goof-proof grouting MAGNA TILE LUXURY SERIES, BY TILE OF SPAIN

We can all applaud a DIY-friendly design that calls for less grout work and leaves less room for error. The smaller bricks on these puzzle-piece ceramic tiles effectively lay themselves, and when you're done, the grout lines disappear into the pattern. \$3.60 per square foot; magnaceramica.com



Classic canning HERITAGE COLLECTION PINT JAR, BY BALL

Just in time for the 100th anniversary of Ball's Perfect Mason Jar, these blue-tinted pints pay homage to the originals, which were made of glass with impurities that often cast a bluish hue. \$13 for a pack of six; freshpreservingstore.com



Fresh faces CUSTOMIZED IKEA CABINET FRONTS, BY SEMIHANDMADE



If you're thinking about tearing out some IKEA cabinets for a kitchen reno. think twice. These madeto-order doors, panels, and drawer fronts fit perfectly over existing IKEA boxes. The 10 beautiful wood-veneer finishes range from simple oak to exotic zebrawood and cost about a third less than new plywood cabinets with veneered doors. From about \$4,160 for a 16-foot run of cabinets: semihandmadedoors.com

Speedy dishwasher 800 PLUS SERIES DISHWASHER

DISHWASHER SHX7PT55UC, BY BOSCH

We're all for a shorter dishwashing cycle, but not at the expense of cleaning performance. The SPEEDPERFECT mode here boosts the water temperature and spins the spray arm faster to leave plates and glasses sparkling while shaving about 30 minutes off a standard cycle. \$1,299; bosch-home.com



Source of the second se

Advanced streaming ZOE SINGLE-LEVER KITCHEN FAUCET, BY KWC AMERICA



The seamless arching lines of this single-lever. Swiss-made sink buddy elevate the cleanup zone, and the LED light that rings the pull-out-spray spout means you'll never again miss the scudge hiding at the bottom of the stockpot. \$1,800; kwc.us.com



Sharp. Very sharp 8-INCH CHEF'S KNIFE. **BY VMATTER**

Even the best steel knives lose their sharp edge over time. Why not lose the steel instead? Injection-molded from a nonferrous, noncrystalline metal alloy, the blade on this knife is stronger than steel but won't dull. If it does, send it back for a free sharpening. \$247; vmatter.com

Racket reducer **IO BLOWER SYSTEM WITH PK22** RANGE HOOD, BY BEST



Designed to be built into cabinets, this high-end, lowprofile range hood efficiently moves up to 1,100 cubic feet of air per minute at the highest of its four settings. What wooed us is that the sweet spot-600 cfm-purrs at a tolerable 7 sones. From \$1,389 (not including the custom millwork shown): bestrangehoods.com



Easy breezy flooring



free multilayered vinyl sheet and simply cut it to fit. A layer of engineered fiberglass helps the material lie flat, making glue optional. Or you can pin it down with shoe molding. You'll breathe easy knowing that the foam layer is mold and mildew resistant. From \$1 per square foot; tarkett.com

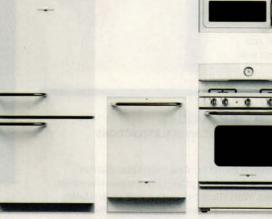
APPS

Dirty Kitchen Cooking Timer ANDROID AND IOS

Drag cartoonish pots in place to simmer on a virtual stove to keep tabs on multiple cooking times. From \$1.99

Fridge Pal

Scan bar codes of the inventory in your fridge. freezer, and pantry, then share it with your family members so that you don't end up with 11 boxes of Froot Loops. \$2.99



Life after stainless ARTISTRY SERIES APPLIANCES, BY GE

This line of starter appliances achieves the unthinkable: It makes black and white cool again. High-gloss finishes. instead of tired stainless steel, and Americana design touches, such as metallic trim and analog clocks, exude a cohesive, polished look at a price that'll leave you with enough cash to redo the cabinets, too. \$2,416 for the fridge. dishwasher, microwave, and range; geappliances.com



Don't get burned EASY-REACH FOUR-SLICE TOASTER OVEN, BY HAMILTON BEACH

Here's a radical idea: a toaster oven that doesn't singe your knuckles every time you use it! Like a rolltop desk, the curved glass door slides up, slipping behind the recessed heating element and leaving plenty of clearance to reach in and grab your finished foodno tongs (or burn cream) necessary. \$50: hamiltonbeach.com



Next Generation of Tough Tools. Learn more at Lowes.com/KobaltTools



Available only at



BATH



Matched set

We believe it's hard to improve the lines of the classic pedestal tub, but the soaker in this collection rises to the challenge; it somehow manages to look both novel and traditional, and the updated curves scale down wonderfully to the vessel sink. From \$542 (sink) and \$4,820 (tub); apaiser.com



Unabashed brass DANIELLA IN NATURAL BRASS, BY WATERMARK



Finishes come and go, but this one was gone for so long that we're qualifying it as totally new. Brass faucets with no protective coating age unevenly, like some relic from a Parisian flea market—without the funky plumbing fittings. We'll never tell where you got it. \$588; watermark-designs.com

Straight flush WELLWORTH DUAL-FLUSH TOILET, BY KOHLER

Which button is which, again? Never mind. We found our answer mounted on the side of the tank of this water-saving toilet: mercifully intuitive nested levers that let you flush either 1.1 or 1.6 gallons of water, as the situation requires. Bonus: The top of your tank remains free to host your shell collection. \$314; kohler.com





LIGHT

Wood-look wonder

PORCELAIN FLOOR TILE, BY STYLESELECTIONS



Cut elbow grease REVEAL POWER SCRUBBER, BY RUBBERMAID

4

If you've ever had the urge to go at your tile with your electric toothbrush, you were on to something. Swap out the regular brush (shown) for a pointy one to get into tight corners and grout lines. (Avoid high-pH cleansers, which can damage grout, in favor of a less acidic product, such as Bon Ami.) \$21; rubbermaid.com



Cage-rattler EDISON CAGED SCONCE IN GUNMETAL, BY RESTORATION HARDWARE

We did a double take at this fetching replica of early-20th-century gas lamps. A hand-distressed finish softens the industrial look, an included bulb mimics the flame and glass shade, and a slim profile keeps the damp-rated fixture from overpowering even the smallest of baths. \$169; rh.com

WITH A POWERFUL 200-LUMEN LIGHT OUTPUT AND FOUR LIGHT SETTINGS, THE HANDS-FREE KOBALT HYPERCOIL LED LIGHT SHINES EXACTLY WHERE YOU NEED IT TO GET THE JOB DONE.



Stretched hex ATOM WALL TILE, BY NEMO

Sometimes, simplicity wins out: Three versions—concave, convex, and flat—and three smoky shades plus plain white invite creative mixing or matching. For those bored by traditional white hexes, here's a chance to go a little crazy, well within the bounds of taste. \$15 per square foot; nemotile.com

Puzzle-solving vanity set

A connecting cabinet lets you pair vanities in three sizes to create any number of configurations, meaning maybe you can squeeze double sinks into a funky floor plan after all. Dovetail joinery and a glossy finish on all four sides of each piece evoke a built-in look without the custom price tag. From \$149; lowes.com



Time for a grout-lift KWIK SEAL GROUT RECOLOR KIT, BY DAP

Here, for the first time in one package, is the three-step cure for icky grout: (1) Strip away the stained top layer of scum and sealant, opening the pores to create a firm grip. (2) Recolor and seal in shiny white or almond. (3) Buff with a chamois. \$29.99; dap.com

Graceful grab bar INVISIA SOAP DISH, BY AMERICAN STANDARD

*

We found more to this fixture than a soap dish that drains well. Anchored at three points, the stainless-steel ring offers a sturdy hand when you need it most, minus the hospital look. \$325: americanstandard.com





Svelte sink material SAPHIRKERAMIK, BY LAUFEN

\$

And you thought fireclay was tough. By adding the mineral corundum to ceramic, Swiss inventors created a new material that's as hard as carbon steel and as white as white can be. The resulting strength means the stuff can, for instance, be formed into sinks with edges just 2 millimeters thick. \$495 (as shown); laufen.com

APPS

Pipe Fitter Tools

Armchair plumbers, rejoice! This info-packed app for fitting and fabricating pipes helps calculate pipe length, angles, and offsets for big plumbing projects. 99 cents

KOBALT

Soap.com

Clever cover-up

BY WATCO MANUFACTURING

UNIVERSAL NUFIT TUB CLOSURE.

Scan the bar codes of your bathroom expendables with your device, and reorder without leaving the house—or the commode. Never buy TP in person again. Free

Farewell to ye olde rubber stopper. Here's a nifty

covers a corroded strainer-body flange. \$39 in

brushed nickel (shown); watcomfg.com

upgrade in the form of a push-pull tub plug that also

Next Generation of Tough Tools. Learn more at Lowes.com/KobaltTools Available only at





TOOLS



Drip-free disk PAINT HANDY PLUS, BY PAINT HANDY

The velvety liner of this Frisbee-like paint tray seems to defy physics, absorbing up to a pint of paint without dribbling a drop—even when the disk is upside down then easily transferring it onto a brush or a small roller. Truly amazing. \$38; painthandy.com



On the level

We wish we'd thought of this ingenious inflatable reinforcedrubber bag. Slip it under heavy appliances, kitchen cabinets, or anything up to 220 pounds—the 6-inch square is only¹/₄ inch thick—and squeeze the bulb to jack them up off the ground while you shim or level them. Fully inflated, it stands 2³/₄ inches tall. Also comes in handy for tippy café tables. \$25; leevalley.com

Screw-saver 18V LXDTO6Z QUICK-SHIFT MODE 3-SPEED IMPACT DRIVER, BY MAKITA

Impact drivers pack a powerful punch but often leave behind a trail of stripped screws and split boards. This one automatically reduces impact force and rotation speed in the final seconds of driving for a level of control you'd otherwise look for in a less powerful drill/driver. \$179 (tool only); makitausa.com



Dexterous driver

DWARA100 RIGHT-ANGLE ATTACHMENT, BY DEWALT

Meet the first rightangle drive attachment designed to stand up to the force of an impact driver, thanks to sturdy steel gears. \$20; dewalt.com

DEWALI

Retro pliers SIDEWINDER PLIERS, BY LEE VALLEY





Prudent blades DRYWALL ACCESS SAWZALL BLADE, BY MILWAUKEE TOOL

These stubby reciprocating-saw blades have specialized blunted teeth designed to cut through drywall up to ⁵% inch thick without slicing through pipes and wires that may be lurking on the other side. \$10; milwaukeetool.com

Ultimate jigsaw CARVEX 420 SERIES JIGSAW, BY FESTOOL

Handling curves doesn't get any easier: The motor adapts its speed to the material; a blower clears dust from your cutline; and LEDs synchronize with the blade, creating the illusion that it's stationary and making it easier to guide. \$350; festooljigsaws.com



INDOORS OR OUTDOORS, UNDER THE CAR, OR AROUND THE HOUSE—NO TASK IS TOO TOUGH FOR THE THREE-IN-ONE POWER OF KOBALT TRIPLE CUT.

Infinitely adjustable bar clamp 2×4 CLAMPS, BY STANLEY

You could collect a quiver of bar clamps or, for a lot less, slap these on any old 2×4 to turn the board into a temporary clamp exactly the size you need. If that's not versatile enough to earn a spot in your toolbox, you can flip the two pieces around to make a spreader. \$20; stanleytools.com



Super-charged sprayer FLEXIO 590 SPRAYER, BY WAGNER SPRAYTECH

This paint gun packs three times the power of the competition, making it the first handheld model with enough oomph to spray super-thick paints or stains that haven't been thinned out first. The power dial has 10 settings to regulate flow, meaning you can finish furniture or paint the side of your house with a single tool. \$149; wagnerspraytech.com

Nifty nailer 23-GAUGE PIN NAILER, BY BOSCH

Anyone who has ever installed a stretch of molding only to discover that the gun has been firing nothing but compressed air for, oh, the past 5 minutes will cherish a nailer that stops when the magazine is empty. Not that we've ever made that mistake. \$159: boschtools.com





Hands-free helper BENCHJAWS, BY ROCKWELL

We couldn't resist a vise

that provides what every DIYer really needs: an extra set of hands in the

workshop. Step on the

anything you can fit in

pedal to clamp down on

its jaws, which extend as far as 16 inches and hold up to 220 pounds. \$130; rockwelltools.com

No more bloody knuckles wobble ratchet, by craftsman



Nothing is so aggravating as trying to turn a bolt in confined quarters—unless the head of your ratchet swivels on its axis, like this one does; it's a long-overdue design fix. The telescoping handle lets the tool slip into tight spots. \$40 for a 30-piece set; craftsman.com



APPS

Metal Detector

Locate steel studs in the wall or lost magnetized screws around the workbench. Free

(A) KOBAH

Handyman Calculator

Calculate materials, track time spent on projects, and save calculations to a notepad. Free

Stud whisperer PROSENSOR 710, BY FRANKLIN SENSORS INC.

No more sweeping back and forth to find both sides of a stud: 13 sensors work simultaneously, illuminating every LED over a stud and taking the guesswork out of finding its center. Works nearly as well on lath-and-plaster as drywall. Best of all? It actually works. \$60; franklinsensors.com

Next Generation of Tough Tools. Learn more at Lowes.com/KobaltTools Available only at

LOWE'S

HOME TECH

Lean, clean window machine WINBOT 7 WINDOW-CLEANING ROBOT, BY ECOVACS ROBOTICS



This spunky bot uses suction to glom on to vertical glass and then methodically dampens, squeegees, and dries it as two grippy caterpillar treads push it along. Works best on large, undivided windows, inside and out. The power cord, which wraps around a suction cup, provides fall protection. \$399; winbot7.com



Hot water for less PRESTIGE CONDENSING POWER DIRECT VENT WATER HEATER, BY RHEEM

This is the most efficient tank-type gas water heater you can buy. Period. The reason: Its long, spiraling flue routes combustion gases around the inside of the tank, allowing the water to capture heat that would otherwise escape. Starting at \$1,399; rheem.com



Magic-touch lock KEVO DEAD BOLT, BY KWIKSET

It looks and installs like a standard dead bolt, but this Bluetooth-enabled lock is the first to employ touch-to-open tech using smartphones as electronic keys. It lights up when your iPhone (4s or later) comes within range, then unlocks when you touch it. Works with the included fob and standard key, too. \$219; kwikset.com/keyo



So long, black plastic; hello, walnut PASSIVE BOOKSHELF SYSTEM, BY GRAIN AUDIO

0

Crafted from FSCcertified walnut and rubbed down with VOC-free oil, these hi-fi speakers are built to blend in, with the look and feel of furniture. We appreciate that the flawless acoustics are just as rich and warm as the aesthetics. \$699 a pair; grainaudio.com

Affordable LED

ECOVPCS



It's hard to focus on longevity and energy savings when an LED bulb costs \$40. But this incandescent look-alike breaks an important price barrier. It sheds a warm, even light that's nice to read by and works with standard dimmers—for less than the cost of a movie ticket. \$10; cree.com

WINBOT



Battery nanny SUMP MINDER, BY WAYNE WATER SYSTEMS

It's easy to forget about that squat pump at the bottom of your basement sump—until the floodwaters start to rise. This complete backup system keeps tabs for you, monitoring power to your main pump as well as the status of a backup pump, its battery, and a float switch. And if anything goes wrong, you'll receive an automated phone call. \$490; waynepumps.com

CRIP KOBALT MAGNUM GRIP LOCKING PLIERS ADJUST AND LOCK IN A SINGLE MOTION—WITH JUST ONE HAND—FOR A QUICK AND SECURE, ROCK-SOLID HOLD.



Propane power player LP5500 PORTABLE GENERATOR, BY GENERAC POWER SYSTEMS

The last thing you want to face when the power goes out is a clogged carburetor. Won't happen with this 5½-kilowatt propane-powered unit. It accepts the same tank as your grill and will keep your fridge, furnace, lights, and a few other creature comforts humming right along for up to 7 hours. \$799; generac.com

Cordless cleaning AIRRAM, BY GTECH

. 0

Oh, the pleasure of vacuuming without constantly snaking the power cord out of the way! How can this sleek little sucker run on a 22-volt rechargeable battery? It deposits debris in a chamber directly above the brush bars, compacting it into tidy bales rather than pulling it through a series of tubes. filters, and bags. At 7.7 pounds, it handles like a dream, \$350: greytechnology.com

Paging George Jetson PHILIPS HUE 1.1 NETWORKED

LIGHTING SYSTEM, BY PHILIPS

Connect the base station to your router, download the free app, and screw the LEDs into standard sockets—then dream up ways to program them. Have the lights switch on when you enter, turn violet when the forecast calls for rain, or flash red when you receive an e-mail from your boss. The future, apparently, has arrived. \$199 for a three-light kit; meethue.com

Fire and water

DW9280 STEAMFORCE IRON, BY ROWENTA

he hurst th

The burst that hisses from this German steam machine measures 210 grams per minute. So? You can use it vertically or horizontally to strip wallpaper, erase carpet dents, remove stickers—or even press your clothes. \$175; rowentausa.com



Safe wiring simplified SMARTLOCKPRO AFCI RECEPTACLE, BY LEVITON

By halting the arcs that cause most residential electrical fires, arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are true lifesavers—but electricians had to install them at the breaker panel. Here's the first AFCI you can install yourself directly at an outlet box. \$29; leviton.com/afci



Cutting-edge cooling XC25 AIR CONDITIONER.

BY LENNOX

With a SEER of 25, this unit's efficiency surpasses all others, thanks largely to its variablecapacity compressor—an industry first for residential AC. The trick? It continually tailors its output to your home's cooling needs. From about \$8,000 installed; lennox.com



APPS

Neat

ANDROID AND IOS

Scan receipts, paint chips, and contractors' cards with your phone, then use this app to search those digital files on Neat's secure cloud (for a fee). Free app Home-Inspection Checklist

Be sure before you buy with this pro inspector's mobile report, which lets you upload photos, rate conditions, and e-mail the completed document. Free

Next Generation of Tough Tools. Learn more at Lowes.com/KobaltTools

Available only at





OUTDOOR LIVING

Fresh fruit, hold the trellis

BRAZELBERRIES RASPBERRY SHORTCAKE RASPBERRY BUSH, BY FALL CREEK FARM & NURSERY



No yard is too small for growing this new dwarf variety. It forms a compact, thornless mound no wider than 3 feet yet produces sweet, full-size summer fruit. Plant bushes in big pots on a sunny patio, or as a groundcover in Zones 5 through 9. \$32 each; brazelberries.com





Weatherproof never looked so stylish. Borrowing the spindled look of the Windsor chair, this sturdy castaluminum bench has room enough to comfortably cradle two and comes in 23 different painted finishes, from antiqued bronze (shown) to a lemony yellow. \$1,000; threecoins.com

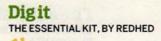
Beastly blower 3X THREE-STAGE POWER SNOW THROWER, BY CUB CADET

A corkscrew-shaped chopper in the front of the scoop punches through snow walls up to 18 inches tall and dices even the iciest snow fed in from the augers, accelerating it through the chute 50 percent faster than the previous model did. \$1,399:

cubcadet.com



FLEX



The heirloom quality of this mix-and-match tool kit caught our eye. The case includes four powder-coated-steel tool heads (two shovels, a rake, and a broom) and five hickory handles with fittings that make switching tasks or handle lengths a snap. \$349; redhedtools.com

Move over, sliced bread SCOTCHBLUE EXTERIOR PAINTER'S TAPE, BY 3M

*

What's better than blue tape? Super flexible *plastic* blue tape. It stands up to wet weather, stretches to follow curves, and, coolest of all, tears with a perfectly straight edge. \$10; scotchblue.com



Hill topper HU800AWD PUSH MOWER, BY HUSQVARNA

Powered push mowers are fine for flat lawns, but throw in the slightest slope and most will struggle up it like a Mustang on ice. This is the first one with a drivetrain that sends power to all four wheels, and it easily handles hills at a nice, constant pace. \$499; husqvarna.com

Clean sweep 36V LITHIUM SWEEPER/VACUUM, BY BLACK & DECKER

0

This cord-free blower handily herds leaves and twigs into tidy piles, then converts to a vacuum, mulching and depositing the debris in the attached bag. \$149; blackanddecker.com

WITH ITS MAGNETIC BASE AND 360-DEGREE PIVOTING HEAD, THERE'S NO SPOT IN YOUR WORKSHOP THAT THE HANDS-FREE KOBALT HYPERCOIL LED LIGHT CAN'T REACH.

Jump-start seedlings PEEL AWAY 4-INCH POT KIT,

BY VELCRO

* 🖉

Encourage healthy roots with these nifty seed starters. Breathable sides let air reach developing roots, causing them to branch out rather than spiral back on themselves. The Velcro seams are easy to pull apart at planting time. Then just wash the pots and store them flat until next spring. \$25 for a tray and a set of three; velcro.com

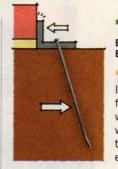


Home run THERMALLY-MODIFIED HARDWOOD DECKING WITH JEM JOINTS, BY THERMORY



An innovative interlocking-end match joint lets you butt deck boards between joists, nearly eliminating the materials waste of cutting them back to the nearest support. This is possible only because the wood is so strong: It's American ash (think Louisville Slugger) thermally treated to resist pests and rot. About \$6 per linear foot; thermoryusa.com





Tight is right EDGETITE PAVER EDGING SPIKES, BY EDGETITE PRODUCTS INC.

Invented by a frustrated paving installer from Illinois, the angled tip on these spikes wedges the shaft tightly against the pavers when they're hammered into place, keeping them from budging. \$60 for a box of 160; edgetite.com

Wicked weeder

WROTTER, BY SNEEBOER MANUFACTURING



We're all for anything that makes hand weeding easier. Simply drive the hand-forged stainless-steel shaft into the soil alongside the stem, and its angled barbs will catch the roots when you pull back, bringing up the entire weed. \$31; sneeboer.com





Crafty concrete CAST WOOD TROUGH, BY NATIVECAST

Made according to a homemade recipe of demolition-site rubble and natural materials, from sand to pine needles, this 8-by-17-inch vessel weighs in at just 10 pounds. Its rustic surface comes from a cast of mushroom board—naturally weathered wood salvaged from Pennsylvania mushroom farms. \$120; nativecast.com



Package pal ELEPHANTRUNK PARCEL DROP, BY ARCHITECTURAL MAILBOXES

Don't fret over the fate of midday deliveries when you're away. Bolt this 3-foot-tall container to any hard surface outside your front door and let your courier drop your parcel into a locked bin—well protected from rainy skies and nosy neighbors. From \$299; architecturalmailboxes.com

APPS

BBQ TankMeter

Hold an Android phone 6 inches from a propane tank, strike it with a quarter, and this app analyzes the acoustics of the reverberation, then displays on the screen how much fuel is left. \$2,46

Mosquito Repellent

Turn up your phone's volume, adjust the frequency so that it's out of the human hearing range, and sit back as ultrasonic sound waves trick mosquitoes into thinking that bats are coming in for the kill. Free

Next Generation of Tough Tools. Learn more at Lowes.com/KobaltTools Available only at





BUILDING PRODUCTS



Tough tape you can't see GORILLA CLEAR REPAIR, BY THE GORILLA GLUE COMPANY

Proud as you may be of clever duct-tape repairs around the house...honestly? They're not attractive. This transparent alternative, made of the same plastic that encases golf balls, virtually disappears once applied. It tears easily and stays put, thanks to a thick acrylic adhesive the maker claims is five times stronger than the silver stuff. \$7; gorillaglue.com

Super thin, super efficient FLATLIGHT, BY PIXI LIGHTING



At just 0.55 inch thick, this innovative LED fixture rests nearly flush with the ceiling and casts a remarkably even and flatteringly warm light from its bezel. It's rated to last 50,000 hours and draws just 15 watts per square foot of fixture. Choose from three sizes: 1 by 1, 1 by 2, and 2 by 2. From \$80; pixi-lighting.com





Rock your posts THE COLUMN COLLECTION FROM PLY GEM STONE.



Interlocking squares of foam-backed, cast concrete slip over 5×5 wood posts, turning them into elegant, ledgestone-look pillars for fencing or stand-alone columns for lamps or mailboxes. No footing or adhesive is required. \$900 for a 13-piece kit for one column. kroy.plygem.com



Diamonds in the roof SIENNA LIFETIME DESIGNER SHINGLES, BY GAF

Echoing the look of vintage hexagonal roofing, which seemed to have gone the way of the dodo, these asphalt shingles are engineered to withstand 130-mph winds. Lifetime warranty against manufacturing defects. About \$177 per square; gaf.com

Wonder wood ACCOYA ALDER, BY ACCSYS TECHNOLOGIES

Acetylation makes wood harder, more stable, and more rot resistant than its untreated counterparts, without any toxic chemicals. Nice, but available only in bland pine. We were happy to discover acetylated alder, a hardwood that can be stained to look just like its tropical cousins but is sustainably harvested. \$8 per board foot; accoya.com





Primed and ready PATCH PLUS PRIMER SPACKLING, BY 3M

Spackling must be primed! Unless, that is, you use this new water-based patching compound. Proprietary pigments and polymers allow it to be top-coated without affecting paint sheen, adhesion, or opacity. And microscopic glass and ceramic spheres prevent cracking or shrinking as it dries. \$6 for an 8-ounce tub; 3MDIY.com

SLICE KOBALT TRIPLE CUT SHEARS SLICE CLEANLY AND PRECISELY THROUGH EVEN THE TOUGHEST MATERIALS, LIKE WEATHER-STRIPPING, HOSES, AND BASEBOARD MOULDING.

Black-tie affair ORNAMENTAL WOOD TIES, BY OZCO BUILDING PRODUCTS

Whether it's a simple mailbox post or an intricate roof truss, these hefty steel connectors securely join thick timbers and turn those joints into things of beauty. Structural screws hold the hot-dipgalvanized, powder-coated pieces in place. The hex-head "bolts" are decorative caps. 6×6 Laredo Sunset postbase kit (shown) \$50; ozcoproducts.com





No-foam glue PROBOND ADVANCED, BY ELMER'S PRODUCTS INC.

This versatile acrylic adhesive has the strength of a polyurethane glue with none of the messy foaming. It shines when gluing porous to nonporous materials (concrete to metal, wood to glass) but will also bind porous materials. Even better, it cleans up with water. \$11 for 8 ounces; elmers.com

Fire-beating buffer classic max open-cell foam, by icynene

There's no better insulation for attics than spray foam, but code requires it to be covered by an ignition barrier—drywall—as protection from fire. Not this one. Its fire retardants should let you skip the expense of the barrier after you insulate. Rated at R-3.7 per inch. About \$3.40 per square foot; icynene.com



<text>

Like a duck's back

NEVERWET LIQUID REPELLING TREATMENT, BY RUST-OLEUM

t 🛄 uid rolls right d

DAP

51-08

Liquid rolls right off any surface sprayed with this two-part superhydrophobic silicone-derived coating, leaving it impeccably, impossibly dry. Use the treatment to keep water and mud off masonry, lawn mowers, boots, and plenty of things we haven't even thought of yet. It leaves a milky film that can wear off, so it's not recommended for windows, fabric, or floors. \$20; rustoleum.com

Sun-powered skylight

NO-LEAK SOLAR POWERED "FRESH AIR" SKYLIGHT, BY VELUX

s 📕

It closes automatically when it rains and obediently opens and shuts on command via remote control. The skylight draws all its power from a built-in solar panel, so you don't need to hire an electrician to help with the installation. Both the unit and its optional motorized blinds are eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit. Starting at \$1,118; veluxusa.com



KOBALT

This one's a keeper DRAFTSTOP 812 STOP N' STORE FOAM. BY DAP

Used to be that once you pulled the trigger on a can of foam, the deal was to use it—all of it—or lose it. This low-pressure formulation won't harden up right away, though, so you can plug drafty holes at your leisure for up to 30 days. \$16 for a 16-ounce can; dapspecline.com

APPS

Nextdoor ANDROID AND IOS

Use this private networking app to coordinate tool shares, fence builds, and other collaborations with friendly faces on your block. Free

iRecycle ANDROID AND IOS

Take the doubt out of throwing out paint, construction debris, and hazardous waste with this GPS-based app. It shows you the quickest route from job site to eco-friendly disposal spot in just a few taps. Free

Next Generation of Tough Tools. Learn more at Lowes.com/KobaltTools







FINISHING TOUCHES



DIY tile design CUERDA SECA, BY FIRECLAY TILE

*

In a rare blend of old-world craftsmanship and digital-era customization, you can choose from over 150 templates, mostly Mexican and Moroccan, and have 4- or 6-inch squares handmade to order in up to six colors you specify. From \$16 per tile; fireclaytile.com

Map it out MAP PAPER, BY SWAG PAPER

Nothing adds a historic touch like a vintage map, all the better if it's printed on removable wallpaper. Ten antique maps, from Chicago to Paris to the entire world, come in panels up to 12½ feet wide. From \$35; swagpaper.com





Open—and close—sesame PERFECTTILT RF, BY NORMAN WINDOW FASHIONS

* 🖉 🕏

No window is hard to reach with this shutter system. Remote-control louvers adjust from 65 feet away, or you can program the remote to open and shut them on a schedule. And no need to call an electrician: They run on rechargeable batteries. From \$255; normanshutters.com

Full-metal top coat MOLTEN METALLICS, BY BENJAMIN MOORE

These rich metallic paints boast the most authentic hammered texture we've seen yet. Brush any of the six intense colors onto plaster, wood, or drywall for a textured metal look with a slick, glossy shine—great for creating an accent piece with maximum impact. \$23 per quart; benjaminmoore.com



Perfect patterns SHAPE TAPE, BY FROGTAPE

To paint a decorative border, you could spend hours drawing your pattern and cutting strips of tape to mark it off, or, well, you could buy a roll of this crafty stuff in a precut chevron, scallop, or wave. \$15 for a roll; frogtape.com



Salvaged beauty RECLAIMED PINE BOOKCASE,

BY WISTERIA

Made of recycled pine and iron and modeled after early-20th-century file cabinets, this splurge-worthy piece isn't just a pretty facade—it's also a marvel of storage. Four slim drawers are perfect for silverware, and the lower ones are large enough to stash linens and such. \$1,999; wisteria.com

Next Generation of Tough Tools.

Tile with a twist

DANDELION TILE, BY CLAESSON KOIVISTO RUNE FOR MARRAKECH DESIGN

We love that this cleverly conceived tile lets you play designer. Just rotate the orientation of the encaustic cement hexagons and you get a whole new look, with a bewildering permutation of patterns—even before factoring in the 13 color schemes. \$19 per square foot; contemporarytiles.se

Anything but cookie-cutter

BY ROYAL DESIGN STUDIO

We never expected to see a wall stencil made to mimic woven ikat textile, what with its blurred-edge patterns, but this one trades crisp outlines for imperfect ones to produce an organic effect. \$46 for small and \$54 for large; royaldesignstudio.com

Mid-century for the masses STOCKHOLM CHAIR, BY IKEA



If you've ever passed up a \$500 vintage Hans Wegner dining chair, your prudence just paid off. This one boasts a similar look, with a curved back, sloped armrests, and a warm walnut finish you'd be hard-pressed to find a prettier piece for less. \$139; ikea.com



New old-fashioned TURNING PENDANT, BY WEST ELM

With its turned-ash wood base, this otherwise contemporary-looking fixture offers a nod to homespun craftsmanship, a rarity in drumshade lights. \$149; westelm.com





Straight and narrow

Chad Wooters tried every search term he could think of to find a widget that would iron out a crinkled mini-blind slat. When the results came back with zilch, he designed and produced this crimping tool for 1-inch metal slats. Works like a charm. \$13; miniblindrx.com

APPS

Snap a photo of a room on your smartphone and use this app to annotate the picture with measurements—a superpower for anyone shopping for furnishings to fit a space. Free

A river ran over it

ARCHITECTURAL MILLWORK, BY MAINE HERITAGE TIMBER

Tight grain gives away this wood's century-old provenance, and time spent at the bottom of the Penobscot River system explains its unique pickled patina. Chemical-free finishing—courtesy of the millworkers who turn it into wainscoting, trim, and flooring—makes it even classier. From \$3 per square foot for wainscoting (shown); maineheritagetimber.com

Color 911

Cherry-pick hues from photos, paint chips, or built-in themes created by a color consultant to customize palettes you can duplicate, share, e-mail, or show to the person at the paint counter. \$4.99

Learn more at Lowes.com/KobaltTools

Available only at



signature details The living room's original fir paneling and colonnades were restored and refinished. OPPOSITE: Craftsman features include a tile-front clock, next to the house's green-building award, and period-style light fixtures.

ICH, CHARDON, ICH, CHARDON, ICH, CHARDON, ICH, CHARDON, CHARDON, CHARDON, CHARDON, CHARDON, CHARDON, CHARDON, C



Energy-efficient updates, nontoxic finishes, and a save-what-you-can mind-set bring back the glow to a once neglected bungalow

by Fred Albert

photographs by Ken Gutmaker produced by Colette Scanlon styling by Sunday Hendrickson

Located half a block from the

beach on a scenic stretch of Santa Cruz coastline, the 1907 Craftsman bungalow seemed to have plenty going for it. Dusky expanses of old-growth fir wrapped the walls and windows in a warm embrace that extended from the paneled entry hall to the built-in buffet in the dining room. The recessed, column-lined porch offered a shady respite from the California sun, which flooded the living room through a generous bay window crowned with a leaded-glass transom.

For Jim and Joanne Lewis, who had dreamed about retiring by the ocean, it was exactly the kind of house they wanted. And yet the first time Jim saw the place, he couldn't wait to leave. All that period detail was upstaged by a Technicolor mix of orange shag carpeting and primary-colored walls that seemed better suited to a Mexican cantina than a 100-year-old Craftsman. Cloistered rooms were connected by narrow openings and door-lined halls, making the 1,500-square-foot house feel smaller than it actually was. And the worn knoband-tube wiring and aging furnace seemed like disasters waiting to happen.

"The first time I looked at it I thought, There's no way I can live in this," recalls Jim, a retired physician. But his late wife, Joanne, and her son, Roger Knapp-both real-estate agents-saw potential in the beleaguered bungalow. "They weren't quite as scared as I was," Jim says. "They could see what possibilities were there and what it would take to make it into a really nice home."

Joanne had always harbored a love for older houses, and seized the opportunity to return this one to its former glory-in a sustainable manner. "She was interested in living a low-impact lifestyle," says Roger. "Usually that doesn't go with these older homes, but it's not mutually exclusive if you take a thoughtful approach."

To learn more about green building and the options available to them, the Lewises met with Build It Green, a California nonprofit promoting resource-efficient housing. They also conferred with the City of Santa Cruz's building department, an early adopter of now-mandatory green construction requirements. On Roger's recommendation, they hired Brian Spector, a Santa Cruz architect experienced in sustainable design.

"They were going for a rich, warm, lived-in feel for the renovation," says Spector. "The existing house had these elements, but they were covered up over the years



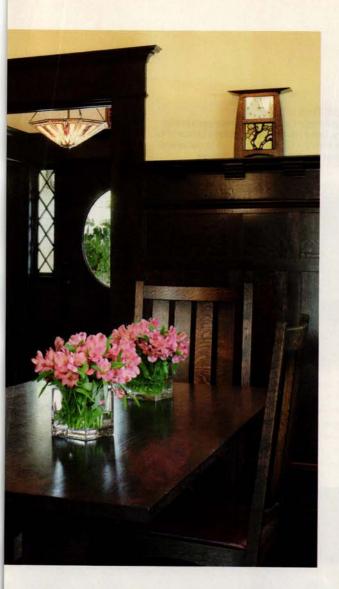
features an original built-in buffet with leaded-glass cabinet doors.

floor plan

The 1,500-square-foot house kept its metal roof but got a new paint job. The kitchen grew by taking over the butler's pantry and back hall. The master bath gained a few feet when a doorway was relocated; a passageway between the dining room and kitchen was centered. French doors in back usher in more light.

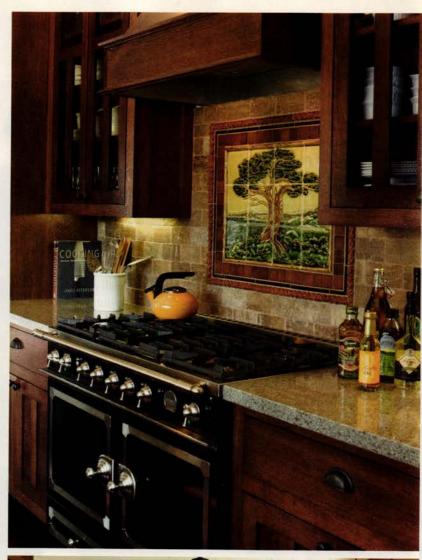


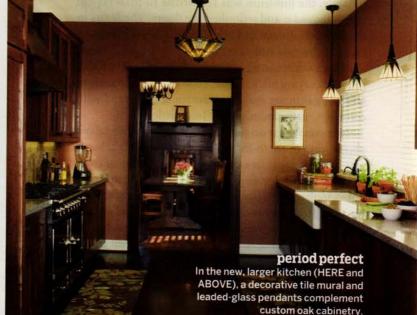




with age and wear." Since the home's basic layout was sound, Spector simply smoothed out some of the wrinkles. He consolidated a pair of convoluted hallways into a single passageway, borrowing a few feet to expand the master bath, which shed its faux-marble laminate for classic black-and-white tile and a soaking tub. The dropdown attic ladder was replaced with a proper staircase, making it easier for the couple to use the area for storage—which meant they didn't have to give up precious living space for more closets. They even managed to tuck a washer and dryer under the stairs.

The architect combined the existing kitchen with a butler's pantry and a back hall to create a generous new room, which Spector calls the heart of the renovation, marrying Craftsman looks—paneled cabinets, leadedglass light fixtures—with contemporary innovations, such as LED lighting and simulated-stone countertops made from 75 percent recycled content. The vintagestyle La Cornue range was more of an aesthetic





indulgence-Jim just loved the way it looked.

French doors along the back wall brighten the space and offer a strong visual link to the outdoors and the new deck, made of redwood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). A narrow corner doorway to the dining room was replaced with a generous central opening fitted with pocket doors, allowing the cook to converse with guests while opening up views through the house.

Committed to reusing as many of the home's existing elements as possible, contractors Taylor Darling and Spencer Keenan, of Santa Cruz Green Builders, salvaged doors and woodwork and restored the existing 1907 hardware. When new lumber was needed, they purchased only FSC-certified wood and specified plywood containing little or no formaldehyde. All the drywall was made in the U.S. and free of volatile organic compounds, while paints were either low in VOCs or devoid of them.

Construction challenge number one was to bring the aging structure up to California's strict earthquake building codes, with anchor bolts, hold-downs, and shear walls added to protect the house against damage. Since half the exterior walls needed to be opened up to accommodate these changes, the crew seized the opportunity to add spray-foam insulation to the wall cavities, and to the underside of the floors as a moisture barrier. The remaining walls were left uninsulated to preserve the original lath-and-plaster construction, but were treated to a fresh skim coat.

Pulling up the wall-to-wall carpet in the living and dining rooms, the Lewises were surprised to find vintage linoleum area rugs affixed to the fir floors. Unfortunately, the linoleum was too brittle to preserve, so they removed it and refinished the floors. The floors in the master bedroom had been covered in oak; to match them, the second bedroom, the hallway between them, and the new kitchen all got new oak flooring. The living room's decaying brick fireplace was rejuvenated with an efficient gas insert and a new surround, accented with colorful Craftsman-inspired Motawi tiles.

Not everything original could be saved. "We talked about ways to try to fix the old wood windows, but it was just not going to work," says Jim. "Some of them were off-kilter, they were leaky and inefficient, and they didn't look nice." They were replaced with low-e, double-paned aluminum-clad wood windows that were in the period style but more energy efficient. Initially, the Lewises were going to dress the windows with heavy drapes; but after pricing things out, Joanne realized they could install interior shutters for about a third of the cost. The shutters offer excellent light and air control, Jim says, and fit the home's Craftsman character.

Most of the house's period fixtures are fitted with



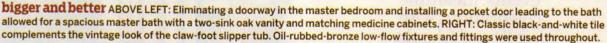
SHOP THIS STYLE

To find items similar to the ones seen in this story, use a tablet or smartphone to scan this page with the Blippar app, or go to our online shop at **wayfair.com/thisoldhouse**



light and bright The master bedroom has the original coved plaster ceiling and a bay window to let the sun in; an antique French chest provides extra storage.





energy-saving LED lightbulbs, and the new kitchen is lit with LED recessed lights. "We prefer them because they last longer, they don't have mercury in them, they're fully dimmable, and they come on instantly," says Darling. He figures that each light costs upwards of \$20 more than a comparable incandescent fixture but could return six times that amount in savings, given California's high electric rates.

Half of the spacious workshop/garage out back was converted to an art studio, which was then topped with a 3.088-kilowatt solar array. "That seemed to be the most appropriate place to do it," says Spector. "The building isn't visible from the curb, so it preserved the character of the main residence." A 660-gallon catch basin collects runoff from the studio's roof; the water is used to irrigate flower beds and an organic garden that replaced the concrete patio.

Darling estimates that all the green features probably

added about 15 percent to the final tab. "For new construction, it usually adds 5 to 10 percent," he says. "But the payoff is so great, it's an excellent investment." Jim's electric bill, with all the LED lighting and the effect of the solar panels, averages about \$12 a month.

The Lewises' efforts did not go unnoticed. After the house was finished, it received a Green Building Award from the City of Santa Cruz. Although the couple had renovated other homes, Jim says his wife really poured her heart into this project. Her devotion is evident in the soothing colors, the pitch-perfect blend of old and new woods, and the comfortable mix of family treasures and recent acquisitions.

"Joanne was a visionary," Jim says of his wife, who succumbed to cancer last year. "She loved old houses particularly old Craftsman houses. Eventually, it rubbed off on me," he says, adding that he plans to stay in this one. "We remodeled it together—we made it ours."

DINING ROOM DRAMA

ge

000-

It's designed to set the stage for special events: mealtime celebrations with family and friends. So why not create a worthy backdrop for the festivities? The bold paint colors we've chosen on the following pages are guaranteed to transform any dining room from okay to extraordinary

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN





TRUFFLE BROWN

The cocooning color on these faux-paneled walls helps harmonize the varied wood tones throughout the room. But that's only part of the story. Extending the deep shade to the crown and panel moldings and to the windows and their trim gives the space a seamless lookand the airy white ceiling a lift.



For a similar look, try: GLIDDEN Wild Truffle



MIDNIGHT SKY

This enveloping blue, tinged with green and black, sets off classic white-painted crown molding and chair rail beautifully. Eclectic furnishings in shades of linen and espresso brown help keep the sophisticated shade from looking too formal.

> For a similar look, try: VALSPAR Azure Jazz

SPICYORANGE

This caramelized shade—as warm as red but less expected—is a great update for a traditional dining set but works equally well with more modern, clean-lined pieces. Pale flooring and plenty of natural light help keep the high-octane hue from feeling too intense.







APPLE GREEN

This crisp, energetic color can highlight ornate stained woodwork and give a formal space a fresh look. When it reaches all the way to a high ceiling, as it does here, it can also balance out dark flooring and furniture while bringing focus to a light-colored ceiling and an eye-catching chandelier.

> For a similar look, try: BENJAMIN MOORE Candy Green

CITRUS YELLOW

This daring hue could look less than nuanced, but not when it mediates between graphic black and white, as it does in this room. Here, it gives the white-painted elements (table, floor, ceiling) and the dark ones (chairs, decoys, picture frames) a welcoming, natural warmth.

For a similar look, try: SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Lemon Twist



MORE COLOR OPTIONS Unlock five more paint picks in our tablet edition. To get yours, scan this page using your device and the Blippar app, or go to thisoldhouse.com/tablet



super-fast upkeep shortcuts, and easy to get your home ready for guests

With the holidays just around the corner, that means uh-oh!—company's coming. If your home is looking a little rough around the edges, don't despair. We've got tips to help you spiff up the spots visitors are most likely to focus on, from the front stoop to the dining table

By Wendy Manwarren Generes • Photographs by John Gruen • Styling by Ingrid Leess



1. Perk up front-door containers

Replant entry pots with winter-hardy specimens, such as dwarf evergreens or boxwood (shown here), and ring the base with English ivy and a few faux berries for a festive shot of color. To give plants the best chance of surviving the winter, pot them in a container at least 4 inches taller and wider than the root ball. You can transplant them to your yard from spring until fall, says *This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook.

2. Add shine to dull wood floors

No time to get those lackluster boards screened and polyed before company comes? Put down a refresher. Look for a waterborne formula that will fill in tiny scratches and add shine but won't interfere with having your floors refinished in the future. Flooring pro Charles Peterson recommends Bona's Pro Series Hardwood Floor Refresher (\$25; sears.com), which goes on with a microfiber mop, dries in an hour, and keeps floors gleaming for a couple of months.

3. Quiet a creaky bed frame

Don't let overnight guests toss and turn on a bed that squeaks. Remove the mattress and box spring and tighten any loose nuts, bolts, and screws, then lubricate metal joints with WD-40. Sprinkle talcum, baby, or graphite powder between the joints of a wood frame to help reduce friction.

4. Sweeten a stinky disposer

Rather than blades, garbage disposers have a ring of tooth-like shredders that tear into food particles. To keep this appliance working through big holiday meals, give the shredders a good cleaning beforehand. Combat odor-causing bacteria with cubes of frozen white vinegar. Toss a few down the drain, and, with the cold tap turned on, run the disposer for about a minute to remove built-up food and grease residue. Mix in a few citrus peels to leave the disposer smelling fresh.

5. Get those pictures up on the wall—finally

If you've been procrastinating about hanging artwork and family photos, try this trick to take the guesswork out of nail placement for picture backs with two D-rings. Place a piece of masking or painter's tape across the back, marking the rings' placement with a pen. Peel off the tape and place on the wall, using a level to make sure the marks are straight. Hammer picture hooks right through the tape, then peel it off and hang your frame.

6. Update a chandelier

Here's an instant improvement: Replace a cheap-looking hanging chain with a jute-wrapped pole that hides the cord—and looks a lot less fussy than a cover sleeve of bunched fabric. Available in three lengths, from \$39; ballarddesigns.com

7. Dress up a plain mirror

Adding a nice wood-finish frame to a plain plate-glass mirror or medicinecabinet front instantly makes a guest bath feel more furnished. Streamline the job with a made-to-measure product that adheres directly to the glass with super-strong adhesive strips. MirrorMate, from \$107; mirrormate.com

8. Remove old stains from carpet

A set-in stain isn't always a lost cause. Attack the spot with a powerful homemade stain remover: Mix 1 teaspoon OxiClean with 2 cups



water in a spray bottle and spritz the stain liberally. Cover with a damp white rag, then apply an iron on MEDIUM-LOW heat and let the steam do the work. Check frequently to see if the stain is transferring to the rag; repeat if necessary and rinse with warm water. No luck? See how to patch the carpet at thisoldhouse .com/novdec2013.

9. Add a doorbell

No time to fish wires? A mechanicaltwist model mounts directly to the door or casing and adds a welcoming dose of old-house charm. Installing it is easy. Working from outside, drill a hole through the door or casing material and make sure the metal rod is long enough to connect with the bell inside. If the shaft is too short, pick up a square bar at a hardware store and cut it to length. Woodworth antiqued-brass twist doorbell, \$70; signaturehardware.com

10. Stop a leaking showerhead

A showerhead that continues to drip even after the water is off likely indicates a dry or damaged washer. To replace it, turn the showerhead counterclockwise to remove it from the arm. Just inside the nozzle, there should be a small plastic or rubber washer you can swap out. Rewrap the arm tightly with plumber's threadseal tape, working clockwise, covering all the threads to help tighten the fittings. Replace the showerhead.

11. Fix a tear in a vinyl or linoleum floor

Grab a hair dryer or a heat gun to repair a gouge in resilient flooring. Use it to warm the area around the rip, then stretch and smooth the material back into place. Squeeze a thin, even layer of acrylic glue underneath the tear (and on the subfloor, if visible). Weight it down so that it lies flat; let dry. Any remaining gaps can be filled with layers of nail polish in a color close to that of the flooring, say the Vinyl Ladies, an interior restoration and repair company. The polish will seep into and bond with the flooring.

12. Neutralize pet odors

When you bring home a Fido or a Fluffy, you take the good with the bad (good: loyalty and affection; bad: eau de fur ball). Before guests arrive, nix any odors with plain old baking soda. Liberally sprinkle it over upholstered furniture and rugs and leave overnight to absorb smells before vacuuming. Use the



upholstery and crevice tools on the cushions to get deep into nooks and crannies. If you're cleaning a litter box, put a layer of baking soda in the bottom before refilling with litter for extra defense against stink.

13. Light up your entry steps

Welcome guests with the warm glow of outdoor candlelight that won't blow out in the wind. Pepper the front steps or porch with glass-paneled lanterns in a mix of sizes and fill them with outdoor-rated batteryoperated LED candles. Opt for ones with built-in timers so that they'll come on and turn off automatically for an even more low-effort display. Red brushed-metal lanterns, \$15-\$30, and outdoor LED candles, \$14-\$20; pier1.com

14. Rid the tub of rust

Pick up a pumice stick—the kind with a handle designed for cleaning toilet bowls—to remove those rusty stains without scratching your porcelain. Soak the pumice stone in warm water for a minute, then start scrubbing gently. To prevent scratches to the porcelain, keep the surface and the stone wet; also, steer clear of metal fittings that can be damaged. Pumie toilet-bowl-ring remover, \$14; amazon.com

15. Set an easy-care fire

Sure, roaring flames may set a cozy scene, but having to excuse yourself to tend the fire can interrupt the festivities. Instead of burning logs, add a low-maintenance glow to your fireplace with a large-scale candelabra. Use dripless pillars, and you won't be stuck cleaning up spilled wax when the party's over. Nine-candle candelabra, \$64; homedecorators.com



16. Spruce up a worn threshold

Make your entrance look like new by painting over scuff marks. Apply two coats of latex enamel formulated for exterior floors, which resists scuffing, fading, cracking, peeling, and mildew. Behr Premium Porch & Patio Floor Paint, \$28 per gallon; homedepot.com



17. Add reading lights

To prep for overnight guests who like to read in bed, hang decorative plug-in pendants—no hard-wiring required. Simply swag the cord up and over a ceiling-mounted hook to provide light that won't eat up precious nightstand space. Plug-in light adapter with 10-inch drum pendant, \$79; ballarddesigns.com

18. Fix a balky sideboard drawer

A bar of soap can unstick a drawer that has wood guide blocks instead of glides. Remove the drawer and rub plain soap along the guides on the drawer's bottom and on the center and side guide blocks. If that doesn't get the drawer moving, use 80- to 100-grit paper to lightly sand down the bottom edges, testing often, until the drawer glides easily again.

19. Clean up the cooktop

Getting rid of scorch marks on stainless steel is tough. Surprisingly, an excellent eraser can be found at your local auto-body-supply shop. Fine abrasive hand pads meant for prepping vehicles for paint can actually remove those marks from your range. But it's an off-label use, so proceed with caution, working gently with the finish's grain. 3M Scotch-Brite general purpose hand pad, \$2; at auto-body-supply shops

20. Tighten a loose interior doorknob

Lovely old glass or brass knobs often loosen over time from constant use. To tighten them, remove the setscrews and pull off the knob. If the spindle's ridges show signs of extreme wear, wrap a piece of plumber's thread-seal tape around it before replacing it to tighten it up. Brush Loctite around the setscrews' threads to help hold them in place, and screw back in tightly. Loctite Threadlocker, \$6.50, and plumber's thread-seal tape, \$1.18; at home centers

21. Skip making house-key copies

Hiding the spare set under a rock or having multiples floating around leaves your house vulnerable to thieves. Replace your lockset with an electronic touch pad and hand over the code to guests instead of a key. Some keyless entry sets can even be programmed with temporary codes. If the high-tech look doesn't mesh with your front entry's style, install it on a side or back door. Kwikset SmartCode Electronic Deadbolt, \$99; homedepot.com

22. Outsmart mice

You may joke about the in-laws, but rodents are the real unwanted guests this time of year. Mice can squeeze through an opening the size of a dime, so stuff Xcluder, a steel-wool-type material that won't rust, into any openings (\$10; buyxcluder.com). Then set a better mouse trap; put out six snap traps in each room where mice have been spotted and position them perpendicular to the wall, with the bait closest to the wall. Bait the traps with a tiny bit of peanut butter or bacon, but don't set them-yet. Wait a couple of days to trick the rodents into thinking the traps are a safe source of food.

23. Give kitchen hardware a new look

Replacing a kitchen's worth of old knobs and pulls can be costly, but you can transform standard metal pieces into antique-looking bronze or aged copper for the price of a can of spray paint. Remove the hardware, spray several light coats over the pieces, and let dry before reinstalling. Tip: To ensure even results, screw knobs and pulls into sturdy cardboard before painting. Rust-Oleum Universal Metallic and Krylon Rust Protector Metallic Finish, \$7–\$9 for an 11-ounce can; at home centers



washer you can swap out. Rewrap the arm tightly with plumber's threadseal tape, working clockwise, covering all the threads to help tighten the fittings. Replace the showerhead.

11. Fix a tear in a vinyl or linoleum floor

Grab a hair dryer or a heat gun to repair a gouge in resilient flooring. Use it to warm the area around the rip, then stretch and smooth the material back into place. Squeeze a thin, even layer of acrylic glue underneath the tear (and on the subfloor, if visible). Weight it down so that it lies flat; let dry. Any remaining gaps can be filled with layers of nail polish in a color close to that of the flooring, say the Vinyl Ladies, an interior restoration and repair company. The polish will seep into and bond with the flooring.

12. Neutralize pet odors

When you bring home a Fido or a Fluffy, you take the good with the bad (good: loyalty and affection; bad: eau de fur ball). Before guests arrive, nix any odors with plain old baking soda. Liberally sprinkle it over upholstered furniture and rugs and leave overnight to absorb smells before vacuuming. Use the



upholstery and crevice tools on the cushions to get deep into nooks and crannies. If you're cleaning a litter box, put a layer of baking soda in the bottom before refilling with litter for extra defense against stink.

13. Light up your entry steps

Welcome guests with the warm glow of outdoor candlelight that won't blow out in the wind. Pepper the front steps or porch with glass-paneled lanterns in a mix of sizes and fill them with outdoor-rated batteryoperated LED candles. Opt for ones with built-in timers so that they'll come on and turn off automatically for an even more low-effort display. Red brushed-metal lanterns, \$15-\$30, and outdoor LED candles, \$14-\$20; pier1.com

14. Rid the tub of rust

Pick up a pumice stick—the kind with a handle designed for cleaning toilet bowls—to remove those rusty stains without scratching your porcelain. Soak the pumice stone in warm water for a minute, then start scrubbing gently. To prevent scratches to the porcelain, keep the surface and the stone wet; also, steer clear of metal fittings that can be damaged. Pumie toilet-bowl-ring remover, \$14; amazon.com

15. Set an easy-care fire

Sure, roaring flames may set a cozy scene, but having to excuse yourself to tend the fire can interrupt the festivities. Instead of burning logs, add a low-maintenance glow to your fireplace with a large-scale candelabra. Use dripless pillars, and you won't be stuck cleaning up spilled wax when the party's over. Nine-candle candelabra, \$64; homedecorators.com



16. Spruce up a worn threshold

Make your entrance look like new by painting over scuff marks. Apply two coats of latex enamel formulated for exterior floors, which resists scuffing, fading, cracking, peeling, and mildew. Behr Premium Porch & Patio Floor Paint, \$28 per gallon; homedepot.com



17. Add reading lights

To prep for overnight guests who like to read in bed, hang decorative plug-in pendants—no hard-wiring required. Simply swag the cord up and over a ceiling-mounted hook to provide light that won't eat up precious nightstand space. Plug-in light adapter with 10-inch drum pendant, \$79; ballarddesigns.com

18. Fix a balky sideboard drawer

A bar of soap can unstick a drawer that has wood guide blocks instead of

glides. Remove the drawer and rub plain soap along the guides on the drawer's bottom and on the center and side guide blocks. If that doesn't get the drawer moving, use 80- to 100-grit paper to lightly sand down the bottom edges, testing often, until the drawer glides easily again.

19. Clean up the cooktop

Getting rid of scorch marks on stainless steel is tough. Surprisingly, an excellent eraser can be found at your local auto-body-supply shop. Fine abrasive hand pads meant for prepping vehicles for paint can actually remove those marks from your range. But it's an off-label use, so proceed with caution, working gently with the finish's grain. 3M Scotch-Brite general purpose hand pad, \$2; at auto-body-supply shops

20. Tighten a loose interior doorknob

Lovely old glass or brass knobs often loosen over time from constant use. To tighten them, remove the setscrews and pull off the knob. If the spindle's ridges show signs of extreme wear, wrap a piece of plumber's thread-seal tape around it before replacing it to tighten it up. Brush Loctite around the setscrews' threads to help hold them in place, and screw back in tightly. Loctite Threadlocker, \$6.50, and plumber's thread-seal tape, \$1.18; at home centers

21. Skip making house-key copies

Hiding the spare set under a rock or having multiples floating around leaves your house vulnerable to thieves. Replace your lockset with an electronic touch pad and hand over the code to guests instead of a key. Some keyless entry sets can even be programmed with temporary codes. If the high-tech look doesn't mesh with your front entry's style, install it on a side or back door. Kwikset SmartCode Electronic Deadbolt, \$99; homedepot.com

22. Outsmart mice

You may joke about the in-laws, but rodents are the real unwanted guests this time of year. Mice can squeeze through an opening the size of a dime, so stuff Xcluder, a steel-wool-type material that won't rust, into any openings (\$10; buyxcluder.com). Then set a better mouse trap; put out six snap traps in each room where mice have been spotted and position them perpendicular to the wall, with the bait closest to the wall. Bait the traps with a tiny bit of peanut butter or bacon, but don't set them-yet. Wait a couple of days to trick the rodents into thinking the traps are a safe source of food.

23. Give kitchen hardware a new look

Replacing a kitchen's worth of old knobs and pulls can be costly, but you can transform standard metal pieces into antique-looking bronze or aged copper for the price of a can of spray paint. Remove the hardware, spray several light coats over the pieces, and let dry before reinstalling. Tip: To ensure even results, screw knobs and pulls into sturdy cardboard before painting. Rust-Oleum Universal Metallic and Krylon Rust Protector Metallic Finish, \$7–\$9 for an 11-ounce can; at home centers





A color-matched porcelain repair kit makes unsightly nicks in porcelain or enameled cast iron virtually disappear. Look for a two-part formula that contains resin and a bonding agent for the longest-lasting results. Brush off any loose material, then clean the spot with an alcoholsoaked swab. Mix the ingredients and apply it to the nick with a small paintbrush. Let dry 24 hours before using the sink. Porcelain repair kit, \$28; refinishingonline.com

WALLPAPER) TED MORRISON

AND HARDWARE.

Here's a bright idea: Make finding your house in the dark a breeze with an easy-to-install solar light. Hang a solar spot above existing house numbers, or simply stake a solarpowered address marker in a clearly visible place on the front lawn.

26. Replace a missing skeleton key

Veteran locksmith Tom Rubenoff says you can bring an old mortise lock in and have a key made for about \$30-or make one yourself from a skeleton-key blank (\$6; antiquekeys .net). Remove the lock from the door, and unscrew the lock case to expose its interior workings. Note the wards-the bumps on the case beside the keyhole-and the locking lever and bolt directly above it. For the lock to work, the key's bit has to turn past the wards, lift the lever, and engage the bolt. Put the key in a vise and use a warding file to cut notches into the key. Start small and test often until the key works the lock.

27. Hide scratches on a wood dining table

If eating, studying, mail sorting, and even light DIY projects take place on the table where you gather, the surface likely has more than a few nicks. For scratches that penetrate beyond the finish, rub a shelled walnut gently across the marks, then polish with a soft cloth. According to antiques restorer Christophe



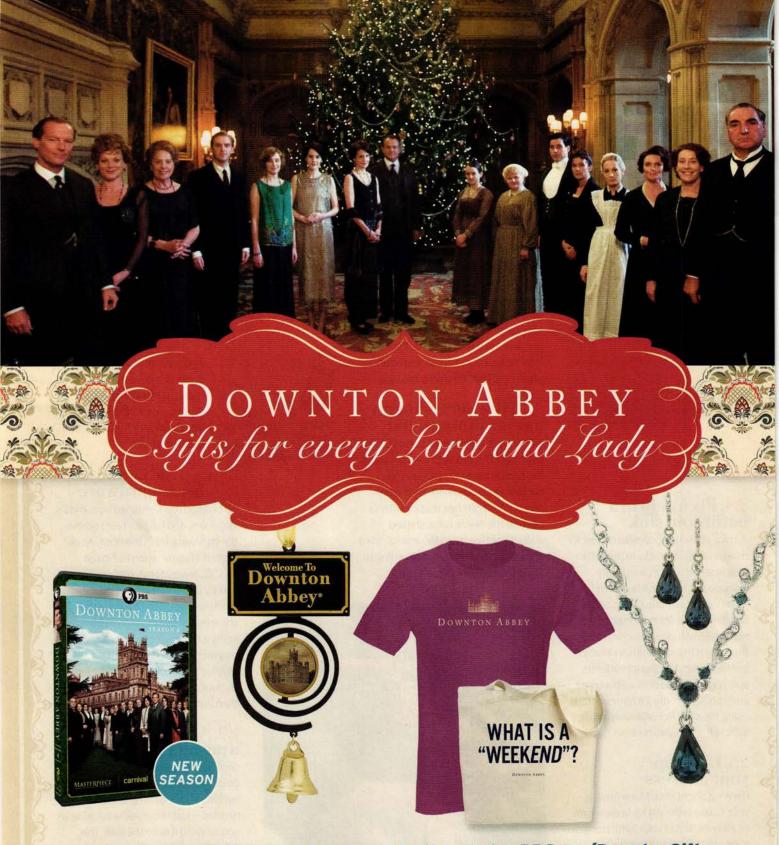
GET EVEN MORE FIXES To access bonus tips, use a tablet or smartphone to scan this page with the Blippar app, or visit thisoldhouse .com/novdec2013 Pourny, the nut's oils naturally conceal the blemishes. To blend the fix in with a highgloss finish, follow up with a fine paste wax for wood, and buff to a sheen.

28. Shine and seal brass hardware

To brighten up tarnished doorknobs, knockers, and hinges, first remove the hardware from the door. Apply a brass cleaner, such as Noxon (\$3.98; lowes.com), rubbing the pieces with a soft cloth until the tarnish disappears. Prolong the shine by using a clean, soft cloth to apply a thin coat of a nonabrasive, polymer-based car wax (try Mother's Synthetic Wax, \$10 for 16 ounces; at auto supply shops), then buff out the haze.

29. Add polish to a powder room

Give boring bathroom walls a dose of color and pattern with peel-and-stick wallpaper. No wetting or paste needed—just remove the backing as you smooth it onto the wall. The adhesive isn't affected by humidity but easily pulls away when you're tired of the style. From \$75 per roll; tempaperdesigns.com ●



See the complete Downton Abbey collection at shopPBS.org/DowntonGifts



A CARNIVAL/MASTERPIECE CO-PRODUCTION. PHOTOS: © CARNIVAL FILM & TELEVISION LIMITED 2013 FOR MASTERPIECE AD DESIGN © 2013 PBS DISTRIBUTION.



GURGLING PIPES/CONCEALED HINGES /DEER STOPPER/VENEER REMOVAL/MORE

49 tips, tricks, and answers to your homeimprovement questions

Can I connect metal flex duct to the vent hood over my range?

-KWOK SO, CLINTON, N.J.

We don't recommend it. Most flex duct is made of aluminum, a material not permitted by code, and has ridges that hamper airflow and trap grease. Instead, use code-approved galvanized-steel duct. Its smooth walls won't hinder hood performance. And when fitted with elbows, like the ones in the galvanized wreath above, the rigid metal can match a flex duct turn for turn. –THE EDITORS

PHOTOGRAPH BY TED MORRISON

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

Our cast of veteran experts



TOM SILVA General Contractor



NORM ABRAM Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY Plumbing and Heating Expert



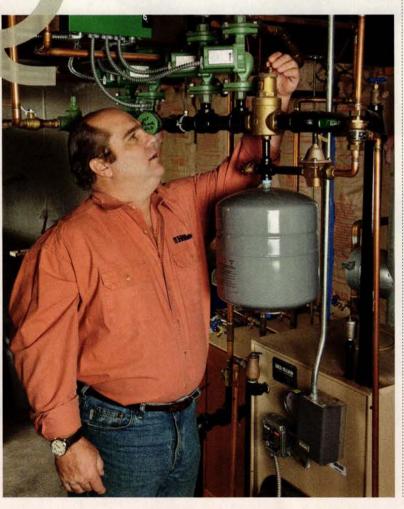
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR Host

Our five-year-old baseboard hot-water heating makes lots of noise when it's working. I'm told this might be due to air in the system. What's the fix?

-JEFF STRAUT, WURTSBORO, N.Y.



Richard Trethewey checks the air eliminator in this hot-water heating system to make sure it's doing its job: letting trapped air bubbles out of the pipes. RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES: Hotwater heating systems should have only water in their pipes. Air in there can cause gurgling, at best, and racing circulation pumps, at worst. A water pump that races will soon fail, prompting frantic calls to your plumber to restore your heat.

Even if the system was purged of air when it was installed, air can still get into leak-free pipes via the dissolved gases present in cold water. As that water is heated and pressurized, those gases coalesce into bubbles that interfere with the flow of water and cause noise in the pipes. The solution: a little valve called an air separator or air eliminator that captures these bubbles and allows them to escape. Typically, it is located on a supply pipe close to the boiler, where the water is hottest.

If you have an air separator newer systems like yours usually do—it should operate automatically to keep the pipes air-free. But sometimes the valve sticks and prevents the air from escaping. You can unstick it by slowly turning the knurled knob on top of the device counterclockwise, as I'm doing here, until you hear air escaping. Tighten the knob as soon as you see water coming out. If that doesn't solve the problem, the pipes may need a complete purging; that's a more complicated job, best handled by a plumber.

Can this house be saved?

Recently, during a terrible thunderstorm, one of our big old oak trees was uprooted and fell on our 1880 house, splitting it wide open. My husband and son were inside at the time but thankfully were not injured. The walls have been stabilized, and we had the tree removed and the roof covered. But now I have no idea if the house can be saved. How can I find a contractor who could handle this challenge?

-SARAH OLIVER, GLENDALE, OHIO

What

is it?

A

Splash guard

Sump liner

Hose tub

D

Footing form

OR THE

ANSWER, SEE PAGE 105

KEVIN O'CONNOR REPLIES: I'm so sorry that this happened to your home and so glad to know that no one was hurt.

Based on the pictures you sent with the braced wall, I assume you've already contacted your insurance company and filed a claim-always a good first step with this kind of damage. It looks like you still have quite a few towering trees around the house, though. If you liked the work of whoever removed the tree-hopefully a licensed and bonded arborist with the appropriate heavy equipment-call him or her back to see if any other trees are jeopardizing your house. If so, get them out of there before the next big storm rolls through. Once the structure is safe, then you can begin hunting for a good oldhouse contractor.

One place to find one is through your local historic-preservation group. It can direct you to firms with the right experience and set of skills. You'll need someone with both to help you decide whether to rebuild or build anew. I talked to Tom Silva to get his thoughts about making that choice:



When an old house suffers catastrophic damage like this, deciding whether to restore or build anew requires a realistic assessment of your finances.

"Most any house can be restored after being severely damaged, but the costs are usually substantial. You'll have to weigh the pluses—the insurance payout, your financial wherewithal, and your love of the house—against the minuses: the contractor's charges and the inconvenience involved with a major rebuilding effort.

"But even if the house cannot be restored, all is not lost. You might be able to salvage some old materials and incorporate them into a new structure. For example, the oak beams could be resawn into flooring or wall paneling or used as exposed ceiling elements. The same can be said for any original hardware, fixtures, or trim in the house. Even old staircases or fireplaces can be saved and reinstalled.

"And for any parts that don't fit in your house, they might find a new life in someone else's. Contact an architectural salvage company to get an assessment of their value. Depending on what you have, they could help to finance your construction project."

Stop the deer

Last winter, deer shredded our 20-year-old rhododendrons. Is there anything we can do this year to save our shrubs?

-DORIS BRINKLEY, NEW CREEK, W. VA.

ROGER COOK REPLIES: Plastic netting is the best way to deter hungry deer in winter, but 20-year-old rhodies are probably too big to simply drape netting over. My advice is to use the netting to create a seasonal fence.

Set up a line of 8-foot-tall 2×2 stakes, about 6 feet apart and 1 foot from the foliage, and pound them at least 2 feet into the ground. A deer fence has to be at least 6 feet tall to keep the critters from reaching over it. Attach the netting to the stakes with cable ties and heavy-duty staples. Make sure to fasten the netting to the stakes at ground level so that the deer can't sneak underneath. To watch a video of me installing a mesh deer fence, go to thisoldhouse.com/ novdec2013.

Periodically throughout the winter and after heavy snows, check the fence to make sure it's still upright. When spring comes and the deer have other vegetation to graze on, pull up the stakes, roll up the netting, and store it for next fall.

Peeling veneer

About 10 years ago, we had our kitchen cabinets refaced. Now the wood veneer on the face frames is splitting and peeling. Can it be repaired? If not, can it be removed so we can repaint the cabinets?

-LINDA PEKO, YONKERS, N.Y.

TOM SILVA REPLIES: I don't think there's much point in making repairs. Even if you took the time to reglue the existing splits and peeling pieces, more problem areas are sure to crop up. You'll be better off in the long run if you remove all the veneer.

That shouldn't be very difficult if it's held in place with a heat-sensitive adhesive, like contact cement. Remove all the doors and drawers, plug in an iron, turn it up to the hottest setting, and hold it against the veneer where it's already loose. Slip a wide putty knife under a loose edge, and, when the adhesive softens and lets go, scrape and pull off as much veneer as you can. Slowly move the iron over the remaining veneer—don't keep it on one place too long—and continue scraping and pulling until all the veneer is off. Then go back with a pull scraper and sandpaper to remove any residual glue and prep the cabinets for painting.

If heat doesn't work, then your veneer uses a pressure-sensitive adhesive. To soften that, use a paint stripper that contains N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), such as Soy Gel (franmar.com). NMP isn't as smelly or toxic as other strippers, but you'll still need to ventilate the area with plenty of fresh air.

First scrape and pull off all the loose veneer, then lightly score the rest with a utility knife. Brush on a thick layer of stripper. Wait overnight, then use a putty knife to scrape off the remaining veneer, the adhesive, and the stripper residue. Wipe down the cabinet frames with water and they'll be ready for sanding and repainting.



We'd like to install cabinet doors with concealed hinges. How do we do that?

-JEFFREY ODENWALD, CHESAPEAKE, VA.

CABINETMAKER STEVE ROCA

REPLIES: Whether you're hanging new doors, as I'm doing here for a hallway cabinet, or swapping out old hinges, concealed or Euro-style hinges are a dream to install. Unlike the butt or knife hinges often used in kitchen cabinets, they can be adjusted along three axes with the turn of a screwdriver, so you can easily fine-tune the door's fit. Concealed hinges can go in

Steve Roca adjusts a

soft-close inset hinge

to even up the gap around the door. face-frame or frameless cabinets and on any door type—including full overlay, partial overlay, or inset—as long as the doors are at least 5% inch thick. The hinges I'm using are for frameless cabinets with inset doors. To find the hinge that will work with your door type, consult the hinge company's online brochures and customer service line. Then, with the right hinges in hand, follow the steps on the next page to install them.

COST \$7 for two hinges. (Screws and mounting plates are extra.) **TIME** 30 minutes per door **DIFFICULTY** Easy

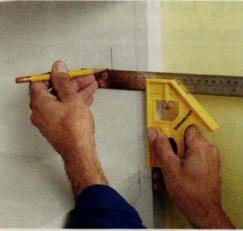
Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

1] Mark the door. Use a combination square to mark a line on the back of the door parallel with the hinge-side edge and inset $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. Then make marks across this line $\frac{3}{2}$ inches from the top and bottom edges, as shown. The point where the lines intersect marks the center of the hole for the hinge cup, the part that recesses into the door.



2] **Drill the cup holes.** To drill the flatbottomed hole for the cup, you'll need a 35-millimeter Forstner bit. Mark a depth line ½ inch up the side of the bit, position it on the center point, and bore into the door until you hit the line. Blow out the shavings and test-fit the cup to make sure the hinge flanges touch the door surface. Drill the remaining cup holes. 3] **Install the hinge cups.** Press the hinge cups into the holes. Position a rafter square, as shown, to keep the hinge aligned. Using a 7/64-inch self-centering drill bit, drill pilot holes through the screw holes in the flanges on both sides of the cup, as shown. Drive 5%-inch #6 wood screws into these holes to anchor each cup.





4] Mark the cabinet. Shim the door in place with an even gap all around, and measure the gap; ½6 inch is standard. Remove the door, and use a combination square to mark a vertical line on the cabinet's side panel 2¼ inches from the front edge. Then make a horizontal line, as shown, 3½ inches—plus the gap from the top and bottom of the opening.



5] **Install the mounting plate.** Remove the mounting plate from the hinge. Align its three screw holes with the intersecting layout lines on the side panel. Using the self-centering bit, drill pilot holes through the plate's holes, then attach the plate with the 5%-inch #6 screws, as shown. Do the same for each hinge.



6] **Mount the door.** Hold the door in the open position and hook the hinges onto their mounting plates, as shown. Press on the bars to snap them in place against the plates. Now close the door and check the reveal. To see how to fine-tune the hinge and get perfect door alignment, go to thisoldhouse .com/novdec2013.

Nails or screws? How does a person know whether to use nails or screws on a project?

-BILL HARTING, DAYTON, OHIO

NORM ABRAM REPLIES: In some cases, the choice is made for you. If you're framing an addition or installing drywall, roof shingles, or siding, the size and type of fastener will be specified by building codes. If you're installing beadboard, composite decking, or various other products, the manufacturer will often identify the preferred fastener. But sometimes the decision is simply a matter of personal preference. For example, I prefer screws when assembling cabinet carcasses and face frames, but I could also nail and glue the same joints with perfectly acceptable results. Here are some general guidelines to keep in mind.

Screws are a good choice for joints un-

der tension—where the pieces are being pulled apart—because their threads cut into the wood fibers. Nails pop loose fairly easily when under tension. Screws are also a cinch to back out, which makes them useful when clamping or securing things temporarily. And though screws go in relatively slowly compared with nails, they do go in gently, which makes them handy for working with fragile materials, such as plaster, that might crack from the vibration of nails being pounded in.

Nails are great for joints where you want to stop pieces from sliding past each other—joints that are in shear—because nails are typically stronger than screws of the same length and gauge. Nails also make sense when you're using a lot of fasteners, because they're relatively inexpensive and you can drive them in quickly with either a hammer or a nail gun. Siding, sheathing, framing, flooring, and roof shingles all tend to be nailed, for that reason. Trim is usually fastened with nails, too—finishing nails, specifically—because it's easy to hide their heads with putty.

Keep these factors in mind the next time you're wondering whether to build something with a hammer or a screwdriver.

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

Go to: thisoldhouse.com/asktoh Or write to: Ask This Old House This Old House magazine 135 West 50th Street New York, NY 10020

Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions will be edited for clarity and length and may be used in other media. We regret that, because of the volume of mail received, we're unable to reply to unpublished questions.

Step up in style with our Rolling Ladder System

NOW IN NICKEL!

1

Our new Rolling Ladder System combines clever design and a classic look to give you a custom ladder that is both sturdy and elegant. Simply provide the wood

to match your fixtures and get building!4" wheels easily roll on wood flooring,

- ceramic tiles, or low pile carpet.
- Hook bracket secures the ladder to the ladder track for safe, no-tip climbing.
- Online Wizard makes it easy to configure your custom ladder!

Place your order at **Rockler.com** by entering promotion code 536 at checkout or call 1-800-279-4441. Offer expires December 31, 2013

Free shipping offer cannot be applied to previous orders or combined with other promotions including Professional Catalog orders. Not valid at Rockler Retail Stores or Independent Resellers. Special shipping charges may still apply for Express, International, Alaska, Hawaii, and heavy/oversize items.



What is it?

Splash guard

Fitted on top of a 5-gallon plastic pail, the Bucket Splash Guard contains the overflow and globs that go flying when you power-mix full containers of paint, joint compound, floor leveler, and the like. \$15: bucketsplashguard.com

12.201

FEMA RECOGNIZED, ENGINEER APPROVED. HELICAL FOUNDATION SUPPORT.

Call **855-477-2121** to get the preferred choice for Home Elevation.

To learn how CHANCE[®] Helical Piles can provide a solid foundation for your home visit us at **abchance.com/relief**

CHANCE Certified Installers offer fully transferable, premium product warranties for all CHANCE products.



Enduring Products and People You Can Depend On abchance.com/relief



AD04042F

LEGAL NOTICE

If you own or owned a Trex® brand non-shelled wood-plastic composite decking, railing, or fencing product purchased between August 1, 2004, and August 27, 2013 you may be eligible for benefits from a class action settlement.

Para una notificación en Español, visite www.trex.com/legal/2013classactionsettlement.aspx o llame 1-877-495-0068.

A nationwide settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit in which the plaintiffs allege that certain Trex composite decking, railing, and fencing material is susceptible to mold, mildew, fungal, or other dark or gray growth or spotting, or color variation or color fading (the "Covered Conditions").

Who Is Included?

If you own or owned a Trex non-shelled wood-plastic composite decking, railing, or fencing product that was purchased between August 1, 2004, and August 27, 2013, you may be included in the Settlement. You may send in a Claim Form and, if applicable, a Supplemental Claim Form, to request certain benefits, or you can exclude yourself from the Settlement. The U.S. District Court for the Northerm District of California authorized this notice and will have a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement. Get a detailed notice at www.trex.com/legal/2013classactionsettlement.aspx or by calima 1-877-495-0068.

How Do You Ask For Benefits?

You may receive benefits only if you fill out a Claim Form and, if applicable, a Supplemental Claim Form, and your Trex decking, railing, or fencing is affected by one of the Covered Conditions. The Claim Form and Supplemental Claim Form are available online at www.trex. com/lega/2013 classactionsettlement.aspx, or you can call 1-877.495-0068 to request them. The Claim Form and the Supplemental Claim Form must be faxed, e-mailed, or sent by U.S. Mail and postmarked by May 27, 2014, which is nine (9) months from entry of the Court's order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement.

What Does the Settlement Provide?

If you meet the settlement and eligibility criteria, Trex will provide you with one of three options of relief. Tier 1 Relief, Tier 2 Relief, or Tier 3 Relief. Tier 1 Relief consists of a one-time cash payment of \$150, subject to pro rata reductions if the Tier 1 set-aside described herein is oversubscribed, but in no event less than \$20 unless pro rata reductions are required due to the cost-cap discussed below ("Tier 1 Relief"). At least \$1.4 million will be set aside to pay Tier 1 Claimants The \$1.4 million amount was arrived at by taking the number of Class Members receiving Class Notice by Regular Mail and E-Mail based on Defendant's records (approximately 70,000) and multiplying that number by \$20. The \$1.4 million number is provided for illustration purposes; the final amount of the Tier 1 set-aside will be determined after Defendant, in consultation with Class Counsel, determines the total number of Class Members to whom Class Notice by Regular Mail and E-Mail will be sent. Once all qualified Tier 1 Claimants have received Tier 1 Relief, then any amount of the Tier 1 set-aside remaining will be available for Tier 2 Relief and Tier 3 Relief. Tier 2 Relief consists of (a) reimbursement of the cost of purchasing cleaning product at a flat rate of \$18; and (b) a non-transferable payment certificate entitling you to a cash reimbursement equal to 40% of the retail purchase price paid by you to purchase certain new Trex decking and Trex-brand fasteners (if you used these in your current Trex Structure) to replace your existing Trex decking and Trex-brand fasteners, if applicable. Tier 3 Relief consists of: (a) reimbursement of the cost of purchasing cleaning product at a flat rate of \$18; and (b) either (i) a non-transferable payment certificate entitling you to a cash reimbursement equal to 50% of the retail purchase price paid by you to purchase certain new Trex decking and Trex-brand fasteners (if you used these in your current Trex Structure) to replace your existing Trex decking and Trex-brand fasteners, if applicable, and a payment for labor reimbursement at the formulaic rate of \$0.23 cents per linear foot of replacement decking, or (ii) a refund of 20% of the original purchase price of your current Trex Product. The Settlement is subject to an \$8.25 million cost-cap and a potential pro rata reductions if the total sum of valid claims exceeds \$8.25 million. More information is available in the detailed notice and at www.trex.com/legal/2013classactionsettlement.aspx.

What Are Your Other Rights?

If you fall within the class definition, you may remain in the class by doing nothing and be bound by the release and judgment in the lawsuit. If you do not want to be bound by the Settlement, you must exclude yourself prior to 45 days from the last date that Notice is sent by Trex or first published as set forth in the Notice Plan, which is described in the Settlement Agreement (the "Opt-Out Period"). Please check www.trex.com/legal/2013classactionsettlement.aspx for updates on the deadline. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself.

Any Opt-Out request must be sent by first-class mail to Defendant's coursel postmarked on or before the end of the Opt-Out Period. You must mail a letter requesting exclusion to Coursel for Defendant. For the address of Coursel for Defendant, go to the website at www.trex. com/legal/2013classactionsettlement.aspx or call 1-877-495-0068.

If you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you may object to it by filing an objection with the U.S. District Clerk, U.S. Courthouse, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102, and sending it to Defendant's Counsel and Class Counsel, postmarked not later than 21 days before the date set for the Final Settlement Hearing. The Court will hold a hearing in this case, Mahan v: Trex Company, Inc., No. 09-ex-00670-JW, on December 13, 2013, to consider whether to approve the Settlement and Class Counsel's request for fees, costs, and expenses of \$14,475,000 (including interest). Class Counsel will also ask for a payment of \$7,500 to each Class Representative. You or your lawyer may attend the hearing.

For more information, go to the website at www.trex.com/legal/2013classactionsettlement.aspx, call 1-877-495-0068, or e-mail trexclasssettlement@trex.com.

Directory NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

COVER: See listing for Get This Look for Less.

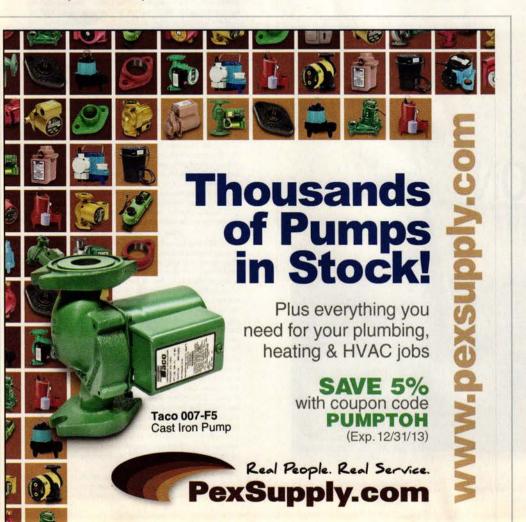
CHECKLIST (p. 14) Ceramic compost crock: Gardener's Supply; gardeners.com.

HOME SOLUTIONS (pp. 17–26) Raise the bar for entertaining: Bar cart: Pier 1 Imports; pier1.com. Electric knife sharpeners: *Thanks to* Messermeister; messermeister.com. An organized office for \$432: Homeowners' blog: Batchelors Way; batchelorsway.com.

BEFORE + AFTER KITCHEN: No bigger, lots brighter (pp. 31–33) Contractor: Seth Churchill, Churchill Brothers LLC, Sharon, CT; 860-364-5152. Millwork: Tallon Lumber; tallonlumber.com. Herrington's; edherrington.com. Cabinetry: Alfred Brown & Son Cabinetry, Bantam, CT; 860-567-7007. Flooring: Herrington's. Range and hood: Viking; vikingrange.com. Cabinet hardware: Whitechapel Ltd; whitechapel-Itd.com. Countertops: Rock Solid Marble and Granite, Sheffield, MA; rocksolidmandg.com. Doors: Simpson Door Company: simpsondoor.com. Paint: Castleton Mist (walls) and Decorators White (trim). Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com. BEFORE + AFTER BATH: Smarter layout, vintage details (pp. 35–36) Designer: Aimee Wertepny, Project, Chicago; 773-394-1174. Sink: Kohler; kohler.com. Sink faucet: Fontaine Monaco; overstock.com. Tile: Ann Sacks; annsacks.com. Ottoman: Baker; bakerfurniture.com. Sconces and chandelier: Visual Comfort; visualcomfort.com. Drapes: Kravet; kravet.com. Metallic wood wall covering: Innovations; innovationsusa.com. Cabinet hardware: RK International; rkintl.com. Bathtub: Vintage Tub & Bath; vintagetub.com. Bathtub faucet: American Bath Factory; americanbathfactory.com.

GET THIS LOOK FOR LESS: Colorful holiday hearth (pp. 40–41) Stylist: Jorge Arango, Mohegan Lake, NY; jsarango.com. Magnolia-leaf and cedar garland: Creekside Farms, Greenfield, CA: 831-262-7970; creeksidefarms.com.

PHOTOSHOP REDO: Giving a plain box period charm (p. 46) Thanks to Karl Anderson, Anderson Shirley Architects Inc., Salem, OR; 503-371-1140; andersonshirley.com. Window: Architectural Collection, Andersen; andersenwindows.com. Paint: 460F-5 Island Palm, 450E-3 Southern Breeze, and S-H-150 Chianti. Behr; behr.com. Sconce: Mission



Bay outdoor wall lantern, Minka; minkagroup.net. Hardware: Ashfield Handleset Collection, Weiser; weiserlock.com.

BUILD IT OR BUY IT: Upholstered headboard (pp. 50–51) Buy It options: Vern Yip Upholstered Headboard Square with Nailhead Trim; hsn.com. Hillsdale Furniture Amber Upholstered Headboard; wayfair.com. Nailhead Upholstered Headboard; westelm.com.

WEEKEND REMODEL: Install a simple coffered ceiling (pp. 59–65) *Thanks to* Craig Tolmie, owner, Tide Mill Restoration, Fairfield, CT; 203-382-4656. Designer-builder: Christopher Beidel, Pernt, Brooklyn, NY; perntstudio.com.

CLEANING UP A CLASSIC CRAFTSMAN

(pp. 82–87) Architect: Brian L. Spector, Spector Architects, 831-595-4784. Contractors: Spencer Keenan and Taylor Darling, Santa Cruz Green Builders; santacruzgreenbuilders.com. Exterior paint colors: AF-460 Jojoba, AF-405 Thicket, and 2162-70 October Sky, Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com. Light fixtures: Quoizel; quoizel.com. Dining room table and chairs: Warren Hile Studio; hilestudio.com. Kitchen countertops: ECO by Cosentino; ecobycosentino .com. Sink fixtures: Hansgrohe; hansgrohe-usa.com.

29 SUPER-FAST FIXES (pp. 92–97) Thanks to Scott Banzhaf, Berthoud Ace Hardware, Berthoud, CO. Vinyl Ladies; vinylladies.com. Charles Peterson; charlespetersonflooring.com. Tom Rubenoff; tomrubenoff.hubpages.com. Christophe Pourny; christophepourny.com.

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE (pp. 99–105) Can this house be saved?: *Thanks to* Rachael Risinger, State Farm Public Affairs, New Hyde Park, NY. Peeling veneer: John Gozum, Product Development Specialist, 3M, Minneapolis. Question of the Month: *Thanks to* Steven Roca, Roca Custom Cabinetry; 914-671-7002. **Hinge:** 71B3750 CLIP top Blumotion, Blum; blum.com.

SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE (p. 114) Thanks to Marty Corcoran, City of Maplewood, Maplewood, MO; cityofmaplewood.com. Douglas Miner. Douglas Houser. ●

Douglas Houser.

Time Inc. and This Old House Ventures do not endorse any product or service mentioned or advertised in this magazine.

This Old House (ISSN 1086-2633) is published monthly, except for the January/ February and November/December issues, by This Old House Ventures, Inc., 135 West 50th St., New York, NY 10020 (GST: 81996300RT0001), Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 4010178. Return undeliverable Canada adverses to: Postal Stn. A, P.O. Box 4015, Toronto ON MSW 212 (GST: 81996300RT0001), Principal office: Rockefeller Center. New York, NY 10020-1393 (212-522-9465), Howard Averili, Treasurer, ©2013 This Old House Ventures, Inc. Vol. 18. No. 10. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Periodicals postage apid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to This Old House, P.O. Box 62376, Tampa, FL 33662-3768; 1-800-898-7237. U.S. Subscriptions: 319.95 for one year. This Old House and the This Old House Window are registered trademarks of This Old House Ventures, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A.

PERFECT GIFTS FOR HOLIDAY COOKS

WEBER'S NEW BIG BOOK OF Southern Living TASTE LIKE Jan Moon Southern Living



xmoor House

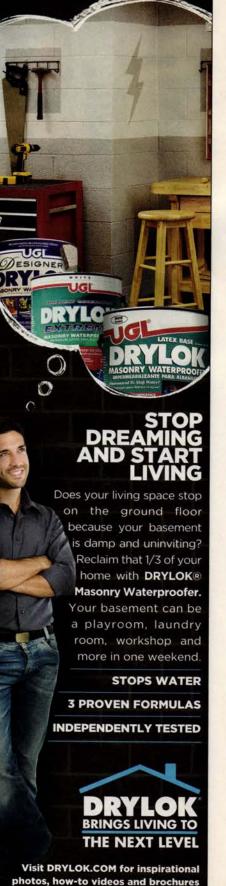


COOKING LIGHT, SOUTHERN LIVING, and SUNSET are trademarks of the Time Inc. Lifestyle Group, registered in the U.S. and other countries. OXMOOR HOUSE is a registered trademark of Oxmoor House. Inc. GOOSEBERRY PATCH CO. is a registered trademark of GBP Acquisition Co. WEBER is a registered trademark of Weber-Stephen Products LLC.



212-779-7172 RESOURCES





RESOURCES 212-779-7172

ADVERTISEMENT



ONLY ClogHog.com 📂 877.992.5644 USA **TIN CEILING PANELS** Paint any color or leave white. Solid colors now available. See website www.SurfacingSolution.com See Bamboo & other wood flooring Freight paid SALE 800-964-9040 The Perfect Storm!

SUPERIOR QUALITY

WOOD

Innerglass Interior Storm Windows: • Maintain the charm and beauty of your

- Significantly reduce heating and cooling bills
- Compression-Fit to eliminate drafts completely
- · Are perfect for enclosing screen porches
- · Save energy, save money and save history!



ADVERTISEMENT

212-779-7172 **RESOURCES**



Any Home Can be a Log Home

The Nation's leader in quality tongue-n-groove Log Siding & Knotty Pine Paneling.

GREAT FOR:

New or Existing Homes • Basements • Dens • Rec Rooms Kitchens • Baths • Studies • Garages • Out Buildings • Cottages



Skyline Woods' finest of log home products are available at the Woodworkers Shoppe in Comins, Michigan. We Ship Nationwide!

Call (800) 818-9971 · woodworkersshoppe.com



WHERE VINTAGE AND MODERN COLLIDE®



From hand-spun modern pendants to vintage inspired porcelain enamel gooseneck lighting, our extensive collection is guaranteed to enhance your commercial and residential projects.



800-407-8784 BARNLIGHTELECTRIC.COM





Handcrafted Solid Wood Doors ANY DESIGN - ANY SIZE - ANY WOOD Screen/Storm . Entry Units . Interior . Dutch



Put a spin on your space. Elegant. Efficient. Affordable. Image: spin on your space. Image: spin on your spin on your spin on your space. Image: spin on your spin on you

from \$3000

THE IRON

The Leading Manufacturer of Spiral Stair Kits

Proudly made in the USA since 1931

from \$605

For FREE catalog, call **1-800-523-7427** ext. TOH Or visit <u>www.ThelronShop.com/TOH</u>

 VICTORIAN

 VICTORIAN

SHOP

RESOURCES 212-779-7172

ADVERTISEMENT



Tar- Good at our stores or Harborhreight.com or by caling 900-423-2597. Lamot to used with one of account or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies la transferable. Original component must be created by Usid through 3874. Limit one coupon per customer per do.

the provide a title to use incomentation with contrast of the second state of the seco

e purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplie Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/6/14. Limit one coupon per customer p

212-779-7172 **RESOURCES**

ADVERTISEMENT



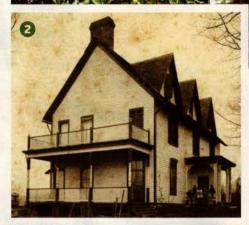
SAVETHISOLDHOUSE

PRICE \$25,000 LOCATION Maplewood, Missouri CONTACT Marty Corcoran, 314-646-3603

THE HISTORY This grand farmhouse was built circa 1848 for State Senator Charles Rannells and his wife, Mary. The couple raised three children here, back when the home was part of their 2,200-acre estate. Their live-in staff tended the fields while Charles and Mary hobnobbed with prominent members of the community. Charles was even rumored to have rubbed elbows with Mark Twain and Ulysses S. Grant. In the 1920s, the house was sold and was used as a nursing home, reverting to a private residence in the 1970s. The city bought the house, vacant since 2000, in 2004 but has failed to fund its restoration. Now it's granting the place a 120-day stay of execution, during which time it must be sold-for less than the value of the land alone-to a new owner willing to restore it. If no buyer emerges, the house will be demolished and the lot cleared for sale.

WHY SAVE IT? The 3,397-square-foot structure blends elements of Greek and Gothic Revival styles and retains the original triangular dormers and trim. It's the oldest house in town, predating the incorporation of the city by 60 years.

WHAT IT NEEDS The house is structurally sound but needs all new systems. The city replaced the roof in 2005. In the more than 150 years since it was built, nearly all the farmland has been developed, leaving the original structure on a one-thirdacre plot near the center of town, 10 minutes from St. Louis. Restoring the house is a big job, but your efforts will help ensure that it remains the heart of Maplewood for another century and a half or more. —PAUL HOPE Historic farmhouse in the heartland!





1] The five-bedroom, two-bath house is on an oversize corner lot, estimated to be worth \$65,000. 2] This photograph from the 1890s provides a blueprint for the home's exterior restoration. 3] The front door, transom, and side lights. 4] The living room holds the dismantled front portico pieces, which await stripping, repainting, and reinstallation. Window and door head casings inside the house mirror those found on the exterior.



GOT A HOUSE? If you know of an old house that should be saved and is for sale, write to savethisoldhouse@timeinc.com or This Old House. 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020.