

Spring HOME

IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



- **Remodeling**
- **Gardening** • **Fences**
- **Flowers** • **Siding**
- **Flooring**
- **Plumbing**
- **Electrical**
- **Kitchen & Baths**
- **Paint & Wallpaper**
- **Do-It-Yourself Projects**
and much more!

Spring 2026 Supplement
to The Shopper, Black River Falls & Neillsville
Arrow Shopper, Whitehall

How to make your home exterior turn heads

(StatePoint) Is your home’s exterior in need of a facelift? While an all-siding exterior can be attractive, using manufactured stone to complement vinyl siding will turn heads, for ultimate curb appeal.

Manufactured stone
Manufactured stone veneer adds elegance and charm to a home’s exterior, calling to mind rustic country cottages and stately manors. When paired with vinyl siding, it offers a dramatic, earthy variation in texture that makes any style or color stand out.

Sourcing your materials from the right manufacturer will make all the difference. For example, ProVia artfully crafts its manufactured stone to replicate the rugged textures, shadow lines, and coloring of authentic quarried stone. Created by experienced stone masons who cut and chisel individual stones by hand, they replicate the look of real stone from unique geographic regions, reproducing undercuts, subtle textures and natural hues.

With many stone profiles, grout colors and other options to select among, it’s easy to get overwhelmed by choice. As you explore your options, keep in mind that experts have identified these stone profiles as pairing especially well with siding:

- Ledge stone, with its haphazard shapes, jagged contours and scraggy surfaces
- Dry stack, with its compact, tightly layered profile and sandblasted visage
- Terra cut, a coarse-grained blend of large and small slabs with rugged faces
- Natural cut, characterized by irregular and disproportionate slabs and roughcast veneers

Vinyl siding options
Nothing transforms a home’s curb appeal as dramatically as vinyl siding. Quality siding elevates your home’s exterior while protecting it from the elements. From

warm neutrals to bold and vibrant hues, there’s a siding profile and color that suits any architectural style. Here are two eye-catching options

that look beautiful alongside manufactured stone:

Shingle and shake: There are few cladding options as distinctive as cedar shake

and shingles and few with as impressive an architectural history. Vinyl siding modeled after these materials, such as Harbor Mill polypropylene from ProVia, captures the authentic look of traditional sawn and split cedar shakes and shingles that have been featured in American home-building since the 1600s. Featuring clean grain lines with varying peaks and valleys, the look may be of traditional wood, but the materials them-

selves are moisture-resistant, durable and low maintenance.

Board and batten: The use of board and batten vertical siding originated hundreds of years ago as a practical solution for covering the spaces between the boards on the exterior of a home or barn. Today, it represents rustic, handmade quality, but its strong vertical lines have modern appeal that can enhance many architectural styles, from

popular Craftsman to timeless Victorian. Blending the look of classic vertical wood with the modern engineering of high-performance super polymer vinyl siding, ProVia board and batten siding offers the best of both worlds, and is commonly paired with manufactured stone to add distinctive accents to exterior areas such as entryways, gables, porches, dormers and build-outs.



Contributed photo

When it comes to choosing a home’s exterior cladding, don’t be afraid to go bold. A blend of manufactured stone and vinyl siding is not only going to offer superior performance, it will elevate a home’s exterior aesthetic.



They’re your dreams.
Start building them.

3.45% Rate
4.482% APR*

APPLY TODAY for a
CONSTRUCTION LOAN!

*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is 4.482% based on a loan amount of \$400,000 with a 20% downpayment. Payments are interest-only for 9 months, estimated at \$1,188.33 per month when fully advanced. This does not include taxes and/or insurance premiums, and if applicable, the actual payment obligation will be greater. All loans are subject to credit approval based on underwriting factors such as credit score, income and employment history, property value, and other factors. Advertised rate accurate as of 02/05/2026 and is subject to change at any time without notice. Credit is Subject to Approval.



INDEPENDENCE STATE BANK

23942 Senty Dr. Independence 715-985-3197
2495 Commercial Blvd. Chippewa Falls 715-738-1897
E401 Menomonie St. Elk Mound 715-879-4888

Serving the
Independence area
since 1897.

Member
FDIC

Established 1897 • Member FDIC • www.independencestatebank.com • Independence State Bank NMLS #462923

**Carpenter
TREE SERVICE**
715-284-3466

INSURED ~ FREE ESTIMATES

Tree Trimming & Removal • Aerial Bucket 105 Plus Feet

- Brush & Stump Removal • Brush Mowing
- Bobcat Work • Land Clearing & Leveling

• Lawn Maintenance • Snow Removal • Firewood

The Area’s Only Grapple Saw Crane

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE • FREE ESTIMATES

Bob Carpenter ~ Over 30 Years Experience ~ Fully Insured

Black River Falls 715-284-3466

CCU
CO-OP CREDIT UNION



Make your house a home with a
home equity line of credit

Co-op Credit Union can help make it happen.

Using the equity in your home, you can finally start that project you’ve been thinking about! An addition, a garage, a patio, a new roof - make this year the year it happens!

Learn more at coopcu.com or call us at 800.258.0023.



**ARCADIA
CREDIT UNION**



Turn your
HOME EQUITY
into home
improvement power!

Our Loan Officers
are ready to help
you today with
Home Equity,
Construction,
and Term Loan
solutions so you
can move forward
with confidence.



Jennifer
NMLS 1529009



Lisa
NMLS 619303

Visit us today at ArcadiaCU.com

535 S Dettloff Drive Arcadia WI 54612 | 608-323-2126

Loans subject to credit approval and membership eligibility. NMLS Institution ID: 464044

Is your home wasting water? Stop your leaks before they cost you

(StatePoint) The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat—it's a stark reality. From wildfires in the West to massive storms battering the South, Americans are reminded each day of their environmental impact.

Among the most pressing concerns is water scarcity. While water covers 70% of the globe, only 0.5% of it is usable for us, according to the Bureau of Reclamation. Climate change, pollution and rapid urbanization are further reducing water access.

Water scarcity, driven by climate change, affects homeowners through rising insurance premiums, soaring utility costs and declining property values. Meanwhile, rapid urbanization strains water infrastructure, and pollution continues to degrade water quality.

According to the 2024 Ecolab Watermark Study, 68% of Americans worry about climate change, and 70% are deeply concerned about water access. Luckily, there are still things that can be done to mitigate these concerns.

Eco-conscious design is not just a trend, it's a crucial component of planetary health. Smart home innovations, such as water monitors and leak detectors, are helping homeowners conserve water and protect their homes.

When it comes to water conservation, Moen's Flo Smart Water Monitor and Shutoff continuously monitors your entire home's water usage, detecting leaks as small as one drop per minute—from a leaky toilet to a major pipe burst. Using machine learning, it identifies changes in pressure and flow, alerting homeowners before damage escalates. In fact, 60% of users discovered a leak they weren't aware of within 30 days.

In total, the Smart Water Monitor and Shutoff has alerted users to over 2 million potential water leaks, according to Flow Technologies data. Plus, it helps track water usage by individual faucet, empowering waste reduction and money savings.

Rising environmental issues often lead to rising insurance costs. In disaster-prone areas, some insurance companies are reducing coverage or even withdrawing from the market due to the high costs and frequency of claims for home repairs or rebuilds.

Water damage, in particular, is a major culprit. The Insurance Information Institute (III) reports that water is claimed six times more than fire and eight times more than theft. Based on III and Census Bureau data, Moen estimates that nationally, insurers pay out over \$15 billion in water claim damages annually. To mitigate these costs, many insurance companies now offer premium discounts to homeowners who install smart products like the Flo Smart Water Monitor and Shutoff, which can reduce the likelihood of water damage claims.

Companies also have a responsibility to help drive

positive change. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 1 trillion gallons of water are wasted due to leaks each year. In 2020, Moen launched Mission Moen, a commitment to conserve 1 trillion gallons of water through the use of water-saving products by 2030. Since then, the company has conserved 317 billion gallons of water.

Moen's new Hot Water Savings Handheld Shower by some estimates reduces shower water usage by over a third—saving up to 5,500 gallons annually. When Conserve Mode is activated, this feature reduces water flow to a trickle once it reaches 95 degrees F, then maintains the temperature, preventing unnecessary water waste while still providing an exceptional shower experience. The product also features Moen's Magnetix technology, with a magnetic dock made from recycled ocean plastic, further embracing sustainability.

At moen.com, consumers can find solutions that help contribute to a healthier planet.

By embracing smart technology, practicing conservation and supporting companies that make a positive impact, everyone can play a role in creating a water-abundant future.

Backyard ideas on a budget

Many people enjoy the possibilities that outdoor living offers and admit they would spend more time outside if the exterior spaces of their homes featured more amenities. According to a 2024 survey by Allstate Protection Plans, Americans love outdoor living and entertaining. Seventy-six percent of those who own outdoor products use their backyards, porches, patios or balconies at least three times a week. About 25 percent of Canadians spent more time in managed landscapes in 2022 compared to 2021, according to a survey commissioned by the TurfMutt Foundation.

It's clear people from all walks of life value time spent outdoors, but many homeowners cannot afford a major backyard overhaul. Thankfully, there are budget-friendly upgrades anyone can embrace to maximize style and function.

Source thrift shops

Thrift shops are ideal places to find gently used items for the yard. Scour the aisles for patio sets, planters and more at deeply discounted prices. If you can't find a matched set, look for patio pieces that have similar lines and materials to create a cohesive look and feel.

Grab some pallets

There's an entire craft offshoot involving the repurposing of pallets acquired from warehouses or hardware stores. Pallets can be transformed into everything from tables to sectionals to benches. Visit www.instructables.com/Pallet-Furniture/ for building ideas, or check out YouTube video tutorials offering tips on getting started. Pallet furniture can be much more affordable for those on tight budgets, particularly since pallets are often free.

Lend a hand

Taking on some of the backyard renovations yourself can save money. Speak with a contractor, mason or landscape architect to see if you can pitch in to lower costs. You might be able to tear out existing landscape to reduce labor expenses so that the professional can come in and get started right away.

Reuse and refresh

While thrift stores are one place to find inexpensive outdoor living items, you also can transform older furniture or hand-me-downs with some sanding and a coat of paint. Breathe new life into found items with paint, fresh cushions and enthusiasm.

Renovating an outdoor living space is achievable in a budget-friendly way with some creativity and know-how.

Contact us to get all those air pockets sealed up and keep your home energy efficient!



SPRAY FOAM INSULATION

Mike Brazee
Blair • 608-525-0961
vossecouleeinsulation@gmail.com

Glen Haines Stump Grinding

7 days a week
715-720-1190

Call Jason
715-299-1867
email: countrylandgutters@yahoo.com



- 5" or 6" Aluminum or Steel Gutters
- Screens
- Helmets
- IceJax

Large Variety of Colors to Choose From!

N9663 Thunderbird Ln.,
Hatfield, WI 54754

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

HORIZON
Spray Foam Insulation and Roofing
Levi L. Miller, Jr, Owner
W12420 Cutoff Road, BRF, WI 54615
Competitive Prices • Flexible Schedule



STICHERT ROOFING
Insist on an Interlox Roof
• LIFETIME ROOFING •
The Last Roof You Will Ever Need!
715-683-2490



Now's the Time for a Re-Design

SAVE
Up to 10% Off
Fabuwood Kitchen Cabinets,
Allure Series
Through 6/30/26
*See Store for Details

CARPET CLEANING
\$89 First Room
\$39 Each Additional Room
*SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

FREE Measures, In Home Consultations and Financing!

Find us at www.capauls.com • Since 1973....We've Got You Covered!

14 W. Jefferson St.,
Black River Falls
715-284-4949

1217 N. Superior Ave.,
Tomah
608-374-2784

107 E. State St.,
Mauston
608-847-9099

Discover the top 3 interior design trends right now

(StatePoint) As the theme of “home holistic wellness” has expanded over the last year, distinct trends are leading the direction of interior design.

Moen has identified the top three trends as: creative expression, personal wellbeing and biophilic design. Based on her visits to trade shows like Paris Maison et Objet and Milan Salone del Mobile; research from Moen’s internal consumer market insights team; and observations from fashion, interior design and pop culture, Moen’s senior creative style manager and trend forecaster, Danielle DeBoe Harper, uncovers how these trends reflect the cultural, social and technological shifts happening today.

Creative expression

As people continue seeking design choices that align with their distinctive personalities, the trend of creative expression emphasizes customization, transformation and versatility. It’s built on empowering consumers to select fixtures, paint colors, furniture and décor accents that authentically reflect their own inspired style and individuality.

“Homeowners and designers can foster a greater sense of personal identity and belonging through imaginative and expressive design,” says DeBoe Harper. “Elements of this design direction include statement details like bold colors, mixed metals and dramatic proportions; era-mixing for a dynamic maximalist feel; surrealist-inspired pieces that challenge conventional boundaries; and rugs, furniture and other accents that reflect high levels of craftsmanship to bring a feeling of authenticity to a space.”

Available in an array of

customization options, the Moen Cambium bathroom suite features a unique blend of raw elements and soft modern design that creates a bold and unforgettable look ideally suited for this trend. The suite highlights a captivating combination of machine textures, fluted patterns, and a new mixed polished/brushed nickel finish that all work together to enhance the bathroom aesthetic.

Personal wellbeing

The trend of personal wellbeing reflects the growing societal emphasis on mental and physical health, with design approaches that prioritize comfort and rejuvenation.

“Your home is a sanctuary – a place of peace and relaxation,” says DeBoe Harper. “Personal wellbeing, as a design trend, embodies décor and style elements that embrace coming home to that sense of comfort and mental tranquility. This can be achieved through soft color palettes; opting for literal comfort pieces, such as oversized sofas and chairs paired with shag rugs; or embracing joyful design through playful, brightly colored aesthetic choices.”

Some also find comfort in nostalgia, pulling design inspiration from everything from old English country houses to Art Deco and even the 1970s; while others ensure wellbeing through thoughtful fixture and appliance choices. One example is installation of a robust water filtration solution like Moen’s Whole Home Water Filtration systems. The whole home systems help remove chemicals and contaminants from every drop of water in the home to support a healthier lifestyle.

Biophilic design

Humans have an innate desire to connect with the out-

doors. The biophilic design trend welcomes the wish to create healthier, more sustainable and more harmonious living and working environments that bring people and nature together.

“Biophilic design goes beyond incorporating plants into your space,” says DeBoe Harper. “Invoking the sky,

desert and sea in furniture, lighting, rugs and even curtain choices can elevate the sense of being in the natural world within your own four walls. We see this trend through design choices like cloud motifs or florals, applications of geological shapes and textures, and creating movement through splashes

of water.”

Sustainability is a large part of this trend as well. Investing in high-quality pieces crafted from recycled or reclaimed materials, responsibly sourced wood, or rapidly renewable resources like bamboo, helps create beautiful, durable and functional spaces that not only

enhance daily life, but also actively support conservation efforts and lessen your ecological footprint.

For more information on design trends, visit moen.com.

Leaning into today’s top trends can mean cultivating a healthier, happier and more functional home.

Porch perfect: easy upgrades that make a lasting first impression

(StatePoint) Whether you’re hosting neighbors for sweet tea or just enjoying the breeze after a long day, the front porch is having a moment. No longer just a pass-through space, it’s become an extension of the home’s personality—part welcome mat, part curb appeal showpiece. The good news? You don’t need a full renovation to breathe new life into your front entry. A few smart updates can add style, comfort and even a layer of security.

Tips on lighting

Light-emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) are energy-efficient and durable options. LEDs convert electricity into light instead of heat and increasingly are used in a wide range of products, including lighting fixtures. According to Energy Star®, LEDs produce light up to 90 percent more efficiently than incandescent light bulbs. LEDs also do not typically “burn out” or fail like other types of bulbs. Because of their performance benefits, homeowners may be interested in switching over to LED bulbs to power their

Start with the hardware. Door hardware may not seem like the most exciting element to refresh—but it’s exactly where trends are starting to shift. Traditionally, storm and screen door hardware has stayed relatively static in style and finish. But that’s starting to change. Companies like Wright Products are bringing a more design-forward approach to this category, offering hardware that blends security with aesthetics.

This new wave of entry hardware features cleaner

silhouettes, decorative backplates and more modern finishes that complement today’s popular exterior palettes. It’s a subtle upgrade that makes a major visual difference—especially when paired with a freshly painted front door or a new doormat.

Layer in light and texture. String lights, lanterns or updated sconces can turn your porch into a cozy, evening-ready space. Add a weather-resistant rug, a few patterned cushions and a pair of planters flanking the doorway to create a polished, welcoming feel. Look for low-maintenance greenery or seasonal florals to liven things up without adding to your weekend to-do list.

Get smart about security. Convenience and security can also get a front porch facelift. Adding an electronic

deadbolt is one of the simplest ways to upgrade your door’s function without replacing the entire entry system. New models—like those from Brinks—offer features such as fingerprint access, keypad entry and even smartphone control. No more fumbling for keys when your hands are full of groceries or beach bags.

Finishing touches - think of your porch as the cover of your home’s story. A fresh wreath, a bench or rocking chair and maybe a little wind chime go a long way toward setting the tone. And if your mailbox or house numbers are looking dated, this is a great time to swap those, too.

The front porch may be the first thing guests see, but with a few thoughtful updates, it might just become your favorite space, too.

Joeey's

CUSTOM WOODWORKING

Welcome to my woodshop!

Sorry I missed you, but you can reach me at

608-343-7722

joeywoodworking@gmail.com

N4350 State Highway 54,
Black River Falls, WI 54615

715-284-1164 or
608-343-7722 cell

Customized
Wooden Plaques
& Signs

- Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinets
- Built-Ins
- Custom Furniture

Also Repairs

CREEKSIDEROOFING & CONSTRUCTION, LLC

- New Home Construction
- ICF Foundations
- Concrete Flatwork
- Pole Sheds
- Custom Built Cabinetry & Finish Work
- Garages
- Additions
- Roofing
- Siding

Also, Check Out Our Hunting Blinds

3-Different Window Styles in Octagon 5-1/2' x 6'

Deluxe 5x8 with 12 Windows

Wood or Metal Elevation Kits 6', 8' or 10'

DELIVERY & SET UP AVAILABLE

Call for FREE Estimates

715-512-1493



BARKA

TRUCKING & EXCAVATING

OSSEO, WI

EXCAVATION

- Dirt Work
- Lot & Land Clearing
- Grading
- Trenching
- Culverts
- Driveways
- Site Preparation

DEMOLITION

- Building Demos
- Concrete & Debris Removal

DUMP TRUCK HAULING

- Black Dirt • Gravel
- Sand • Shale • Topsoil

– FREE ESTIMATES –

CONTACT BRADY

715-828-1689





NMLS#409793

sfb

DOWNPAYMENT PLUS® PROGRAM

You may be eligible to **receive up to \$10,000 toward your down payment*** and closing costs through the Downpayment Plus® program. Questions? Security Financial Bank is here to guide you every step of the way.

* Downpayment Plus is a program from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago. Restrictions apply. Please see the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago's website at www.fhlbc.com for complete requirements. "Downpayment Plus" is a registered trademark of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.

sfbank.com

888.254.0615



SECURITY FINANCIAL BANK

Love Your Water with Culligan™

Free Basic Water Test

What's in your water?

Schedule your no obligation water test.

Ph, Nitrates, Hardness, & Iron

Testing is available for PFAS, Lead, Arsenic, Bacteria and more!

PURCHASE - RENT - FINANCE



CulliganBetterWater.com

Tomah, WI: 608.336.4371

Winona, MN: 507.431.7455

Serving Southeastern MN & Western Wisconsin for over 75 years.

Are you mowing your lawn to the right height?

(StatePoint) One of the most highly debated topics in lawn care—mowing height—is also one of the most important.

That’s why Exmark has partnered with landscape designer, Doug Scott with Redeem Your Ground, on a new video offering tips and insights for selecting the right height of cut for your lawn. So, why is mowing height so critical?

“Grass mowed to the right height better captures the light, rain and nutrients your lawn needs, helping it grow deeper, denser, stronger and healthier,” says Scott. “Mowing too low makes your lawn

susceptible to being burned by the sun, weakening the roots and creating the potential for a weed infestation. Whereas mowing too high runs the risk of excess moisture build-up, which creates a welcoming environment for pests and disease.”

To strike the right balance, follow the golden rule of mowing: Never cut off more than one-third of the blade at a time, even if your lawn is overgrown. While you may feel like you’re saving time, a harsh haircut does your lawn a major disservice. Gradually lowering your blades to the desired height will help maintain a strong root system

and lush yard canopy.

Another consideration is grass type, with warm-season grass and cool-season grasses falling into two mowing height ranges.

For warm-season grasses, like Zosia and Bermuda, you’ll want to drop the deck height of your mower close to its lowest setting, close to between one to two inches high. That’s because these grasses thrive in the scorching summer sun, so they can handle a lower height. If you have cool-season grass, like Fescue or Kentucky Bluegrass, you’ll want to cut it a little bit higher. These grasses are built for freezing winters and need

some height as protection from the elements. So, make sure to keep your cool-season lawn between two and a-half to four inches high.

Once springtime rolls around, lower your deck height by a half inch from your normal summer height. This encourages new growth.

During summer, mow on the higher end of your grass type’s specified range. Taller grass provides shade to the soil, retaining vital moisture needed to help your lawn stay healthy and cool.

In fall, continue your normal summer routine, especially if you have warm-season grass. If you have a

cool-season lawn, you might have to up your mowing frequency, as it’s this grass type’s prime growing season.

For the last mowing session of the year, drop your mowing height by half an inch again. That brings you up to winter, the perfect time of year for you and your lawn to rest. With most grasses going dormant in winter, mowing isn’t typically necessary. So, take that time to do other activities and tasks you enjoy in the yard. For warmer climates, you can continue to mow, just cut down on the frequency to ensure a healthier lawn.

For more insights, watch

“How to Determine Mowing Height,” a new episode of “Done-In-A-Weekend Projects,” an original series from lawn care equipment manufacturer, Exmark. To watch the video, visit Backyard Life — a unique multimedia destination focused on helping homeowners improve their outdoor living spaces. There you can also download additional tips and view other Exmark Original Series videos.

Lawn care is both a science and an art. With the right know-how and experience, you can cultivate a lawn that provides you with an abundant backyard life.

Put some spring in your cleaning step

Spring is the season of nature’s rebirth. Trees and flowers begin to bloom anew each spring, and young animals can be seen frolicking with their parents. During a time when it seems like the entire planet gets a refresh, many homeowners turn their thoughts to refreshing their homes as well.

As the days lengthen and the weather warms, spring cleaning takes center stage.

Spring cleaning is more extensive than simply washing away grime, as cleaning a home often offers a psychological reset for the coming months. A clear strategy can make the task of spring cleaning feel less daunting, and these tips can help cut down on clutter and other interior annoyances that have arisen after months spent indoors.

Declutter before cleaning

The rule of thumb when

starting on spring cleaning is to combat clutter before cleaning. Trying to clean around clutter is inefficient and may result in throwing in the towel prematurely. It is important to remove as much as possible from each room before you begin cleaning. As homeowners move through each room, they can assess whether they’ve used items in the last year or whether they serve any functional or aesthetic purposes. If not, they can be trashed or donated.

Move top to bottom

It’s important to follow the rules of science when spring cleaning. That means that dust and debris will be affected by gravity. Engaging in a top-down approach will help make cleaning more efficient. Beginning at the ceiling and working down towards the floors will help people avoid having to clean

the same surface twice.

Using a duster or a micro-fiber cloth, individuals can clear cobwebs from corners and dust from crown molding. Fingerprints will accumulate near light switches and door handles, so those areas should be wiped down, too.

Homeowners can conduct a thorough cleaning of heating and cooling output and intake vents as they likely have gathered dust over the winter. A down of floor moldings can get to any area near the floor or under furniture that doesn’t get frequent cleaning.

Do a kitchen reset

Focusing attention on the kitchen, which tends to be the busiest room in the house, is

a wise idea for spring cleaning plans. This is the time for individuals to pull everything out of the refrigerator and pantry and check for expiration dates. Wiping down the shelves means cleaning away any accumulated food drips or spills. Additional areas to consider include behind the refrigerator, inside the dishwasher filter and inside the microwave.

Focus on air quality

It’s key to replace the HVAC system filters come springtime, as well as any air purifiers in the home. This will help reduce allergens and ensure that the cooling system will run efficiently when it’s time to turn it on.

HANSEN

TRUCKING & EXCAVATING

- Dozer Work - Excavator Work

- Ditching - Land Clearing

- Basements - Driveways

Fully Insured • 45 Years Experience

Call 715-897-1831

Stratford Homes Authorized Independent Builder

NEW CONSTRUCTION

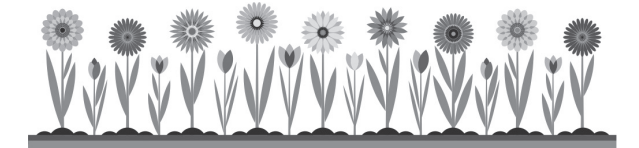
REMODELING & SEAMLESS GUTTERS

MELVIN

CONSTRUCTION

NEILLSVILLE, WI

715-797-5359



C&P Woodboiler

SALES & SERVICE

TITANIUM

HeatMaster

Best Warranty in the Industry!

HeatMaster

Installation, Parts & Service Calls

Chad: 608-863-0002

ARCADIA, WI

MIDWEST

PAINTERS

Residential & Commercial

Complete Barn,

Buildings & Roof Painting,

Pressure Washing, Deck

Staining & Restoration, Cedar

Cleaning and Treatment, Log

Cabin Cleaning & Treatment,

Brick Treatment

Aerial Work w/75' Boom

FREE ESTIMATES

608-799-6245

Quentin Moller

Galesville, WI

Over 30 years experience

References available



Selling Your Home

Shouldn't Be RUFF!

When it comes to selling a home or land, it takes a true professional to sell it quickly and for top dollar.

Call me, we'll make the process easy and pleasurable.

COLDWELL BANKER

RIVER VALLEY, REALTORS®

M: 507-450-6671 | O: 715-284-9055

Email: lana@cbrivervalley.com

Website: lana.cbrivervalley.com

304 Main St., Black River Falls, WI 54615

LANA THOMLEY

REALTOR®

SRES

Each office is independently owned and operated.

Let's go fetch your dream home

We're at your service

• Personalized Engraving! • Cutting Keys and Programming FOBS

• Lock Re-keying • Window and Screen Repair • Bicycle Service and Repair

• Propane Refills - Including RV Tanks • Pipe Cutting and Threading

133 County Road A , Black River Falls, WI 54615

715-284-4454

Open Mon.-Fri. 7am-6pm & Saturday 8am-5pm

CLOSED SUNDAY

Scholze

ACE

HOME CENTER

How to introduce contemporary design in a bathroom remodel and make it work within budge

(BPT) - For years, bathroom design was defined by straight lines, sharp corners and a sense of heavy minimalism. The 2010s were all about clean chrome fixtures, glossy tiles and match-everything finishes. But like all trends, the pendulum is swinging back. Today, we're seeing softer curves inspired by mid-century design, tactile textures that add depth to flat surfaces and finishes that don't need to match perfectly to feel cohesive. The bathroom space itself is also shifting from utilitarian to something reminiscent of a personal retreat. With so much changing, the big question becomes: How do you bring these contemporary touches into a remodel in a way that feels fresh, functional and most importantly, within budget?

Shape: The rise of curves

Today, straight, rigid lines are giving way to softer, more organic shapes. Arched mirrors, rounded shower openings and curved vanities are showing up everywhere, immediately making any bath space feel more inviting and full of character. With curved designs becoming a go-to choice, faucet fixtures are one of the easiest ways to experiment and introduce this

trend.

Surface: Texture and tactility

Flat, high-gloss surfaces are losing ground to materials with dimension. Fluted wooden cabinetry, ribbed tile and natural stone with dramatic veining are all on the rise. Introducing these textures in your next bathroom remodel can add visual depth and craftsmanship that plain finishes can't deliver. Pairing them with softer silhouettes can also help keep the space from feeling too heavy-handed, creating a layered look that feels thoughtful rather than busy. If premium materials stretch your budget, mix in textured laminates, patterned tile or stone-look alternatives, as these affordable options still bring warmth, movement and modern sophistication to the space.

Finish: Mixing metals with intention

The "everything must match" rule is officially out. Today, mixing metals is not only acceptable, but recommended. If you're renovating a bath space with limited resources or maybe can't decide between metal finished accents, this design trend is for you. Matte black faucets can ground a space - making all the difference when

paired with a brushed nickel or charming bronze finished mirror, for example. The trick is choosing one finish as your anchor and layering the others as accents to give you a collected and curated feel.

Function: Wellness and performance

For any bathroom remodel, it's important to keep in mind that design conversations aren't just about looks anymore; performance and responsibility are now part of the package. Wet rooms and spa-style showers are redefining what a bathroom can be, and they don't have to cost a fortune. Using simple upgrades like a rainfall showerhead, frameless glass panels or budget-friendly waterproof

wall panels can create that spa-like feel without a full gut renovation. Accessibility is also increasingly important, especially as about 75% of adults over 50 want to stay in their current homes or communities as long as possible. Features like ADA-friendly handles ensure the bathroom works for everyone, both now and in the future. For this, the latest Peerless® Precept® Bathroom + ADA expansion fits perfectly. It offers functionally designed options that combine style, ease of use and efficient performance.

A contemporary blueprint

Bathrooms today are about balance: Curved lines soften bold textures, mixed

finishes create layers of personality and efficient fixtures deliver performance and functionality without compromising style. Taking inspiration from current bathroom remodel trends makes it easier than ever to recreate a space that feels contemporary and thoughtfully designed

without requiring a large investment. By embracing these trends and crowdsourcing the right fixtures and/or products, bathroom remodels can achieve the ideal combination of contemporary appeal, lasting value and affordability.



Adding texture to a bathroom provides visual depth, creating a layered look.



Mixing metals is recommended in today's remodel plan. Matte black ground a space and pair well with a brushed nickel or bronze.

Taking care of your yard during a heat wave

As temperatures rise, so should the care of your yard's lawn and landscape. However, it is important to ensure your yard is healthy before a heat wave hits.

"The healthier your grass, trees and shrubs, the more resistant it will be to extreme temperatures. Lawns, in particular, that have healthy grass, leaves and deeper roots are able to store more moisture," says Kris Kiser,

president and CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation, a leader in environmental education and stewardship for more than 15 years.

Here are a few recommendations on protecting your yard during a heat wave from The TurfMutt Foundation.

1. Put the right plant in the right place. Always select appropriate plants and grass for your climate zone. This ensures the space is not only

attractive but also will be more likely to thrive in your microclimate, be easier to maintain, and will support pollinators and wildlife. Consider water, sunlight or shade requirements for your yard.

2. Water at the right times. The best time to water the lawn and plants is in the early morning or late evening when it is cooler.
3. Don't over water. It's

okay to make your grass work hard for its water. With little water, grass will send its roots deeper, seeking water. The grass then does a better job of sequestering carbon and releasing oxygen.

Also, most turfgrasses—and there are hundreds of species—will go brown during months where water is scarcer. It will "green up" again when conditions change.

4. Know what type of soil you have. The frequency and amount of water you apply to lawns and gardens vary based on its soil, clay type, organic matter and the type of plants and grass. Some soil holds water better than others; water molecules cling more to fine particles of clay soil than to the coarser particles of a sandy soil.
5. Cut grass long. When mowing, don't cut more than

one-third of the grass height. By keeping it longer, turfgrass can develop stronger roots and a greater tolerance to heat and drought stress.

6. Keep foot traffic minimal. For already stressed grass, foot traffic can cause damage. Keep people off the lawn while the heat persists.

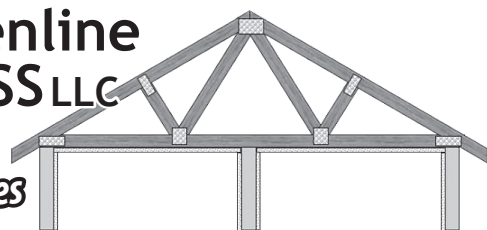
For more information, visit www.turfmutt.com.

Greenline

TRUSS LLC

FREE

Estimates



We can make Custom Trusses

to Fit Your Needs!

N37537 Highway 53/121 • Whitehall

Steve's CARPENTRY

ARCADIA

Doors • Windows • Decks • Siding • Remodeling

New Construction • Roofing (Steel or Shingles)

Kitchens • Bathrooms • Flooring

FULLY LICENSED AND INSURED

608-863-2488

stevehorton89@gmail.com

PARCO

Windows • Patio Doors

SEALCOATING

• CRACK FILLING • PATCHING • LINE STRIPING • CLEANING

FREE Estimates!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!

Call us today for your residential or commercial job!

Seal-A-Drive

715-797-6670

PEOPL

LENDING

SINCE 1907



BLACK RIVER COUNTRY BANK

WE WANT WHAT YOU WANT

WWW.BRCBANK.COM

BLACK RIVER FALLS | MELROSE

FDIC

LENDER

Emily Laufenberg

NMLS # 2599089

David Becker

NMLS # 2600068

Kim Torres

NMLS # 1753341

Tips to clear a cluttered home

The dawn of a new year is often characterized as a chance to wipe the slate clean and start anew. While the phrase “wipe the slate clean” may be figurative, some also might take it literally, particularly in regard to their homes. Those who want to turn over a new leaf in a cluttered home can consider these storage solutions to give spaces a fresh and less claustrophobic feel in the year ahead.

- Clear kitchen countertops. Kitchens are the most popular rooms in many homes, and that popularity can come with a cost. Clutter can quickly accumulate on kitchen countertops, which is both inconvenient when preparing meals at home and unsightly to residents and guests. Appliances used with frequency, such as coffee machines and toasters, can be given countertop real estate, but store lesser used items, like blenders and waffle makers, in cabinets or pantries. Mail or materials sent home from children’s schools also can pile up in a kitchen, so resolve to go through the mail each day and discard unnecessary items. School papers can be read when children arrive home from school and any that need to be kept can be stored in a folder placed inside a drawer in the kitchen or a home office.
- Install drawer dividers. Drawer dividers can help

clear up cluttered spaces that might not be visible to the naked eye. Dividers inserted into kitchen drawers can ensure leftover containers are stored neatly and are easily accessible. Drawer dividers in a home office space can make sure desks don’t fall victim to disorganization, which can make it harder to find supplies and important documents.

- Consider furniture that pulls double duty. Some home furnishings are more than meets the eye, and that multifunctional utility can help people conquer cluttered spaces. Storage ottomans are a prime example of furniture that serves multiple purposes. Blankets and throws left out on chairs and couches can make living areas feel more cramped and less organized. A storage ottoman can be a great solution in such spaces, providing both a place to put one’s feet and also a clever storage solution for blankets and pillows. A coffee table with a small drawer or two can make for a multifunctional centerpiece to store remote controls, coasters and other small items that can encourage the buildup of clutter if left out when the room is not in use. A storage bench in bedrooms and guestrooms also can ensure these spaces stay clear of clutter.
- Think vertical. It might be possible to work your way

up if storage is a problem in certain areas of the home. Vertical storage solutions might be especially useful in areas like a garage, which can be difficult to navigate if garden tools and other outdoor items are left on a floor. Overhead storage racks that utilize a crank to raise and lower the rack when items need to be accessed and stored can be great ways to store holiday decorations and other items. Kitchens with high ceilings also can employ a hanging pot rack to create more cabinet space and reduce the number of items that need to be stored on countertops.

Clutter can quickly take over a home. But some simple storage solutions may be all anyone needs to more effectively organize a home.

Did you know?

Patios continue to be more popular than decks. According to a tabulation of data from HUD/Census Bureau Survey of Construction from the National Association of Home Builders, the share of new homes with patios is on the rise while the share with decks remains low. The NAHB tabulation found that the percentage of new homes with decks was 17.6 percent in 2023, while the percentage of new homes with patios reached a record high of 63.7 percent in that same year. Though some homes feature both a deck and patio, the NAHB notes that’s the case in just 6 percent of properties. However, decks have remained a go-to choice in certain regions of the United States.

How to make a laundry room a more functional space

Functionality is important when designing the interior spaces in a home. Homeowners who redesign their interior spaces can emphasize functionality to help reduce clutter and create a more efficient and even calming space. Laundry rooms may not be the most glamorous rooms in a home, but they do get lots of usage, particularly in homes with children. Because laundry rooms tend to be well trafficked areas, it makes sense for homeowners to make them as functional and user-friendly as possible. With that in mind, homeowners can consider these tips to make laundry rooms more functional spaces.

Purchase laundry pedestals with storage capacity. Laundry pedestals make useful additions to a laundry room. Many homeowners place their washing machines and dryers on top of pedestals with storage drawers, which can be used to store everything from dryer sheets to

clothes irons to stain removal kits. Pedestals can be particularly useful in cramped laundry rooms where the only means to adding storage is to go up and not out.

Install a freestanding laundry sink. A laundry sink also adds function to a laundry room by enabling homeowners to hand-wash certain clothes and apply stain removal products in the same space where the rest of their clothes are being cleaned. Installing a laundry sink is a relatively inexpensive job, but the cost may go up if new plumbing, venting or electrical work is necessary.

Add a countertop work space. If you already have ample storage and won’t be placing the washer or dryer atop a laundry pedestal, then installing some countertop above the appliances can add function and aesthetic appeal. A countertop workspace above a dryer provides an accessible space to fold laundry the moment it dries, reducing

the likelihood that clothes will become wrinkled and ensuring you won’t put off folding.

Install floating shelves. Floating shelves won’t cost a lot of money, but they can be ideal in cramped laundry rooms. Shelves provide a space to store detergent and other items that may not fit inside laundry pedestals, including baskets.

Add hanging storage. Some articles of clothing should not be dried in a dryer for fear of shrinking the fabric or destroying the item. In such instances, some readily accessible hanging storage capacity can make the laundry room more functional. Items can be hung on hangers or over a hanging rack suspended from the ceiling if space is minimal.

Laundry rooms are heavily used spaces in a home, so it makes sense to take steps to make these areas as functional as possible.



CULPITT ROOFING INC
RELIABILITY STARTS AT THE TOP

Standing Seam Double Lock Metal Roofing
Established in 1948. Free Estimates.
608-786-0660. info@culpittroofing.com



Twisted Oak
Landscape &
Design

Our Services...

Contact Information

Phone:
715-896-9842

Email:
sales@twistedoakwi.com

Website:
Twistedoakwi.com



Hard Scapes

- Patios
- Retaining Walls
- Walkways and Steps

Soft Scapes

- Mulch Installs/Refresh
- Rock Bed Install
- Plant Install/Up-Keep

Additional Services

- Lawn Treatments
- Lawn Install/Hydro-Seeding/Sod
- Decks
- Fence Install
- Concrete
- Tree Removal/Lot Clearing
- Grading/Site Prep
- Driveways/Dirt Work
- Bulk Material/Hauling/Excavation



Contributed photo

Because laundry rooms are used heavily in a home, it’s wise to make the space functional. Features that provide functionality include laundry sink, counter top work space and storage shelves.



JK CLEANING & RESTORATION

- Fire • Smoke
- Emergency Water Removal
- Air Ducts • Carpet
- Tile • Upholstery
- Janitorial

715-743-4448
www.JKclean.com



Rural Mutual Insurance Company

Black River Country Insurance Group, LLC

We Have Offices in
Neillsville and Thorp

715-743-2800 / 715-669-5400

Tim Voigt, Sales Associate
Cell: 715-797-0025
tvoigt@ruralins.com

Ryan Dillenbeck, Career Agent
Cell: 715-937-4247
rdillenbeck@ruralins.com

Kyle Klieforth, Career Agent
Cell: 715-937-1673
kklieforth@ruralins.com



EARTH & TIMBER LAND MANAGEMENT LLC

Property Maintenance
Black River Falls, WI 54615
715-896-4787
earthandtimberlandmanagement@gmail.com

- Forestry Mulching • Mowing
- Trail Clearing • Grading
- Field Edges • Driveways
- Food Plots • Lot Clearing
- Fence Lines • Tree Removal
- Stump Removal • Excavation
- Aggregate Delivery
- Snow Plowing

Find us on Facebook

Are there better times to purchase big-ticket items?

Consumers know that advice is never hard to come by when purchasing expensive items. A beloved uncle might insist he knows which time of year to purchase a new car, while a coworker might claim to have the scoop on when to buy a new couch. Timing can be important when buying big-ticket items, but are there really ideal times to purchase such products? Though that question may not have a definitive answer, consumers may actually have an advantage when buying items like cars, appliances and

home furnishings at certain times of year.

- **Cars:** Automobiles are among the most expensive items consumers can purchase, but shopping in September or October might help car buyers find better deals. New models tend to begin arriving on dealership lots in September and October, and dealers may be looking to unload their existing inventory in anticipation of those arrivals. Some may facilitate that changeover in inventory by offering more buyer-friendly deals on the

outgoing year's models.

- **Appliances:** The financial experts at NerdWallet cite various holidays as great times of year to find deals on appliances. Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day and Black Friday are holidays when consumers might be able to find great deals. Holiday-affiliated sales tend to be advertised weeks in advance, and on-sale items might go quickly. So, consumers looking for deals around these holidays should do their homework in the weeks

before the holiday and then be ready to pounce once sales begin. NerdWallet also notes the weeks after the popular technology conference CES, which is held each January, also might lead to more deals. New tech products are rolled out at CES each year, so consumers might be able to find great deals on outgoing appliance models in the months after the popular trade show.

- **Furniture:** Consumer experts note two distinct times to buy furniture, and that depends on which type of

furniture people are shopping for. NerdWallet notes deals on outdoor furniture typically can be found after Labor Day, which many view as the unofficial end to summer. As outdoor entertaining season ends, outdoor furniture retailers may be looking to unload their existing inventory to make room for new items that will be coming in the months ahead. American Home Shield® notes that the end of winter is a good time to buy indoor furniture, but great deals also can be found around winter holidays like

Presidents' Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Presidents' Day in January might be an especially good time to find deals on furniture, as retailers confronting a post-holiday season slowdown may be more motivated to offer deals than they will be as the calendar gets further and further away from December.

Big-ticket items are expensive, but savvy consumers may find good deals when shopping for various items during particular times of year.

How to prepare HVAC systems for extreme weather conditions

(BPT) - Severe temperatures, whether scorching heat or frigid cold, can put a strain on a home's HVAC system. Preparing systems for these conditions is essential to ensure reliability, efficiency and comfort throughout the year. Without proper preparedness, a system may struggle to keep up, leading to potential breakdowns, costly repairs and discomfort when homeowners least expect it.

The following shares insights as to why temperatures so greatly affect HVAC systems and easy tips homeowners can put into practice.

The impact of intense heat or cold on HVAC Systems:

When temperatures soar, HVAC systems must work harder to maintain a comfortable indoor climate. This increased energy demand can lead to higher utility bills and the potential for overheating, causing components to wear out faster. Reduced efficiency can be another concern, as continuous operation without adequate maintenance may result in service interruptions.

Just as extreme heat may strain HVAC systems, frigid temperatures can also wreak

havoc on heating components. Freezing temperatures pose the risk of frozen pipes, which can cause damage if they burst. Thermostat malfunctions and insufficient heating are examples of common issues homeowners may face during the winter months. Ice buildup in outdoor units can restrict airflow and reduce efficiency, making it even harder for the system to operate effectively. Without proper preparation, homeowners may find themselves without heat when they need it most.

Three tips to prepare HVAC systems for extreme weather:

Perform routine upkeep: One of the most important steps in preparing a home's HVAC system for unpredictable weather is conducting regular maintenance checks. Scheduling seasonal inspections with a professional technician ensures that potential issues are identified and addressed before they

lead to system problems. Key components such as filters, refrigerant levels and thermostat calibration should be closely monitored to maintain optimal performance.

Adopt smart technology solutions: Investing in smart technology is another effective way to optimize HVAC performance during unpredictable weather. Smart thermostats offer more accurate temperature control by adjusting settings based on occupancy and external conditions. Rheem®, a leading HVAC manufacturer, created its EcoNet® Smart Thermostat as an advanced solution designed to optimize home comfort and efficiency. With intelligent temperature control, remote access via the EcoNet app and real-time system alerts, it helps homeowners monitor and adjust their HVAC settings effortlessly.

Ensure the home is well insulated: Another crucial step is improving insulation

and sealing any air leaks. Proper insulation helps prevent heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer, reducing the strain on the HVAC system. Sealing ducts, windows and doors can enhance efficiency and prevent energy waste, leading to lower utility costs and improved overall performance.

Preparing a home's HVAC system for severe weather helps safeguard against unexpected issues while maintaining efficiency. Utilizing these steps can ensure any home is better prepared. Also, it is helpful to consider reaching out to a trusted, local HVAC professional for a maintenance check to guarantee a system is weather ready. Visit Rheem.com to find a local professional.

Tips to tend a garden

Deadheading

Many plants look better with the wilted flowers removed. Furthermore, some plants, such as with lilies and roses, will benefit from having spent blooms removed so that no unnecessary energy is drawn away from the roots or bulbs. Research plants and learn which can benefit from some late-summer deadheading to keep them thriving.

Weeding

Weeds can become problematic if they're allowed to grow unabated. Routinely go into the garden and cull the weeds.

Keep an eye open for pests

According to Garden Smart, caterpillars and beetles may be chewing on garden plants by late summer, and aphids still may be problematic. Handpick insects off of vegetables and ornamental flowers, or use safe sprays for treating these issues.

Plant cool weather vegetables

Many plants will grow well when planted in late summer, according to Homesteading Family. Some such plants include turnips, beets, carrots, kale, chard, mustard greens, and peas. You can begin turning your summer garden, or a portion of it, into a fall and winter garden.

Consider succession planting

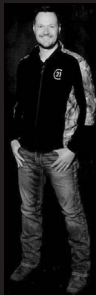
Growing vegetables like beans or peas may be more successful if you try succession planting. This involves sowing new seeds every seven to 10 days to extend the harvest.

Harvesting what's ready

Pick vegetables that are ready to eat, and remove any plants that have reached the end of their growing cycle.

CENTURY 21
Gold Key Realty, Inc.

Clark County's
Real Estate
Professional



Call me
today!
715-323-9837
ben@c21goldkey.com

Ben
Zawislan
REALTOR

COWSMO
Compost

Composted cow manure for sale.
Meets organic standards.

Sold by bulk or bag
You pick up or we deliver.

Great for gardens, flower beds & lawns. Use as a mulch or incorporate in the soil. Looks and smells like ground!

ALSO: ORGANIC COMPOST-BASED
SUSTAINABLE POTTING MIX.

COCHRANE
S1843 Co. Rd. U
Open 7 days a week • 5am-5pm
608-626-2571

MANY SATISFIED
CUSTOMERS!
www.cowsmocompost.com

YODER'S CABINETRY



CUSTOM BUILT CABINETS
BATH • OFFICE • FLOATING SHELVES
LOCKERS & MORE

CUSTOM BUILT
CABINETS
and TRIM for
REMODELS &
NEW HOMES

Wilbur Yoder ~ Owner
"Over 20 Years Experience"

Welcome to Our Wood Shop
N2155 Tower Rd,
Melrose, WI 54642



G&S
EQUIPMENT LLC
715-284-7589
530 N Water Street,
Black River Falls, WI 54615
• Equipment Rental
gsequipmentbrf.com



Think Spring!
We Rent:
• Mini Excavator
• Skid Steers
• Manlifts
• Dump Trailers
• Variety of Lawn & Garden Tools
• Hand/Power Tools

Breezeway Furniture

W16130 Co. Rd. C, Taylor, WI 54659 • Joseph Gingerich, Owner

Large Inventory of Quality, Handmade Bedroom Sets, Dining Room Sets and Outdoor Lawn & Patio Furniture and More!



ALSO,
Watch for our
Customer
Appreciation
Day, on
May 2

Over
20 Years
Experience

Explaining the siding replacement process

The longer a person resides in a particular home, the greater the likelihood that various components of that residence will need to be replaced. Driveways, roofs, HVAC systems and even appliances all have expiration dates.

Although siding on a home can be quite durable, there may be specific reasons why homeowners choose to or need to replace it at some point. Understanding what's to come of the job can help homeowners prepare. No two siding jobs are exactly the same, and each project will be dictated by a host of variables, including which type of siding homeowners choose. However, these general steps are commonplace during siding replacement projects.

• **Choose siding:** Homeowners are urged to consult with various siding installation companies about which products are available and ask each for an estimate. Budget, climate and other factors will narrow down siding materials. The Home Depot says popular siding types include vinyl, wood, fiber cement, metal and stone. Siding can have almost any color or texture as well.

• **Remove and relocate:** Outdoor items close to the perimeter of the home will have to be moved out of the way so workers can access the

siding. The job will require a dumpster to be dropped in front of the home or in the driveway to collect debris, so homeowners should be prepared to leave space for it.

• **Siding delivery:** The new siding should be delivered prior to the installation start day. These materials will take up a lot of room and space should be made available so the installation team can access them without difficulty.

• **Interior decor:** Siding installation will include hammering, which can disrupt items on interior walls. It is best to have all wall hangings taken down to prevent damage.

• **Old siding removal:** On the first day of installation, removal of the old siding will happen first, according to Smart Exteriors. Siding, insulation and trim will be removed. In the event that older, asbestos-based siding is on a home, contractors may safely remove and discard it, or go over that type of siding. Homeowners should inquire about this step during the company vetting process.

• **Home inspection:** Once all old material is gone, the exterior sheathing will be inspected to ensure it is in good shape. Signs of rot or loose boards will be considered and repaired, if necessary.

• **New siding install:** First workers will put on house

wrap or some sort of insulation/water barrier product. Afterwards, siding boards are layered on in the design chosen. Nails or screws are used to attach the siding and seams will be caulked to prevent moisture penetration. If the homeowner has chosen to

have gutters and downspouts installed during the siding job, those will be fitted and installed as well.

• **Clean-up:** The installation team will begin the process of thoroughly cleaning up the property. All tools will be removed and the

property will be swept or blown to clean away debris. Crews typically use powerful magnets to grab stray nails and screws that have fallen into the lawn and elsewhere. The dumpster will be taken away shortly after the work is completed.

Siding replacement is a big job but one that can offer immediate curb appeal once completed. It typically is not a do-it-yourself project since it requires specific skills to ensure durability.



Although siding on a home can be quite durable, there may be specific reasons why homeowners choose to or need to replace it at some point. Understanding what's to come of the job can help homeowners prepare.

Tips to maximize closet space

Who couldn't use a little more closet space at home? As individuals accumulate more belongings, they need places to store all of these items. While modern homes may be built with extra storage in mind, older homes often place a premium on closet space. Homes built earlier than the 1980s may have small closets in bedrooms and only one or two additional closets around the home.

The most obvious solution to a lack of closet space is to build more closets. But too often home floor plans cannot accommodate new closets. Therefore, homeowners may

have to get creative to maximize their space.

Sort and discard

Individuals can take some time to empty closets and assess what is in them. Sometimes more space can come from simply thinning out belongings that are no longer used. Take off the plastic coverings on dry cleaning and discard bulky shoe boxes.

Invest in thinner hangers

Clothes hangers come in all types, but the thinnest and most durable ones tend to be the no-slip velvet variety. Such hangers keep garments from slipping off and feature an ultra-thin design, says Real Simple magazine.

Use storage containers

Grouping items together and condensing them can free up space. Tuck belts, handbags and other items into storage bins that can be labeled and stacked. Loose items can look more cluttered and even take up more space when spread out.

Pair shelves with rods

For those with enough space, hanging a few shelves in unused areas in the closet can provide more storage space. If there is sufficient space above the rod, install a shelf and place seldom-used items up high.

Get a closet system

A customized closet system will certainly provide the best chances to maximize

closet space. These companies will measure the closet and assess the contents to draw up a design that will give homeowners what they need. Closet systems also can adjust and grow with lifestyle changes.

Choose other storage solutions

In addition to closets, people can identify other spaces to store items. This can include bins under beds, storage benches or ottomans, the back sides of doors or in furniture with built-in drawers. Individuals also can purchase free-standing closets or armoires that can fill in when rooms do not have enough closet space or no closet at all.

Maximizing closet space comes down to some creativity, de-cluttering and utilizing additional furniture to meet needs.



Licensed
Insured

Over 25 Years
of Experience

• Remodels • Service Work • New Construction

• Light Commerical • Panel Upgrades

Mondovi • 715-279-1151

 Find us on Facebook



Caullee Region

LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN LLC

Your local landscape professional.

608.797.4473

• Design/Construction

• Retaining Walls/Patios

• Lawns & Planting Beds

• Outdoor Rooms

• Land Clearing

• Trees, Shrubs, Perennials

• Lawn Care Applications

• Paver Walkways

• Landscape Supplies (Topsoil, Rock, Mulch)

Jason Oslie | N5186 State Hwy. 54, Black River Falls, WI



LANDSCAPING
OSSEO, WI
715.533.6168

Your local & trusted
Landscape Professional
who will tackle your
next project!

FREE ESTIMATES FOR:
SOFTSCAPE
HARDSCAPE • GRADING
SHRUB REMOVAL
TRIMMING

Spring is coming!
Call us for all your
outdoor needs.

"Bringing your community closer, one 'stepper' at a time!"

EXCAVATING & TRENCHING SERVICES



Chad: 608-863-0002

ARCADIA, WI

CUSTOM CABINETS

Unmatched Quality & Competitive Pricing

 CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

715-896-2100

Mike Gilbertson

Black River Falls, WI 54615



Sunrooms’ popularity continues to grow

The market research experts at Business Research Insights report that the three-season sunroom market size is projected to nearly double between 2025 and 2035. BRI reports that 65 percent of homeowners prefer cost-effective sunrooms when seeking to extend their living space.

The popularity of sunrooms can be traced to a number of variables, including year-round access to a home’s surrounding landscape. That access might be hindered if the only spaces to experience nature is a patio, deck or another traditional type of outdoor living space. But sunrooms, particularly those equipped with heating and cooling, can bring homeowners in touch with nature during times of year when they might otherwise be compelled to steer clear of their outdoor living spaces due to less welcoming weather.



Contributed photo
Sunrooms allow homeowners to enjoy nature anytime of the year, regardless of what the weather might be.

Top painting trends for 2026 show DIY isn’t slowing down

(StatePoint) What are homeowners focusing on right now? Impactful, affordable upgrades. New research highlights that painting remains one of the most popular home improvement projects expected in 2026, driven by tighter budgets and a desire for lasting design.

The survey, from FrogTape brand painter’s tape, found that nearly 60% of homeowners are planning interior paint projects in the year ahead, while over one-third expect to refresh exterior surfaces.

“Painting remains a top priority for homeowners because it offers an affordable, high-impact way to transform interior spaces,” says Melanie Canning, director of insights for FrogTape. “DIYers are embracing projects that are creative, yet practical, with timeless color palettes and AI-assisted design choices.”

Despite a tight financial environment, over 45% of people at the time of the survey had undertaken a project in the past month, and the data indicates that this momentum is expected to continue. Nearly half of respondents agreed that tough economic conditions have influenced their 2026 DIY plans – but they still intend to complete projects, just on a tighter budget.

“When budgets tighten, homeowners become more intentional with their time and money,” says Canning. “Painting gives DIYers flexibility to work at their own pace, manage costs and see noticeable results.”

Timeless over trendy
Homeowners are gravitating toward spaces that feel calm and timeless – 71% agreed that they prefer painting projects that are long-lasting and classic.

Despite being fun for the moment, trendy colors, patterns and styles can quickly lose appeal – 44% say they’re motivated to repaint because their current space feels outdated. For a classic look, homeowners can opt for neutral walls and add accent colors through accessories like pillows, artwork and candles, which can easily be swapped for different seasons, moods or trends.

Comfort-first colors
DIYers are saying goodbye to plain, colorless rooms and hello to warm, inviting spaces. According to nearly half (49%) of survey respondents, stark white rooms are their biggest design “ick.” For many (45%), their 2026 design outlook is warm and natural, and they plan to lean into earthy tones like beige, taupe, clay, greens and blues. The ultimate goal for 47% of DIYers is to create calm, relaxing spaces through color. Additionally, “comfortcore” is the most popular design style in 2026. Anyone can achieve “comfortcore” with soft textures and calm colors for a cozy ambiance.

Personal preferences aren’t the only factor impacting the trend — 65% of respondents are planning their upcoming paint projects for entertaining guests, and 62% agree that their main goal is to make the space feel more

inviting, making comfort a key priority.

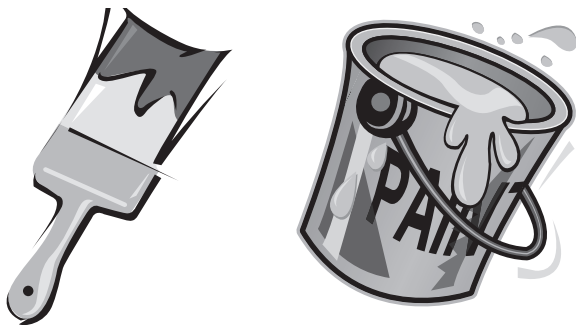
Tech & tape
Making home update decisions can be difficult, but modern technologies can help. More than half of people reported using AI to assist with home improvement projects in some capacity, from previewing paint colors to assisting with design decisions and identifying paint trends.

However, even in the age of AI, traditional tools, like painter’s tape, remain irreplaceable. Ninety percent of people have used or plan to use painter’s tape on recent painting projects. The most common surfaces they tape include trim and baseboards (74%), doors and windows (65%), edges (58%) and walls (49%).

No matter the painting project, FrogTape Advanced Painter’s Tape is valuable to have on hand. The ultra-premium painter’s tape conforms around challenging curves and edges like trim, molding and light fixtures without tearing. Additionally, it contains exclusive Paint-Block Technology to seal tape edges and block paint bleed for super sharp paint lines.

For more inspiration and tips for your 2026 painting projects, visit FrogTape.com.

From cozy, comfort-first color palettes to practical room refreshes and AI-powered planning tools, this year, DIYers are making meaningful updates that feel both intentional and attainable.



BATHROOM REMODELING – DONE RIGHT

CLEAR, HONEST PRICES

Want to update or upgrade your bathroom?

- Vanities & Countertops
- Tub & Shower Upgrades
- Flooring & Lighting Updates
- Designed Around Your Space

FREE Estimates and Financing Available
Call 608-863-0146 • TimberlineNow.com

SHAKE HOLLOW GREENHOUSE
Is Opening on April 18
Owner Ura & Susan and Anna Bontrager
N2911 Vinger Rd. Melrose WI 54642
5 miles from Melrose North East on 54 to County N, on N until H to Vinger Rd. 1/2 mile on Vinger Rd.
20 miles West of Black River Falls
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8am-6pm
Closed Sundays and all Christian holidays

We Have a Variety of Hanging Baskets, Planters & Bedding Plants, Vegetable Plants, Succulants & Fruit Trees and More!

Free Coffee and Donuts on Opening Day!

Customer Satisfaction is our goal.

Bagniefski
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

108 W. Broadway Street, Blair

608-782-0698

24 HOUR SERVICE

SHEET METAL NEEDS • VENTILATION

www.bagniefski.com

GREENLEAF
Trucking, Construction, Lime & Excavating

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • AGRICULTURAL

GREENLEAF
Transport, LLC

- Flatbed • Low Boys
- Reefer • Dry Van
- Drop Decks
- Pneumatic
- Hopper Bottom

- DUMP TRUCKS • LIME SPREADERS • BULL DOZERS • LOADERS • BACKHOE • MATERIAL HANDLER
- EQUIPMENT TRAILERS • SAND HAULING • SNOWPLOWING & SWEEPING • POST HOLE DIGGING
- TRENCHING • BOB CAT • EXCAVATION, BUILDING CONCRETE REMOVAL • PAVING AND MORE...

Blacktop Paving & Concrete Driveways & Parking Lots Sidewalks, Curbs & Gutters Waterways & Streams	Trucking & Transportation Dump Truck Hauling National Flatbed Hauling Sand Hauling	Sand & Gravel Products Black Dirt and Topsoil Washed Rock & Filter Rock Base Fill & Gravel	Lime & Excavating Agricultural Lime & Spreading Hi-Calcium Lime Land Conservation Work
---	---	---	---

Serving Jackson County For Over 35 Years

GREENLEAF

FREE ESTIMATES

"You Call, We Haul" "No Job Too Big or Too Small"

Eric & Kim Lofgren (Co-owners) • 715-662-2315 • PO Box 147 Taylor, WI • www.greenleaftaylorwi.com

Love Your Water with Culligan™

\$79.95
INSPECT 'N CHECK

Time to schedule an annual inspection on your water softener or filter. Make sure it's running efficiently. We service all brands and models.

CulliganBetterWater.com
Tomah, WI: 608.336.4371
Winona, MN: 507.431.7455

Serving Southeastern MN & Western Wisconsin for over 75 years.

Four easy ways to give your garage workshop a spring refresh

(BPT)-Spring has sprung! Are you ready to start some spring projects? If you're a DIY hobbyist, it's time to give your workspace a spring cleaning.

During the winter, your garage workshop accumulates extra items, dust and debris that can make it impossible to do your best work. So, take advantage of the warmer weather and give your workshop a spring refresh with these four simple tips.

Clear out the garage
Dedicate the first warm weekend in spring to emptying your garage. That means removing everything that isn't attached to the walls. This may require a lot of muscle and energy, but it will create a solid foundation for your garage spring cleaning. Once you have everything out, take stock of your items. Sort them into piles like gardening tools, power tools, lawn care appliances, etc. Review each pile and identify what you want to keep, toss or donate.

If you're having trouble figuring out what to keep, think about how often you use an item. If you use them regularly or annually, put these tools aside so you can find space for them. Anything you don't use or that's broken should be donated or tossed.

Dust and clean surfaces, items and floors
Now that you have everything out of the garage, take time to dust surfaces and items and clean the floors. Start high and work downward so the dust you remove from the shelves doesn't land on a freshly cleaned counter-

top. Use a damp cloth to wipe down surfaces and equipment and follow up with a vacuum to get into corners.

Next, tackle the floors with a broom and mop. Sweep away dirt, debris and trash that may have accumulated during the winter. Once that's done, lightly wet the floor with the hose and mop the excess water.

Organize your tools and equipment
Take in your cleaned garage and designate areas to store your various tools and equipment by category. This can help you think about creative storage solutions and optimal organization so you have more room for your woodworking projects.

Think about installing overhead, ceiling-mounted storage racks for camping

gear, decorations and other bulky items. Consider adding or replacing cabinets for more storage and organization. Another organizational feature to consider is a garage storage wall. Wall kits help create the perfect organizational space to get gear off the floor, maximize space and make it easier to quickly find any item. The kits are customizable, so you can choose from a variety of hooks, baskets and bins that fit your storage needs.

Optimize lighting and power sources
Whether you're working on big or small projects, it's critical to have proper lighting and multiple power sources so you can work with power tools safely and efficiently.

Consider adding in wall accessories like a light bar or power strips.

Choose a light bar with adjustable lighting options so you can see every detail of your project. Light bars are great for providing under-cabinet lighting and lighting inside cabinets as well.

Don't forget to keep multiple power strips on hand so you have the freedom to plug in several tools anywhere you need them. The ideal power strip will have a long, tangle-resistant cord and surge protection. Modern power strips may even offer USB-A and USB-C utility outlets.

You can easily increase workspace by getting tools off your counters. Install a

wall-mounted magnet bar or two (or three) that are strong enough to hold up all the tools you use regularly.

If you clear your counters and still don't have enough room for your projects, think about purchasing a mobile workstation. A model like the Gladiator three-foot-wide mobile workstation combines the strength of hardwood and heavy-duty steel with the total mobility of four 360° swivel casters. Designed for easy maneuverability on uneven surfaces, each caster also locks fully in place to hold the workstation steady for projects requiring precision.

Did you know?

Many an amateur land-scraper has encountered grubs while tending to their lawns, but even the most attentive green-thumber may have a lawn infested with grubs and not know it. According to the pest and weed experts at Roundup®, grubs often go unnoticed until late summer, when they've already done substantial damage to a lawn. Oddly enough, one of the telltale signs of a grub infestation is not the grubs themselves but the animals looking to dine on them. Fully grown grubs make for hearty meals, so homeowners who notice raccoons, skunks, armadillos, and/or birds digging up their lawns may have a grub infestation. That's because these unwanted guests like to dine on mature grubs who have spent summer feasting on organic matter in the soil. Another sign of a possible grub infestation is a lawn that feels spongy when stepped on. Patches of dead grass that peel back easily are a sign that grubs have eaten the roots that keep healthy grass in place.



Contributed photo

During the winter, your garage workshop accumulates extra items, dust and debris that can make it impossible to work. With the warmer weather, give your workshop a spring refresh with some simple tips.

Your best source for quality metal roofing!

~ Free Estimates ~
~ Full Insured ~

**RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
AGRICULTURAL**

Snap-Lok & Double-Lok
standing seam metal
installed with hidden fasteners,
rolled to length on-site

Rollformer Rental
Call for Rates

**RIVERS
EDGE**

Metal Roofing LLC

Call for your **FREE Estimate!**
Serving Central Wisconsin
715-773-2423
riversedgemetalroofing@gmail.com
riversedgemetalroofing.com

**Larson
EXCAVATING**

• Backhoe • Bulldozer • Trackhoe • Skid Steer Work
• Driveways • Basements • Additions • Site Preparation & Lot
Clearing • Demolition • Wildlife Ponds & Dam Repair
• Waterways • Conservation Projects • Barnyard Runoff
System • Delivery of all Sand & Gravel Products, Riprap, Breaker,
Shale, Topsoil, River Rock • Steel & Plastic Culverts

FULLY INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES
OFFICE: 715-597-2381 • OSSEO • CELL: 715-533-2666

**HOME
SWEET
HOME**

**ZC
PLUMBING LLC**

Service & Repair
Water Heaters
Water Softeners
Septic Systems
New Construction
Remodeling

Zach Czaplewski
Owner • MP#1147034
608-863-3910
ZCPlumbingWI@gmail.com

SERVING TREMPLEAU
AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Call Us With Your Spring Projects!

• Existing Homes
• New Construction
• Replacements

LENNOX

TRANE

SAMPSON
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

128 W. Main St., Hixton, WI
715-963-2921
Mon.-Fri. 8 to 4:30
Sales and Service Since 1959
www.sampsonheating.com

**MITSUBISHI
ELECTRIC**
COOLING & HEATING
For Your Entire Home
or Just One Room

Please Contact Us
Today For A
FREE Estimate!

**SCENIC VALLEY
CONSTRUCTION LLC**
Durand, Wis.

608-475-9230
Roofing • Siding • Handyman Work
Odds & Ends • Metal Roofing • Remodeling

Citizens First Bank
Banking with people.

Member
FDIC
NMLS #411803

LET US HELP YOU BUILD!

1.49% RATE 2.049% APR*

SCAN HERE TO GET STARTED

*Annual Percentage Rate and monthly interest only payment is based on one-half of the loan amount being borrowed at the loan interest rate for the entire term of the loan. The payment example is based upon 9 monthly interest only payments of \$320.76 with a balloon payment for the outstanding balance and interest due at maturity (or refinanced into permanent financing). It does not include principal, prepayment fees, and insurance premiums. Actual payment obligation may be greater. Rates are effective as of 12/09/2025 and are based off of a 60-day rate lock period. All loans are subject to approval. Rates, terms, and conditions are subject to change at any time without notice. Loan scenario assumes an owner occupied, single family residence construction with a loan amount of \$500,000, 20% down payment, and 9-month term. A construction loan is a short-term loan that covers only the costs of custom home construction. Once construction is complete, borrowers must apply separately for permanent mortgage financing and provide updated financial documentation.

Tips for the gardening beginner

Gardening is a popular hobby all over the world. Ruby Home Luxury Real Estate estimates there are 71.5 million gardening households in the United States alone. That translates to around 185.9 million people engaged in some form of gardening, which places the U.S. among other countries where gardening is wildly popular, including Australia and China.

A greater number of people are showing interest in gardening, which is a rewarding hobby that's good for the mind and the body. Those who are new to gardening may need a crash course to get started. These pointers can help anyone foster a newfound passion for gardening.

Choose the best location
Spend time in the yard

and decide where to house a garden. A far-off corner may get the most sun, but will you forget about the garden if it is too far away? Ideally, the garden should be located where it will get at least six to eight hours of sun each day. There also should be a water source nearby. The spot also should be convenient so that it is easy to go and pick vegetables or prune flowers.

Start small

If you're new to gardening, begin with a small garden footprint so that you can get your feet wet. A raised garden bed can be a good starting point because it is contained and easy to maintain. As your experience (and garden) grows, you can add to the garden size the next time around.

Amend the soil

It's possible but unlikely that the soil in the backyard is the perfect mix to grow healthy plants. It's more likely that the garden will need some soil modification. You can test the soil makeup with do-it-yourself kits or work with a garden center. A garden typically requires a mix of compost to add nutrients to the dirt; peat moss or coconut coir to help with water retention and to make the soil lighter; and vermiculite that helps to retain water. A compost bin set up at the same time as the garden allows gardeners to continually produce nutrient-rich food to add to the garden.

Plant starter guide

It's best to keep a few things in mind when planning the garden. Think about what will grow well in your climate. Consider how big the garden will be and the size of mature

plants. A small garden will not be able to accommodate corn, for example. Also, how would you like the space to look and what will be its function? Is this a purely aesthetic garden or one that will be food-bearing?

Start seeds inside

If you'll be starting a garden from seeds, it's best to start indoors before your region's frost-free date. This way the delicate plants will get the needed care and can establish before they go outdoors in the ground. Keep them humid by covering the seedlings in plastic wrap. You can start the seeds in different

containers, even empty egg cartons. Transplant to larger containers after the seedlings grow a second set of leaves. Once you're free from overnight frost, you can place the established, strong seedlings in the ground.

An automatic watering system, such as a timer hooked up to the sprinkler, can keep the garden well-watered, which increases the chances of success. Then it will only be a matter of weeks before the garden can be enjoyed throughout the season.



Preserve your pile: Carpet maintenance tips

Carpeting adds warmth and comfort underfoot, but residential carpeting is a significant financial investment. Homeowners should do all they can to ensure carpeting remains in good condition for as long as possible.

According to the Carpet and Rug Institute, properly maintained carpet may last between 10 and 15 years. However, without the right care, the durability of carpet can be slashed in half. Maintaining carpeting is not just about preserving aesthetic appeal; protecting carpeting from too much wear and tear helps manage indoor air quality and maintain home value. These guidelines can help any homeowner protect their pile.

- Remove shoes when coming indoors. Industry experts say that the majority of the soil entering a home is dry particulate matter that

is brought in on the soles of shoes. Particulates can act like micro-abrasives that grind against carpet fibers, dulling the sheen and weakening the structure. Removing shoes upon entering the home will cut down on the amount of soil that reaches the carpet.

- Utilize high-quality mats. Place mats both outside and inside of every entrance to cut down on the amount of debris that is tracked into a home.

- Frequently vacuum the home. The CRI recommends vacuuming high-traffic areas daily, while other areas around the home may require less attention. Vacuuming removes dry soil before it can be ground into the backing of carpeting. For the best results, a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter will ensure the machine effectively removes dust instead of just

redistributing it into the air while vacuuming.

- Get a deep cleaning. Major carpet manufacturers, including Shaw and Mohawk, require hot water extraction every 12 to 18 months on their carpets to maintain warranties. Professional cleaning removes even more debris and keeps carpeting in pristine shape.

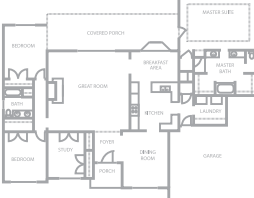
- Apply a protectant. While most new carpets come with a factory-applied finish to protect fibers, this wears off over time. Reapplying a carpet protector creates a shield that lowers the surface tension of the fibers, helping homeowners clean up spills fast before stains set in.

Reducing dirt tracked inside, vacuuming frequently and arranging for periodic professional deep-cleaning will help prolong the longevity of residential carpeting.

SPRING FEVER?



HALVORSEN
LUMBER COMPANY LLC
Your Local Full-Service Lumberyard
Downtown Arcadia • 608-323-3645



Let Halvorsen Lumber make all of your new-home dreams come true with their computer-aided home layout program.

Stop in today & see what they have in store for your next project!

Remodeling • Decks • Siding • Roofing • Garages • New Homes



Hescher
Transport
and HESCH EXCAVATING
W146 Theurer Ln., Arcadia • 547 Meadow View Ln., Arcadia

CALL US FOR:

MATERIAL DELIVERY • HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRANSPORT
AG LIME SPREADING • BUILDING SITE PREPARATION
SITE DEMOLITION • LAND CLEARING • CRUSHED ROCK
BLACK DIRT • FILL SAND • BARN SAND

Equipment is fitted with Laser, GPS & Variable Rate Spreading

Dan Hesch: 608-797-2454 • Dave Hesch: 608-797-1257
Office: 608-323-3384

Give Us a Call!





Planning a New Home or Remodeling Project?

We can help with our **COMPUTER ASSISTED DESIGN SYSTEM.**

SEE A 3-D VIEW OF YOUR FLOOR PLAN!

CENTRAL BUILDERS Supply

INDEPENDENCE: 715-985-3321
GALESVILLE: 608-582-3322
THORP: 715-669-5898
www.centralbuildersonline.com



CLIMATE AUTHORITY
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL SPRAY FOAM INSULATION

715-937-4252

- Closed cell spray foam
- Attics, crawl spaces, basements, HVAC ducts, workshops, storage sheds, hunting blinds and more

Neillsville WI and surrounding area

Buying or Selling a Home? Don't Go It Alone!

Total Title Services, LLC will help buyers & sellers through the process of the sale of a home. We also offer title insurance to protect your investment. Title insurance eliminates any risks and losses caused by faults in title from an event that occurred prior to the home being sold. Don't go it alone.

Safeguard and Protect Your Precious Home Investment!

Call the professionals at Total Title Services LLC today, or visit totaltitleservices.com



TOTAL TITLE Services
P: 715-597-0011 • F: 715-597-6091
13706 Seventh Street, P.O. Box 660, Osseo, WI 54758

Outdoor furniture buyers’ guide

Outdoor living is growing by leaps and bounds. When seeking out new outdoor furniture, shoppers should keep the following buying guidelines in mind.

Determine the size of your space

Before buying anything, it’s essential to measure the space. This will give you an idea of how much area you have to fill. A big furniture set can overrun a small living area. Conversely, having too little furniture or items that are diminutive in nature can be swallowed up by a large

Consider the surface material

You’ll need to adjust your purchases according to what is underfoot. Furniture stability and weathering can be affected if there is grass underneath. A more stable surface like concrete or pavers should be beneath furnishings.

Think about the climate

Certain materials will hold up better in different weather conditions. In hot and dry climates, you want heat-resistant materi-

als like synthetic wicker or aluminum. If it’s rainy and humid, teak, synthetic resin, powder-coated steel and eucalyptus are good options. If the furniture will remain out in cold or snowy conditions, teak and treated metals offer superior endurance.

Establish your budget

Shop around to determine prices and then set your budget accordingly. Mix high- and low-priced items to balance budgets. For example, you can splurge on a durable teak table and pair it with synthetic wicker chairs,

which are a mid-range seating option.

Select durable fabrics

No matter the climate, choosing weather-resistant fabrics with UV protection will alleviate fading and degradation from the sun. Furniture that features removable and washable covers also offers convenience when it comes time to clean.

Invest in storage

Consider the shape and size of the furniture and then plan accordingly for storage. Invest in covers for rainy and wintry seasons. Otherwise, select modular furniture that can be moved indoors to sheds or garages.

Add creature comforts

Incorporate outdoor rugs and decorative lighting to

make the spaces seem cozy. Side tables offer places to keep drinks or set a book down. Also, don’t overlook the extra comfort that privacy screens and throw pillows can bring to outdoor living spaces. The right outdoor furniture can set a scene for beautiful, comfortable and well-considered outdoor enjoyment.



Contributed photo

Before buying anything, it’s essential to measure the space. Consider incorporating outdoor rugs, pillows and decorative lighting to make the spaces seem cozy.

Spring Has Sprung!

FARM WIRING GRANTS AVAILABLE

Get up to \$20,000 to help update your dairy farm’s electrical system and up to \$10,000 to help with your non-dairy farm.

For more information email AgTeamWI@xcelenergy.com.



© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

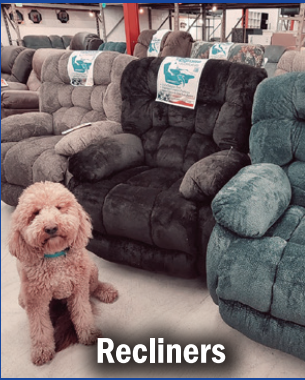
Black River FURNITURE OUTLET



Dining Sets



Bedroom Sets & Mattresses



Recliners



Sofas & Sectionals



Rugs



Cabin Decor & Home Furnishings

Home & Cabin - Furniture & Decor
Rugs • Sleep Center • Upholstery Gallery
Custom Ordering • Outdoor Furniture



Open 7 Days A Week
M-F 10-6 • Sat. 9-6 • Sun. Noon-5
715-284-4001 • www.BRCFO.com
W10003 Hwy 54 East, Black River Falls, WI
1/4 Mile East of I-94, Exit 116

Citizens State Bank of Loyal



Make Yourself at Home WITH A GREAT MORTGAGE

As your local community bank, we offer competitive rates, personalized service and long term stability.

Contact one of our experienced mortgage lenders or apply online anytime!



Randy Mendoza
NMLS #2792728
400 N Main St
Loyal
715-255-8526



Donny Snyder
NMLS #1716959
103 W McMillan St
Suite 1, Marshfield
715-486-8151



Dakota Watton
NMLS #2514287
2 Boon Blvd
Neillsville
715-743-7494



Leah Wilson
NMLS #1463121
2 Boon Blvd
Neillsville
715-743-7494



Candice Lemley
NMLS #2683493
302 S Pacific St
Spencer
715-659-5159

Community Owned, Community Minded

www.csbloval.com 800-599-8399

Member FDIC
NMLS ID # 402918

Three ways to refresh your home entryway

(StatePoint) Curb appeal is all about first impressions, and your home’s entryway plays an important role in that. This spring, consider making a splash where it counts with these three entryway updates:

Add potted plants or planters: Flank the entryway with colorful potted flowers, lush greenery or even small topiaries to create a fresh and inviting look. This will provide a wonderful transition between the outdoors and your home’s interior.

Refresh outdoor lighting: Good lighting will not only boost visibility and safety for household members and guests, it can also enhance the beauty of your entryway. Replace outdoor light fixtures for a cozy evening ambiance. If it’s not time to replace fixtures just yet, simply cleaning them can go a long way toward sprucing up the space and improving illumination.

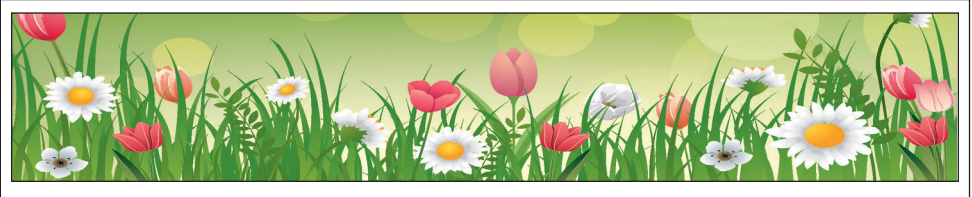
Upgrade to a modern entry door: Transform the entire look of your entryway by installing a sleek, modern entry door. Consider options with glass panels for natural light or bold designs that make a statement. The new 2026 Ensemble Entry Door Trends Collection was made to help find an entry door that feels just right. The collection prioritizes aesthetics without compromising durability, enhanced security or comfort. From earthy neutrals to modern minimalism, nature-inspired details to quiet luxury, there are countless ways to refresh your space with an Ensemble entry door. suits your style and stands up to real-life use.

If you’re looking for an impactful home project for the spring, start with your entryway, where simple updates can vastly improve the functionality and beauty of the space.



Contributed photo

If you’re looking for an impactful home project for the spring, start with your entry-way, where simple updates can vastly improve the functionality and beauty of the space.



WE PUT THE “CUSTOM” IN CUSTOMER FOR OVER 25+ YEARS

SPRING SPECIAL:

Duct Cleaning & ActivTek Combo (\$500 Savings)

FREE A/C or Furnace Check w/Purchase

*Family Owned & Operated

*Insured

*Licensed

*Certified

*Experienced

*24-hour Emergency Service

*Major Appliances & Fireplaces at our BRF Location

*We offer healthy indoor air quality solutions -

*Complete heating & cooling sales & service

*Propane services

*Duct cleaning & sanitizing

*Forced air heating

*Mini-Splits

*Heat Pumps

*Preventative maintenance

CUSTOM HEATING & COOLING, Inc.

216 E. Division St., Neillsville 715-743-6109

25 N. 2nd St., Black River Falls 715-284-5931

Build Your Future with Bluff View Bank!

Mike Glassmaker

Loan Officer | NMLS#523887

608-582-3650

mikeg@bluffviewbank.com

Latonia Schmitt

Loan Officer | NMLS#1052650

608-526-5524

latonias@bluffviewbank.com

Bluff View Bank

Focused On You

GALESVILLE | TREMPPEALEAU | HOLMEN

Member FDIC

Visit us at bluffviewbank.com/construction-loans

Subject to credit approval.

NMLS#683940

Boarding

Pet Food

Treats & Toys

Supplies

CREEKSIDE KENNELS & SHOP

www.creeksidekennelsshop.com

PH 715-896-2967

CK20 SERIES

25-40 HP

SUB-COMPACT TRACTORS

0% UP TO 72 MONTHS OR UP TO \$3000 CASH BACK* (T-L-B)

0% Financing on all KIOTI Tractors, Compact Loaders, UTVs and ZTRs.*

Est. 1968

WOOD

SALES & SERVICE

HRS: Mon.-Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-3

Sunday Closed

N5931 State Highway 54, Black River Falls, WI

www.WoodSalesService.com

715-284-9438

KIOTI.com

*Offer available January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026. Rebates and/or financing based on the purchase of eligible equipment defined in promotional program. Pricing and rebates in US dollars. Additional fees including, but not limited to, taxes, freight, setup and delivery charges may apply. Financing must be through DILL or Sheffield using one of the available financing options. Financing is subject to credit approval. Customers must take delivery prior to the end of the program period. Some customers will not qualify. Some restrictions apply. Offer available on new equipment only. Prior purchases are not eligible. Offer subject to change without notice. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. See your dealer for details. © 2026 Kioti Tractor Company a Division of Daedong-USA, Inc.

Debunking common myths about metal roofs

(StatePoint) Shopping for a new roof but unsure if metal is the right material for your home? Metal roofing is tougher, safer and longer-lasting than asphalt, with an expected lifespan of more than 50 years. Additionally, metal roof systems offer energy cost savings, withstand extreme weather, and boost resale value.

Despite these benefits, lingering myths sometimes prevent homeowners from opting for metal roofs. Below are answers to frequently asked questions about metal roofs to help you sort fact from fiction:

Can you walk on a metal roof? Tin roofs that bend, buckle or crumple are a thing of the past. Whether cleaning gutters, picking up storm debris or fetching a lost kite, you can do so on a high-quality metal roof. For example, ProVia shake, slate and barrel tile metal roofing is made with strong 26-gauge galvanized steel. Just be sure to ask your contractor or manufacturer where and how to walk on the roof and never do so when it is wet or extremely dusty.

Is metal roofing heavy? Metal panel roofing systems are heavy duty, not heavy-weight, giving you the added strength of steel without added weight. The average per-square weight for an asphalt shingle roof is 240-270 pounds, and for slate is 800-1,500 pounds. By contrast, a metal roof system is much lighter, coming in at a per-square-weight of only 108

pounds. Do metal roofs attract lightning? Metal is actually one of the best materials to have if your home were struck by lightning, working to disperse energy safely through the home's structure rather than allowing it to penetrate or spontaneously ignite or shock. And metal is noncombustible, so if lightning does hit, a metal roof will not catch fire.

Are metal roofs noisy when it rains? In residential structures, roofing is part of a complete system that includes attic space, the roof deck, underlayment materials that prevent moisture, and interior insulation, all of which absorb sound. When installed properly, a metal roofing system should be as quiet as any other roofing material.

Are metal roofs easily dented by hail? Metal roofs are well-known for being much more durable than other roofing materials, especially asphalt. In fact, in many areas where extreme weather can occur, metal roofs are the better choice for homes, so much so that many insurance companies offer price breaks for metal roof systems.

Do metal roofs attract heat? Metal roofs release solar heat much more quickly than asphalt roofs, which absorb heat with their petroleum and granular composition. ProVia metal roofing reduces the heat load of your house, providing up to 30% energy savings.

Do metal roofs impact

cell reception? Metal roofing allows radio signals to pass through with little disruption and is no different in this regard to other common building materials like brick or concrete.

Do metal roofs rust? Rust occurs when iron reacts with oxygen and water, causing oxidation that deteriorates the metal. That's why ProVia metal roofing panels are treated with 11 total layers of anti-corrosive coating that prevent moisture from reaching the metal, ensuring each panel is protected.

To learn more about the benefits of metal roofing, visit provia.com.

"Don't let misinformation deter you from selecting your next roof wisely. Metal roofing is durable, beautiful and safe," says Chance Shalosky, ProVia Metal Roofing product manager.



Contributed photo

Along with the benefits of metal roofs, myths continue to linger sometimes preventing homeowners from opting for a metal roof. Metal panel roofing systems are heavy duty, not heavy-weight, giving you the added strength of steel without added weight.

HOLCOMB
Concrete Inc.

- Insulated Basement Walls
- Colored Textured Flatwork
- Garage Slabs–Sidewalks
- Frost Walls • Driveways

Serving the area since 1996
715-284-4678

Gaier
CONSTRUCTION

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
715-284-9707
Black River Falls, Wisconsin



RAYNOR
GARAGE DOORS &
OPERATORS
Sales & Service
New Construction
or Remodels

ZIEGLER
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

SERVICING:

Galesville

Trempealeau

Ettrick

Blair

Arcadia

& Surrounding Areas!

**GIVE US A
CALL TODAY!**
526-4888

SAVE \$150⁰⁰

ZIEGLER
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Save \$150.00 on an Amana Gas Furnace Installation*
Clip this coupon and redeem on day of installation.
One coupon per offer. No cash value.
*Excludes new construction.
Expires: 8/31/2026

Amana
Heating & Air Conditioning
AMERICA'S BRAND FOR COMFORT



SAVE \$100⁰⁰

ZIEGLER
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Save \$100.00 on an Amana Air Conditioner Installation*
Clip this coupon and redeem on day of installation.
One coupon per offer. No cash value.
*Excludes new construction.
Expires: 8/31/2026

Situations when self-storage may be the right solution

When organizing a home or apartment, homeowners and renters are often confronted with a stark reality: they have more stuff than space. Storage issues tend to snowball as individuals acquire new items without discarding old ones. Few people may consider a home addition or upgrading to a larger home to address their storage situations, as those can be costly solutions to problems that often can be solved with a less significant investment.

Self-storage facilities are a practical and simple way for homeowners and renters to solve the problem of having too much stuff and too little space. Such facilities can accommodate individuals in various situations, making this an ideal option for anyone looking to organize their homes without getting rid of their possessions.

Organizing a home

Perhaps the most common reason to rent a self-storage unit is to create space in a home and make it feel less cluttered. Clutter isn't just a nuisance, it's also a potential mental health hazard. A 2016 study from researchers at the University of New Mexico found that clutter was negatively related to a psychological sense of well-being. Ridding a home of clutter may create greater feelings of happiness. Individuals who want to see if this approach works for them can rent a self-storage unit, where they can keep items that might have sentimental value but little practical value.

Selling a home

Real estate professionals note that staging is an important part of selling a home. In fact, a 2019 report from the National Association of Realtors indicated 47 percent of buyers feel a well-staged living room had a significant effect on how they viewed a home. Staging typically involves removing excess furniture and knickknacks to make rooms appear more spacious and free-flowing. Sellers can temporarily rent a self-storage unit where they can keep extra furnishings and other items so the rooms throughout their house are less cluttered and more appealing to prospective buyers.

Renovating a home

Every homeowner who has lived through a renovation project is likely aware of how claustrophobic a home can feel once the project commences. Cramped quarters and little room to move around can turn the weeks spent renovating a home into an exercise in stress management. Prior to a renovation, homeowners can rent a self-storage unit so furnishings in the room or rooms that will be renovated are not crammed into bedrooms, hallways and other living spaces. Most storage facilities offer temporary unit rentals that can make it much easier to navigate home renovations.

These are just some of the situations when renting a self-storage unit can make life easier and a little less cramped. Homeowners and renters are urged to consider self-storage solutions if and when things start to feel a little claustrophobic or crowded at home.

Now is the time to give your mower a tune-up

(StatePoint) As the weather starts to turn in early spring, giving your mower a tune-up is a must for performance, safety and efficiency.

"Before the spring season truly kicks off, take stock of your mower's maintenance needs. Paying a bit of attention to your machine now will set you up for a smooth and easy cutting season, and extend the life of your mower," says Exmark marketing manager, Lenny Mangnall.

In addition to consulting your owner's manual to determine tasks specific to your model, you can also follow this checklist from Exmark to make sure your mower is in top shape:

1. Change the oil. A healthy engine is a happy engine.
2. Sharpen or replace blades. Fresh blades cut faster, smoother and cleaner.
3. Give the mower a deep clean. Use a putty knife to remove caked grass from under the deck.
4. Replace old fuel. Never use fuel left in the tank from the last season.
5. Check on the tires. Low tire pressure is a performance issue and a safety hazard.
6. Inspect engine belts. Check belt tension and wear to help your engine perform at its best.
7. Replace spark plugs. Fresh spark plugs help your mower start and run smoothly.

For additional details and instructions on each item on this checklist, read the full article "Is Your Lawn Mower Ready for Spring?" The article can be found at Exmark's Backyard Life, a unique multimedia destination focused on helping homeowners improve their outdoor living spaces. There you can find more articles, DIY project ideas, and view



Contributed photo
With spring in the air, now is the time to tune up those lawn mowers in preparation for the mowing season.

Exmark Original Series videos on topics ranging from lawn and grass care to gardening, landscaping and even fishing and barbecuing.

Work smarter, not harder in your yard. Give your mower a little love at the start of the season to help ensure you get reliable performance all spring and summer.

Did you know?

Leaves can stain

Leaves that fall from trees can be a marvel to behold. But leaves can stain exterior surfaces when they eventually settle on vehicles, concrete driveways, patios, and other surfaces, become wet and/or are not cleaned away in a timely fashion.

Leaf stains are caused by tannins in the leaves. The pigments can be absorbed by porous materials like concrete and leave stains behind. While these stains may wash away over time, homeowners may prefer a faster way to get rid of unsightly stains. To remove moderate leaf stains, mix oxygen bleach with hot water and apply to stains using a scrub brush.

Dark stains may require a tougher cleanser, such as one that contains trisodium phosphate. Some homeowners find success using a pressure washer to clean away leaf stains, while others rely on commercial leaf-stain removers.



J. SWENSON CONSTRUCTION

FREE
estimates on
construction
projects of all
sizes!

Concrete Construction:

- New Construction
(Residential, Agricultural, Commercial)
- Remodels

- Decorative Concrete
- Poured Walls, ICF Walls, Block Laying
- Flatwork - Driveways, Sidewalks, Floors

Jeremy Swenson • N24410 Lund Coulee, Ettrick • 608-386-5611

Celebrate Earth Day

"Call us to build your New Deck!"

LUMBER | DOORS | WINDOWS | INSULATION | SIDING

N34397 Co. Rd. S, Blair • 715-538-1420

Big Plans for Your Home?

From additions to upgrades and beyond, we're here with the financial tools to help you move forward. A **Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC)** gives you flexible access to the equity you've built.

FORWARD BANK

Check Rates & Apply Online
→ www.forward.bank

CUTTING CANTEEN

Sales, Service & Repair of Cutting Utensils and Tools

Knives • Saws • Shears
Outdoor Cutting Tools
Craft Tools/Sewing
Wood Working

123 W. Broadway St., Blair
608-864-4041
dkb@cuttingcanteen.com
cuttingcanteen.com

Halverson Plumbing

Residential • Commercial
New - Remodeling - Repairs

180 Gebhardt Rd.
Black River Falls, WI 54615
MP# 249851

"If Water Runs Through It...We Do It!"

- Perc Testing • Water Lateral • Septic Systems
- Well & Pump Service • Water Conditioning
- Fixtures & Supplies

www.halversonplumbing.com

715-284-2556

Essential gardening tools to keep your garden growing

It's easy to go overboard when purchasing landscaping tools. They can take up a lot of space and cost a lot of money, but staying focused on the basics can keep your shed or storage area from becoming overcrowded. There's always bigger and better, but buying the best quality tools that your budget will allow, and maintaining them, can go a long way in getting the most out of your investment.

Here are 12 essential garden tools to get you going on any garden project you have in mind:

1. **Gloves:** While gardening can be a wonderful hobby, it can quickly turn into a thorny and splintery hassle without the right pair of gloves.

Gloves should be durable but not too bulky, especially for working with seeds or transplanting seedlings.

Fit is important, as poorly fitting gloves can cause blisters or result in accidents from slipping off.

Fabrics that are water resistant, but also breathable, will help keep hands cool and comfortable.

Longer cuffs protect wrists and forearms from scratches and keep soil from getting in.

Store gloves out of sunlight, away from water and safe from insects.

2. **Pruning shears:** Hand pruners, also called secateurs, help reign in plants that are getting out of control and taking over. Anvil-style pruners cut with a sharp blade meeting a flat surface, similar to a knife on a board. Bypass pruners cut with a sharp blade passing by a sharp-edged flat sur-

face, more like scissors.

Anvil pruners are best for dead wood and can cause crush injuries to fresh, green stems and branches.

Bypass pruners are better for live plants and green wood.

Pruners should fit easily in the palm of your hand.

Ratcheting pruners provide increased cutting strength, perfect for anyone with reduced hand strength or arthritis.

For cleaner cuts and less injury to plants, pruners should be sharpened regularly.

3. **Loppers:** Another cutting tool, loppers are basically long-handled pruners used to trim hard to reach areas and cut thicker branches. The long handles provide the leverage it takes to cut through branches up to an inch or more in diameter. There are anvil and bypass types, just like pruners. Handles generally range from 16 to 36 inches.

Bypass loppers are more precise in cut location than anvil style. Longer handled loppers can be heavy. Know what you'll be cutting and how far you'll need to reach and get the appropriate length. Lightweight aluminum or carbon-composite handles can be lighter.

Like pruners, keep lopper blades in good condition and sharpen regularly.

4. **Garden fork:** An efficient tool for turning soil, garden forks can dig into dense soil better than a spade. Forks with a slight curve to the spines are useful for scooping mulch or turning compost piles, much like a pitchfork.

Straight tines are better

for digging; great for compacted, rocky, or clay soil. Square tines are stronger than flat tines which can bend when they hit a rock or root.

5. **Hand trowel:** The essential hand tool, trowels are wonderful for transplanting bedding plants and herbs, planting containers, and taking out weeds. Select a broad blade to move more soil or a long, narrow blade to dig up weeds or for rocky soil.

The handle should fit comfortably in your hand.

Trowels forged from stainless steel, or at least with a stainless steel head, are more durable and will last longer.

6. **Spade:** These short-handled square shovels are garden workhorses. They make easy work of digging holes for plants, edging, lifting sod, and moving small mounds of dirt from one area to another. This tool can be more on the pricey side, but a good spade will last you the rest of your gardening life.

Treads on top of the blade give a sturdier and more comfortable foot surface when needing an extra push.

Ash hardwood handles are durable and absorb shock and vibration.

Generally available with long or short handles. Longer handles provide more leverage, but are heavier.

Stainless steel heads are strong and won't rust.

7. **Rake:** When leaves and debris fall, your sturdy rake is there to whisk them away. Rakes come in a wide variety of styles and sizes, but a great starter is a standard leaf rake.

Adjustable rakes do the job of more than one tool, reaching into narrow areas or gathering large piles of leaves.

Steel tines are stronger and may be rougher on delicate lawns than plastic tines.

8. **Hoe:** Your type of garden will dictate what type of hoe is best for you. A veggie garden may require a sturdy, wide hoe. If you have perennial gardens, a more delicate touch and a thinner hoe may be required. Hoes are useful in preparing garden and flower beds and cutting down weeds.

Look for a comfortable handle with a long reach.

A sharp blade works better and is easier to use.

Weeding hoes, also called hula or stirrup hoes, have an open square head and are pushed back and forth just under the soil surface to cut down top growth.

Flat hoes are good for turning the soil in rows in vegetable gardens.

9. **Garden Hose with Adjustable Nozzle:** Water is the foundation of your garden's life and it's important that your garden hose can reach and spray every area. There are three basic hose diameters: 1/2-inch (avg 9 gal per minute), 5/8-inch (avg 15 gal per minute), and 3/4-inch (up to 25 gal per minute). An adjustable nozzle puts you in control of the water pressure and spray radius.



Estimate the amount of length you will need with your hose before buying one.

Hose length will affect water pressure - the longer the hose, the lower the resulting pressure.

Vinyl hoses are lighter weight and less expensive, but kink easier and don't last as long as rubber construction.

Store hoses coiled up and out of direct sunlight. Storing with kinks in them can result in weak spots.

10. **Watering wand:** Give your plants a gentle rain shower with a water-breaking wand. The extended reach is also helpful to get to out-of-the-way containers, hanging plants, or the back edges of borders. Watering wands come in a variety of lengths, from 10 to 48 inches.

Choose an appropriate length for your needs - longer for high hanging baskets, shorter for tighter spaces.

Built-in shut off valves in the handle conserve water and allow you to adjust the flow.

11. **Watering can:** There are two basic types of watering cans, plastic or metal. There are hundreds of styles, colors, sizes and nozzle options.

Plastic cans can be lighter than metal, but won't last as long. Metal cans should be galvanized to resist rusting.

Consider the size of the can relative to your strength, a gallon of water weighs just over eight pounds.

The handle position should allow you to carry a full can and also tip it to pour easily.

Two-handled designs allow for better stability for children or elderly gardeners.

You may need two: a larger one with a sprinkler head for outdoors, and a smaller, long-necked version for houseplants.

12. **Wheelbarrow:** If your backyard has extra soil to be moved around, compost or mulch that needs to be added to garden beds, or any other heavy lifting and moving project, a wheelbarrow can help you haul hundreds of pounds!

Traditional dual-handle, single wheel styles can be harder to balance heavy or unevenly distributed loads. Single-handle two-wheel models are easier to balance, better for those with limited strength or when pulling over uneven terrain.

Single-handled wheelbarrows can be pushed or pulled with one hand.

Store it clean and dry to prevent rust. Keep the wheels inflated properly for easier wheeling.

By investing in these essential gardening tools, your shed will house everything it needs to keep your garden beautiful and growing.



Borntreger Lumber
W16296 County Road C • Taylor, WI 54659
"Your Complete Source for Building"

- CONSTRUCTION LUMBER • TREATED LUMBER
- PREMIUM DECKING • BUILDING/HOUSE WRAP
- DOORS & WINDOWS • NAILS & SCREWS
- BATTING INSULATION • FIBERGLASS BLOWN INSULATION

Delivery Available
For Hire or Rent: Insulation Blower



Kyle Canar
608-484-2344
Galesville

DRIVEWAYS • POOLS
RETAINING WALLS
BASEMENTS • WATERWAYS
FORESTRY MULCHING
FOOD PLOTS • LANDSCAPING

Residential & Commercial
dirtproex.com • canar@dirtproex.com



Greg Libersky Construction
Est. 1991 LLC

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
Greg Libersky, General Contractor and Custom Home Builder
715-579-5777
glibersky@aol.com

- Timber Homes
- Framing and Finishing Crews

Licensed & Insured



BORNTREGER TRUSS
Fairchild, WI

S14995 Old Hwy. 12 • Fairchild, WI

WE CUSTOM BUILD ROOF TRUSSES UP TO 68 FT. LONG

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • AG
We Deliver!

- We carry a selection of Simpson hangers, fasteners and heavy-duty screws
- DeWalt miter saws powered by Honda (Also available in electric)
- Three Styles of miter saw stands to choose from
- Pressure Washers (Big and Small)

Open Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

Love Your Water with **Culligan**

\$9.95

Rental Offer

Rent a Water Softener or Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water system for just **\$9.95** a month for 3 months.

*New contract required

CulliganBetterWater.com
Tomah, WI: 608.336.4371
Winona, MN: 507.431.7455

Buy/Rent/Finance



Serving Southeastern MN & Western Wisconsin for over 75 years.



Building, Buying or Remodeling?
Stop in or call to speak with any of our local community lenders.

Waumandee STATE BANK

"Always at your service"
NMLS #401935

Waumandee Office: 608-626-3131	Arcadia Office: 608-323-3555
Black River Falls Office: 715-284-5321	Blair Office: 608-989-2541
Durand Office: 715-672-3375	Fountain City Office: 608-687-9311
Mondovi Office: 715-926-4263	Whitehall Office: 715-538-4389

www.waumandeebank.com
24-HOUR TELEBANC
1-877-319-8627



How to spot foundation issues at home

Home ownership can be a rewarding endeavor and a good investment over time. But homes require consistent upkeep to ensure a property remains safe, a condition of ownership that renters typically do not need to concern themselves with.

Foundation issues are a component of home ownership that can be easy to forget, as such concerns are not necessarily evident in frequently visited areas of a home. A foundation provides structural integrity for the entire home, so addressing damage is essential. The experts at This Old House indicate that some foundation issues can be relatively easy and inexpensive to address. Other issues may not be so simple, especially if they challenge the structural integrity of a home.

Learning to recognize foundation issues can help homeowners sort through small problems and big ones. But what are signs of foundation problems? Consider these potential issues, as noted by This Old House, Robbie Breaux & Team Real

Broker, LLC and Bay Crawl Space Foundation Repair.

- Cracks in walls: Cracks appearing in foundation walls, drywall or plaster, especially diagonal or stair-step cracks forming near doorways, windows or corners, might be indicative of foundation movement. If a crack has formed in a living space, something is likely moving below since floors are supported from the foundation upward. Cracks thicker than one-quarter of an inch in foundation walls or home walls can be a problem.
- Sagging porches and stoops: Notable sagging of porches or stoops can indicate that a house is sinking or changing faster than other areas.
- Separation between door and window frames and walls: Gaps can form around windows and doors if the foundation is shifting. The gaps that form can lead to water and pest infiltration if left untreated, causing even more issues.
- Cabinets and countertops separating from walls:

Homeowners who notice considerable space forming between cabinets or countertops and the wall indicate that the frame of the home is out of square. That likely means a foundation is settling or sinking.

- Squeaky, bouncy or sagging floors: While these issues in floors may not always result from foundation issues, they often indicate that moisture has invaded the basement or crawl space. That moisture may have gained access through a cracked or compromised foundation.
- Leaning or cracked chimney: If a chimney resembles the Leaning Tower of Pisa, it could be a sign of possible foundation issues causing settling or sinking. Bringing in a professional to assess potential foundation issues is a good idea. While certain foundation problems can be remedied by homeowners themselves, it's best to rule out more serious issues that may require professional expertise before going the DIY route.



Contributed photo

Foundation issues are a component of home ownership that can be easy to forget, as such concerns are not necessarily evident in frequently visited areas of a home. A foundation provides structural integrity for the entire home, so addressing damage is essential.

Signs it's time to replace gutters

Home improvement projects run the gamut from complex undertakings like room additions to simpler renovations like a new front door. Some home renovations excite homeowners more than others, but all improvements are a way to make a home safer, more comfortable and/or more functional.

A gutter replacement might not inspire the same level of excitement as a room addition or an overhaul of an outdoor living space, but new gutters can help to prevent roof damage and make properties safer by ensuring rain water is directed away from walkways. Homeowners who suspect it

might be time for a gutter replacement can look for these signs of fading gutters.

- Cracks or splits: Cracks or splits at the seams of the gutters where two pieces connect is a telltale sign they need to be replaced. Cracks or splits can slowly lead to separation of gutter pieces, which will lead to leaks. But not all cracks or splits are found at the seams. In fact, some homes feature seamless gutters, which also can crack or split. Regardless of where they're found, cracks or splits are a warning signs of fading gutters.
- Rust: Rust is rarely a good sign whether you're looking at a vehicle or even garden tools. Rust also is a

bad sign in relation to gutters. Gutters are painted, and not only for aesthetic purposes. Paint on gutter also serves to protect them from water. When paint begins to flake, gutters will begin to rust and may even produce noticeable rust flakes on the ground below. Rust on gutters and rust flakes beneath them are indicative of gutters that need to be replaced.

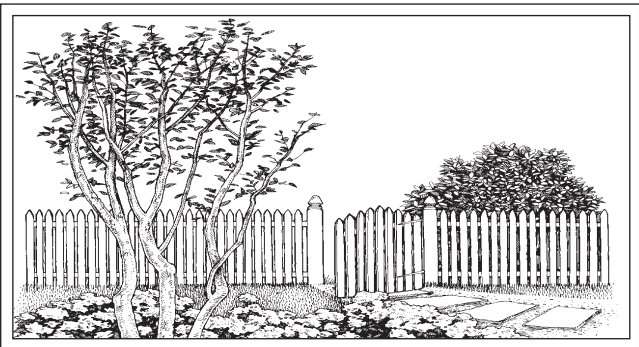
- Gutters pulling away from the home: Gutters that appear to be pulling away from the home is a sign that they need to be replaced. Gutters are fastened to a home during installation, which ensures they can withstand rain and water. Over time, those fasteners

can wear down, ultimately leading to gutters that appear to be pulling away from the home. Though gutters can be refastened, eventually they will need to be replaced.

- Pooling water: Pooling water in a gutter may just be a sign that gutters need to be cleaned. However, pooling water on the ground directly beneath gutters indicates they're not effectively directing water away from the home.
- Water damage inside: A home's interior might not be the first place homeowners look when inspecting for damaged gutters, but a flooded basement or crawl space could indicate a gutter problem. Gutters and down-

spouts are designed to direct water away from a home when functioning properly. When that isn't happening, water can pool beneath the foundation, leading to pooling water and other water damage in basements and

crawl spaces. Gutter replacement projects may not be exciting, but new gutters can make a home safer and prolong the life of a roof and other features on a property.





State Farm®

Holthaus Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.
Jeff & Kristi Holthaus

1031 E. Division St., 505 N. Central Ave., 601 N. Superior Ave.,
Neillsville, WI Marshfield, WI Tomah, WI
715-743-4644 715-207-6047 608-372-2475



Protect your home with the right homeowner's policy. Give us a call!

Passionately Making a Difference in the Lives of Clients & Community!



R.Z. BUILDERS LLC

Loyal, Wisconsin

**COMMERCIAL
RESIDENTIAL
AGRICULTURAL**

Dustin Zvolena, Owner
715-255-9193
rzbuildersllc@gmail.com

Wolf's True Value & Parts City Auto Parts

From auto parts to farm and home. We try to stay on top of it all. If we don't have it, ask! We'd love to help you out.

315 S. Main street, Greenwood, WI 54437
(715) 267-6488



KOLVE'S
Heating & A/C

Justin Kolve
715-530-3202
— STRUM, WI —

- New Installs
- Servicing/Repairs
- Duct Work/Cleaning

★ ★ **FREE ESTIMATES** ★ ★

"If in doubt, get it checked out!"

KITCHEN REMODELING — DONE RIGHT



CLEAR, HONEST PRICES

Is your Kitchen outdated or ready for a fresh look?

- Layout Improvements
- Cabinet Refacing & Full Cabinet Replacement
- Countertops & Backsplashes
- Flooring & Lighting Updates



FREE Estimates and Financing Available
Call 608-863-0146 • TimberlineNow.com

Home & auto. Bundle & save.

Call me for a quote



**State Farm®**

Karen Stai Koenigs Ins Acy Inc
Karen Koenigs, Agent

323 County Road A
Blk River Fls, WI 54615-9202

Bus: 715-284-4020
karen@karenkoenigs.com
www.karenkoenigs.com

Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

Cost-effective curb appeal boosters

One shouldn't judge a book by its cover. However, that often is hard to do, particularly when it comes to homes. Curb appeal bears significant influence regarding how a property is perceived. A property that is neat and aesthetically appealing probably will be preferable to one that looks like the homeowners did not maintain it.

Boosting curb appeal is a common focus of sellers before listing a property. But what can those who don't have big budgets for major overhauls do to improve their curb appeal? Plenty of projects can offer maximum output with minimal investment.

Refresh the front door

Painting the front door can add brightness and improve the look of a home's entryway. Most exterior paint costs between \$30 and

\$40 per gallon, so this is undeniably a budget-friendly improvement. If money allows, replacing the door altogether will generate bang for your buck.

Improve or add landscaping elements

Landscaping should be designed to highlight the home's best features. It should look symmetrical and feel manicured. If it's not possible to plant new flowers or bushes, simply cleaning up debris and weeds, and trimming existing greenery can make it feel neater and more polished.

Clean up

Power-washing the siding, cement walkways and garage door can create instant impact. It's amazing how much dirt and mildew can reduce the luster of a home. Cleaning off years of grime can be a fast and inexpensive refresh.

Reseal the driveway

Make sure the driveway is clean and tidy. If it has cracks or discoloration, filling in cracks and applying a new coat of sealer will make a big difference. Homeowners can hire someone to reseal the driveway or do the work on their own.

Add more lighting

Updating front porch lights and accent lights around the property will cast a more positive glow on a home, both literally and figuratively.

Add a seating area

If space by the front door allows, add a bench or some chairs to create a welcoming seating area. A potted plant or two nearby will help the area seem intentional.

Improving curb appeal doesn't have to cost a lot of money. A few easy touches can boost the look of any property.



Contributed photo
Boosting curb appeal is a common focus of sellers before listing a property. Plenty of projects can offer maximum output with minimal investment.

Tips when painting shutters

There are many ways to give a home's exterior a new look. Though it might not be as grand as replacing siding, repainting shutters affords homeowners a chance to try a bold new color or simply replace fading colors, and each option can make a home more appealing.

Homeowners who have never before painted shutters can consider these tips as they prepare to begin the project.

Don't go it alone. The most important step homeowners can take before beginning a shutter painting project is to enlist the help of a friend or family member. Someone to hold the ladder can make the project safer. Enlisting a third individual, working on the ground, who can take the shutters from the person on the ladder may be a wise move as well.

Remove the shutters. When painting shutters,

homeowners want to remove them from the house. It might seem easier to leave the shutters on and then paint them carefully with a brush, but that's both time-consuming and a potential safety risk. Some shutters are installed with fasteners that look like screws, but that appearance is misleading, and shutters installed in this way cannot be removed with a drill or screwdriver. Homeowners should determine which material their shutters are made from, and then look for a corresponding removal tutorial on YouTube. Homeowners who can't find one can contact the manufacturer or a contractor to determine the best way to remove the shutters.

Clean the shutters prior to painting them. It's likely been years since the shutters were last painted, and over that time, they've no doubt accumulated a lot of dirt and

mildew. Homeowners can try a garden hose to clean them, and if that doesn't work a power washer may be needed. If using a power washer with wooden shutters, be especially careful, as the force of the power washer may damage the wood. Vinyl shutters, like vinyl siding, can typically handle a strong power washing without being damaged. Wooden shutters also will need to have old paint removed before they can be repainted. The experts at TrueValue® note that paint can be removed from wooden shutters with a sander or by applying a chemical paint stripper.

Prime wooden shutters before painting. Though vinyl shutters won't need to be primed unless the old paint is peeling, wooden shutters must be primed before they're painted. Priming can be a tedious process, so

homeowners should leave themselves ample time for this part of the project.

Rent an airless sprayer to paint the shutters. Many hardware or paint stores rent airless sprayers, and these can be the quickest way to paint shutters. Professionals typically apply two coats

of paint, and the first coat should be allowed to fully dry before the second coat is applied.

- Re-hang the shutters after they have fully dried. Only after the shutters have fully dried should they be placed back on the house. Employ the same buddy system

when re-hanging the shutters, having one person hold the ladder and another pass each one up one at a time.

Painting shutters can give a home a fresh look without costing homeowners a lot of money.

Light-emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) are energy-efficient and durable options. LEDs convert electricity into light instead of heat, and increasingly are used in a wide range of products, including lighting fixtures. According to Energy Star®, LEDs produce light up to 90 percent more efficiently than incandescent light bulbs. LEDs also do not typ-

ically "burn out" or fail, like other types of bulbs. Because of their performance benefits, homeowners may be interested in switching over to LED bulbs to power their existing lighting fixtures. Generally speaking, LED bulbs can work in most non-LED fixtures, provided the base type matches the socket. The LED bulb also should be rated for the same line voltage for the fixture. Also, the fixture should not be enclosed, such as glass-encased ceiling lights or certain outdoor fixtures. The lack of ventilation can cause heat buildup, leading to damage or failure. In such instances, one should purchase LEDs specifically rated for enclosed fixtures.

Energy-efficient and durable light bulb options

**Rural Mutual**
Insurance Company

Matt Rhodes
your agent for
Jackson County &
surrounding areas.

1 Main St., Black River Falls, WI 54615
Office: 715-284-2522 • Cell: 608-396-1619
mrhodes@ruralins.com
Call me for a quote!



Buying or Selling? Your satisfaction and happiness will be my first priority!
Call me today!

Tammy G. Simmons, Realtor®
Blair, WI 54615 • License #88377-94

**RE/MAX**
Results
Cell: 715-299-6992
Facebook: Tammy G. Simmons-Realtor



ASAP SEPTIC PUMPING LLC
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
715-963-ASAP (2727)
YOUR "LOCAL" SEPTIC PUMPER

- 3 Yr Inspections
- Septic Tanks
- Holding Tanks
- Grease Traps
- Risers
- Back Flushing


N9404 State Hwy 95 Alma Center, WI

Expertise on Warranty Issues and Insurance Claims
Certainteed Quality Master Shingler/Applicator



Free Estimates & Fully Insured

- Shingles
- Steel
- Soffit & Fascia
- Rubber Roofing
- Siding
- Insulation

For All Types of Buildings, Residential & Commercial

SIMMONS ROOFING, LLC (715) 964-6992 Blair, WI

BUSH ELECTRIC
Locally Owned Family Business

- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- RESIDENTIAL

Call NOW to Schedule Your Projects
No Job Is Too Big or Too Small!

From lighting upgrades to outlet repairs, our team keeps your home safe and running smoothly with dependable, expert service.



KOHLER IN POWER. SINCE 1920. **Authorized Kohler Generator Dealer**

W11761 Spring Creek Rd., Black River Falls, WI 54615
715-896-9683 www.bush-electric.com

4,000 reasons to love bees

(StatePoint) While most people picture the beloved honey bee when they think about bees, North America actually has 4,000 species of native bees, many of which are busy right now.

“Throughout spring and summer, these insects dutifully pollinate crops and wildflowers, playing a vital role in fostering healthy ecosystems,” says Clay Bolt, manager of Pollinator Conservation and Great Plains communications, World Wildlife Fund.

According to Bolt, native bee species are beautifully varied in their appearance, behaviors, feeding habits and habitats.

They can be striped, metallic, fuzzy, thin and round, in a spectrum of colors. The world’s smallest species—the Euphorb mini-fairy bee—is only found in southern deserts. At 2 millimeters, it is about as long as a U.S. nickel is thick.

Different bee species fly at different times—early morning, daytime or night.

Many emerge seasonally in spring or summer, while others remain hidden underground for years awaiting summer monsoons. Bees inhabit diverse environments, from cold mountain peaks to beaches. Generalist species visit many flower types, while specialists pollinate only specific flowers. And unlike bumble bees and other hive-dwelling bee species, such as honey bees and stingless bees, over 70% of the world’s bee species are in fact solitary, hardworking moms who quietly nest in overlooked places like decomposing logs and alongside garden paths.

If you’ve ever asked yourself, “what is a bee?”, you might be surprised to learn that they are vegetarian wasps. However, unlike their wasp relatives, which often feed their young protein in the form of paralyzed insects and the hamburger they might steal from your picnic table, most bees provide their offspring with protein made from pollen mixed with nectar. The mother bee compacts these materials into a pellet and places it within her nest cavity, lays a single egg atop the mixture, then seals the chamber where the young bee will develop entirely without maternal assistance.

How can you help bees?

Sadly, bees face threats to their survival, but there are steps you can take to help protect them.

Bees need healthy, pesticide-free foods throughout their lives. This is one of the greatest gifts you can offer these pollinators, especially because parks and gardens often grow flowers that only bloom during peak summer. By planting a variety of plants that flower from early spring through autumn, the number of native bees and other pollinators visiting your garden will increase exponentially.

“Through small acts of kindness, you can transform the lives of these remarkable creatures, while filling your heart with profound hope

and wonder as you witness their delicate yet ongoing care of our shared world,” says Bolt.

The recently celebrated World Bee Day also kicked off World Wildlife Fund’s new “Stories of Hope and Wonder,” an ongoing series that connects people to the wonder of nature and offers hope for a future benefiting both people and wildlife. Each month, “Stories of Hope and Wonder” will feature a different species overcoming some of nature’s toughest obstacles to ensure its survival. To access these stories, visit www.world-wildlife.org/hopeandwonder.

Bees are industrious creatures that are essential to vital food systems and healthy ecosystems. While bees are at risk, individuals can make all the difference in their own backyards.

Bees are industrious creatures that are essential to vital food systems and healthy ecosystems. While bees are at risk, individuals can make all the difference in their own backyards.



Contributed photo
Bees are industrious creatures that are essential to vital food systems and healthy ecosystems. While bees are at risk, individuals can make all the difference in their own backyards.

Blinds can change a room

Installing window blinds is one of the best ways to instantly change the look and feel of a room in your home. There are several reasons to install blinds instead of other options such as curtains.

Easy to take care of

One of the best things about window blinds is they are really easy to take care of. Most blinds just require a damp cloth on occasion to remove the dust. Compared to curtains that require extensive maintenance, blinds seem to be a more convenient option, long-lasting and only need to be replaced when you make the decision to do so.

A number of styles to pick from

Window blinds come in a wide variety of designs, styles and colors, allowing you to create the perfect look for any room in your house, including your kitchen, bathroom, living room, rec room or cabin. Cordless blinds emphasize safety and convenience, vertical blinds have been used for years in living rooms and for patio doors and mini-blinds have

all sorts of uses.

Controls amount of light in a room

Is your room too bright? Window blinds allow you to take control of the amount of light you allow into your room. Tightly fitted slats can literally eliminate light altogether in a bedroom or home theater whereas other patterns might be best for a living area. Blinds can also control the amount of sunlight entering a room which can be especially helpful in the warm, summer months.

Wide variety of materials

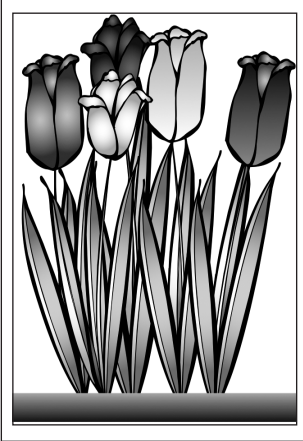
Selecting the right material to complement a room’s décor is an important part of the process. Matching the fabric of your furniture or using wooden blinds with wooden furniture might be a great option. If you’re looking to keep the cost down, plastic, bamboo or aluminum blinds might make sense.

Provides considerable privacy

Blinds provide a certain amount of privacy that curtains are unable to provide. Top-down shades can also

control the amount of natural light that enters a room, yet still provides the privacy that you desire.

Regardless the type of rooms you have in your home, blinds can become a unique feature that adds style to the room. Available in all sorts of price points, blinds can often be cheaper than curtains, plus they come in a variety of materials, styles and colors to satisfy your preferences. Any time is the right time to find the perfect blinds for your home.



Time to replace your windows?

When spring arrives, it’s time to get the grill out, work on the lawn, update your landscaping, clean the siding, check out the roof and yes, the perfect time to make sure your windows are performing well. Are you noticing condensation, warping, difficulty in opening, closing or locking, cracking or other problems? It might be time to replace your windows.

Drafts

Your furnace will have to work overtime, resulting in a higher energy bill, if you can hear the breeze coming in or see light around your window frames, especially during the colder winter months. During periods of extreme cold, there is likely to be some moisture or even frost appearing, but if it’s constant, it’s a case of poor windows. Sometimes caulking is the answer, but not necessarily.

Proper functioning

Windows should open and close with ease. A properly functioning lock is an added seal against air entering from the outside, and also provide additional security. Anything less might signal it’s time to be replaced.

Outside noise

Birds chirping might be

a comforting sound that you enjoy, but if you start hearing the neighbor’s conversations from a good distance away, maybe it’s time to replace your older windows. New windows can help absorb sound which makes for a quieter home.

Decay

High quality window frames and sills can rot and decay over time. If there are signs of decay or mold growth, consider replacing your windows using aluminum, composite, vinyl, fiberglass or traditional wooden window frames. The style, energy efficiency and durability of each model will differ slightly, therefore choose a window that best suits your needs.

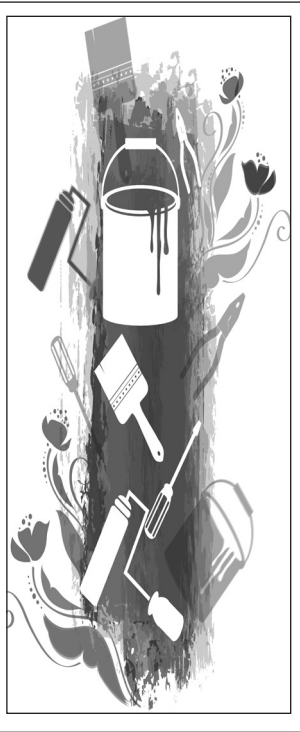
Appearance

No question that windows are on the most important features of your home. If they look outdated, then your home will also. Modern, energy-efficient windows will add value to your home while improving curb appeal. You can judge a book by its cover and much is the same for the visual appearance of your house.

Visible damage

Remember that your windows are constantly exposed

to winds, rain, freezing temperatures and sunlight. Are they becoming foggy, are there cracks, warping, water damage or other noticeable issues that you can see? If anything is compromised or you just want to update your house, then it’s time for replacement windows.”



Sav-Rite Building Center

N3599 Fairground Ave., Neillsville

715-743-3149

www.savritebuilding.com

HARDWARE STORE

RENTAL CENTER

See us for all your building needs!

ACE

The helpful place.

OIUM BLACKTOP

Hot Mix Paving

Eleva, WI

The Professional Choice for Your Asphalt Needs!

715-287-4678 Ext. 1

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

Borntrager Lawn Furniture

Maintenance-Free Poly Outdoor Furniture

Gliders, Swings, Picnic Tables, Chairs and More!

16 Colors to Choose From

William Borntrager

E24726 Sandy Drive

Fairchild, WI 54741

~ No Sunday Sales ~

Built for a Lifetime

All Stainless Steel Hardware

608-781-6120

DOC'S DIRT WORK & EXCAVATING LLC

608-498-1004

EXCAVATING & GRADING • SITE DEVELOPMENT

DEMOLITION • LANDSCAPING • FOOD PLOT

RETAINING WALLS • TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

ONLINE

BLAIR

AUCTIONS

YOUR Consignment AUCTION Headquarters!

BlairOnlineAuctions.com

231 Gilbert Street, Blair • 608-525-0755

We will list your home for a low, flat, fair fee of only \$4,995!

Full Service with HUGE Savings.

608-781-6120

Assist 2 Sell

PREMIUM CHOICE REALTY, LLC

Each office independently owned & operated. © 2022, Assist 2 Sell, Inc.

Chick check: what to know before building a backyard chicken flock

(StatePoint) About 20 years ago, chickens—long a staple of farms and homesteads—began showing up in urban and suburban yards. They enabled city dwellers to source homegrown food, provided a touch of nature amid the urban jungle, and have continued to rise in popularity ever since. According to the American Pet Products Association’s 2025 State of the Industry report, 11 million U.S. households own backyard chickens, a 28% increase from 2023.

Caroline Komar-Steiner, a Team Lead at the Tractor Supply store in Antioch, IL, is a passionate chicken expert who regularly guides individuals into the world of chicken ownership. She

and her husband have been raising poultry since 2018, and she describes it as one of the most rewarding things she has ever done. “Raising those chicks and getting your first eggs is an ‘egg-sperience’ unlike any other,” she said.

To ensure new chick owners can enjoy that experience, Komar-Steiner hosts regular Chickens 101 sessions at the store. The first thing she always tells people is to find out if their town or neighborhood allows chickens. Some have restrictions, so it’s best to find that out on the front end. Then she asks them why they want chickens. Is it for their eggs? For meat? Will they be purely ornamental? “That steers me

toward what they’re looking for,” Komar-Steiner said.

To help you get started, Komar-Steiner is sharing these basics for preparing for and caring for chickens:

1. Assess your space: Chicks need a temperature-controlled space until they are fully feathered, usually about six weeks. Komar-Steiner recommends finding a warm, draft-free area. She sets her brooder up in her basement. The chicks grow quickly, so it’s important to determine where you’ll put your coop and have it ready to go. The chickens will also need a heat source in winter to stay warm and prevent their water from freezing.
2. Get supplies, then chicks: It’s a good idea to

buy all your equipment and supplies before bringing chickens home. You’ll need a brooder, shavings, heat lamps or brooder plates, a perch so they can learn how to roost, a feeder and a waterer. Komar-Steiner recommends adding an electrolyte to the chicks’ water to give them an extra edge. You’ll also need chick grit, feed and a thermometer.

3. Remember, they are living things: People often get excited about the idea of a steady supply of eggs, but like all living things, chickens require care. Before leaving home for an extended time, make sure someone is available to check on their food and water, especially in winter and summer. And

like other animals, chickens are at risk of getting sick. Tractor Supply carries a wide variety of products to support chicken health.

Even after having chickens for a time, customers still frequently have questions, especially when it comes to adding to their flock, which leads Komar-Steiner to a critical point. “It is imperative that you do not put baby chicks in with adult birds,” she said.

Chickens view new ani-

mals as either food or intruders. Komar-Steiner’s recommendation is to wait until they are large enough to hold their own, usually around three months. Additionally, introducing new adult birds requires an integration process.

Before you build a backyard flock, get the equipment and know-how you need for successful chicken ownership.

Situations when self-storage may be the right solution

When organizing a home or apartment, homeowners and renters are often confronted with a stark reality: they have more stuff than space. Storage issues tend to snowball as individuals acquire new items without discarding old ones. Few people may consider a home addition or upgrading to a larger home to address their storage situations, as those can be costly solutions to problems that often can be solved with a less significant investment.

Self-storage facilities are a practical and simple way for homeowners and renters to solve the problem of having too much stuff and too little space. Such facilities can accommodate individuals in various situations, making this an ideal option for anyone looking to organize their homes without getting rid of their possessions.

Organizing a home

Perhaps the most common reason to rent a self-storage unit is to create space in a home and make

it feel less cluttered. Clutter isn’t just a nuisance, it’s also a potential mental health hazard. A 2016 study from researchers at the University of New Mexico found that clutter was negatively related to a psychological sense of well-being. Rid- ding a home of clutter may create greater feelings of happiness. Individuals who want to see if this approach works for them can rent a self-storage unit, where they can keep items that might have sentimental value but little practical value.

Selling a home

Real estate professionals note that staging is an important part of selling a home. In fact, a 2019 report from the National Association of Realtors indicated 47 percent of buyers feel a well-staged living room had a significant effect on how they viewed a home. Staging typically involves removing excess furniture and knickknacks to make rooms appear more spacious and free-flowing. Sellers can temporarily rent a self-

storage unit where they can keep extra furnishings and other items so the rooms throughout their house are less cluttered and more appealing to prospective buyers.

Renovating a home

Every homeowner who has lived through a renovation project is likely aware of how claustrophobic a home can feel once the project commences. Cramped quarters and little room to move around can turn the weeks spent renovating a home into an exercise in stress management. Prior to a renovation, homeowners can rent a self-storage unit

so furnishings in the room or rooms that will be renovated are not crammed into bedrooms, hallways and other living spaces. Most storage facilities offer temporary unit rentals that can make it much easier to navigate home renovations.

These are just some of the situations when renting a self-storage unit can make life easier and a little less cramped. Homeowners and renters are urged to consider self-storage solutions if and when things start to feel a little claustrophobic or crowded at home.



High-ROI outdoor living components

Outdoor living has become a coveted feature for many homeowners and those looking to buy. In 2026, landscape architecture has shifted from something that is purely ornamental to features that are functional and resilient. The American Society of Landscape Architects says a professionally designed landscape can increase a home’s value by anywhere from 15 to 20 percent. Some projects can yield a return on investment of even more — even recuperating the entire cost.

Where is a homeowner to start when it comes to maximizing the potential of a landscape? These projects and components can be a good place to start.

- Natural stone patios: A high-quality patio can offer a great ROI. These patios may use the same stone levels and lines as the interior of the home.
- Outdoor kitchens: HGTV says an outdoor kitchen ROI can range from 55 percent to 200 percent, depending on the location and comparable homes in the area. High-value versions include built-in grills, weather-resistant cabinetry, and stone prep areas.
- Climate-controlled

pergolas: Pergolas on their own can add interest and function to outdoor spaces. Those that feature motorized louvers that adjust for sun and rain have become a luxury essential for many homeowners. They help extend the usability of outdoor spaces during various seasons.

- Smart lighting systems: Integrated systems with LED lights controlled by apps are now major selling points for homes. These systems improve security and curb appeal at night. According to Urban Oasis Contracting, outdoor lighting doesn’t just show a space, but also transforms it. Adding carefully placed lights can redefine the property in distinct ways.
- Softscaping improvements: Mature trees can add character to a property and also reduce cooling costs via natural shade. Landscapes that require low irrigation are outperforming traditional lawns, according to Organic Valley.

Homeowners looking to get great returns on outdoor living investments can consider prized improvements that transform exterior living spaces.

Erickson
Construction

General Contractor ~ Neillsville

New Construction • Remodeling

Serving Local Communities

715-743-7473

LIMITLESS
EARTHWORKS LLC

• Light Excavation • Food Plots
• Property Management • Retaining Walls
• Property Clean-Up • Drainage Solutions
• Hunting Property Solutions

"LETS US MAKE YOUR PROPERTY LIMITLESS"

Cody Bettis • 608-633-3916 • Melrose, WI

Sheila Johnson
Realtor

Homestead
REALTY, Inc.

614 Hewett St, Neillsville, WI

LOOKING FOR AN AGENT?

Let me help you Buy or Sell
your HOME!

sheila@homesteadrealtynyc.com

"It's Where You Live, LOVE IT!"

Cell: 715-896-8042

COFFEY'S
CLEANING SERVICES

NOW OFFERING HOUSE CLEANING

STRIPPING & WAXING FLOORS • CARPET CLEANING

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING • GROUT & WINDOW CLEANING

CONSTRUCTION CLEAN-UP • MOVE OUT/IN CLEANING

JANITORIAL IN SMALL BUSINESSES

FREE ESTIMATES!

LOW RATES & HIGH QUALITY!

Interested? Ask for Darrell.

715-491-5225

dcoffey439@gmail.com

MOWING AND TRIMMING
SPRING CLEANUP

CURLEY CREEK
Lawn Care
LLC

FULLY INSURED FREE ESTIMATES

715-937-3175

HIDDEN
VALLEY
Greenhouse

Come See Our
New Building!

OPENING
APRIL 18

• Succulents • Tropicals

A wide variety of hanging baskets,
planters, perennials, & much more...

Many exciting colors. Large selection of
vegetable plants: rhubarb, strawberry,
blueberry, raspberry &
grape plants. Fruit and
shade trees, shrubs &
much more.

Make It A One Stop Shopping Trip
For All Your Gardening Needs And
Well Worth The Drive To
Hidden Valley Greenhouse!

Unique Planters

DIRECTIONS: From Melrose, take Hwy. 54 E 5 mi. to Sunnyvale Rd. Turn R.,
go 1/4 mi. to Cut Off Road, turn L. and go 1/4 mi. to W12420 Cut Off Rd.
Watch for signs. From Black River Falls take Hwy. 54 W. 9 mi. to Cut Off Rd.,
turn left and go 1/4 mi. to W12420 Cut Off Rd. Watch for signs.

MON. - SAT. 8AM-6PM • NO SUNDAY SALES OR CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS

Where Quality & Customer Satisfaction is #1

Is a sunroom right for you? Consider your home’s footprint

There is no denying the appeal of a sunroom. Sunrooms bring more of the outdoors inside by bridging the gap between home and yard. Demand is shifting, with more than 61 percent of homeowners now preferring four-season insulated rooms for year-round use, according to Market Reports World. A sunroom has the potential to offer a roughly 50 percent return on investment and can cost anywhere from \$22,000 to \$72,000 on average.

A sunroom addition is a significant investment and a decision not to take lightly, as it changes both the interior floor plan and backyard space. To decide if a sunroom really is a worthwhile endeavor, it’s important for homeowners to consider the footprint of their homes/ yards, how they plan to use the space and the amount of sun the home receives.

Home footprint

Professionals with the National Association of Re-

altors say that a sunroom should not consume more than 30 percent of the remaining backyard and urge homeowners to avoid overdeveloping a lot. If installing a sunroom will leave a homeowner with only a small patch of yard afterwards, the result can feel heavy and unbalanced. It also won’t match the neighborhood. Another consideration is the local zoning ordinances where a person lives. Most towns require a setback between the sunroom structure and the property line. It’s also important to look at the home’s roof and whether or not the sunroom will fall right under the eaves or if it will require an expensive tie-in to the existing roof.

Utility

It is vital that homeowners determine how they will use the space and when. This will dictate the type of sunroom that should be built. A three-season room is typically uninsulated with

only single-pane glass. This is ideal if someone is looking for a screened-in retreat without all of the bugs and a little weather protection. Four-season rooms are fully insulated and tie into a home’s HVAC system. This space will be functional all year long, but it is a more expensive undertaking as well.

Light evaluation

The purpose of a sunroom is to benefit from the sun. The value of the space will depend entirely on which way the room faces. North-facing sunrooms have soft light with minimal heat or glare that likely can be used all day. Morning people can appreciate an east-facing sunroom while drinking coffee or reading, and the space will cool down in the afternoon. South-facing rooms will be bright most of the day and may need high-end HVAC hookups or shades to stay comfortable, even in cooler months. West-facing sunrooms are

great for watching sunsets, but the hot afternoon sun must be considered. UV-rated glass to prevent floor fading and even sunburn likely will be needed.

It is important to work with a company that spe-

cializes in sunrooms. Such firms are experienced in helping homeowners design and ultimately build these spaces to avoid common pitfalls, advises Champion, a window, sunroom and home exterior company.

In general, a sunroom is not a DIY project since it typically involves a major structural change. It can be a viable addition to a home when built correctly to remain durable through every season.



Contributed photo

A sunroom addition is a significant investment and a decision not to take lightly, as it changes both the interior floor plan and backyard space. To decide if a sunroom really is a worthwhile endeavor, it’s important for homeowners to consider the footprint of their homes and yards.

Unique features for outdoor living spaces



Contributed photo

Water fountains can serve as stunning focal points in outdoor living spaces. Outdoor fountains are ideal for anyone hoping to create an outdoor oasis, as few sights and sounds promote a calming atmosphere as effectively as softly flowing water in a cast stone fountain. Fountains also attract birds, which can add to the soothing sounds of a backyard escape.

Get Your
FREE
Estimate
Today!



- Parking Lots
- Driveways
- Sidewalks/Steps
- Garage Floors
- Basement Floors
- Stamped Concrete
- Retaining Walls
- Epoxy Floors/3D Epoxy

ARROW P.S. CONCRETE LLC

608-864-3330 • arrowcontractor2024@gmail.com

"Your Local Concrete and Epoxy Experts"



LANDSCAPING & DIRT WORK

Ted Evanston • 608-780-3510

Driveways, Patios, Floors, Decorative & Walls

ASPHALT PAVING & SEALCOATING

D&D CONSTRUCTION

715-533-1742 • AUGUSTA

Ask about our
Spring Specials!

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL | SENIOR DISCOUNTS

PARKING LOTS • DRIVEWAYS

HOT CRACK FILLING • PATCHING

FREE Estimates | All Work Guaranteed



ROBERT SCHOEN

PLUMBING LLC

715-819-0294

Residential, Commercial,
New Homes and Remodels,
Well Pumps and Septic Systems

• FULLY LICENSED AND INSURED •

Serving Clark County and Surrounding Areas

Master Plumber: 963306

LAMBRIGHT

CONSTRUCTION

A COMPLETE LINE OF CONSTRUCTION

CONCRETE WORK • REMODELING

NEW BUILDINGS AND POLE BARNs

715-797-2089 • WE DO IT ALL!

Ask Us
About Our...
**CAMPING
RENTALS!**

If your metal roofs are fading or rusty,
we can recoat them with a rubberized
coating and save you money.
Waterproof Warranties Available.
— Licensed & Insured —

**Fran's Heating
& Cooling**

"24-Hour Emergency Service"

Sales~Service~Installation

**When it comes to Heating & Cooling,
do it right the first time!**



TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

TEMPSTAR

Heating and Cooling Products

P.O. Box 472

Independence, WI 54747

Office: 715-985-2535

franshtg@tcc.coop

Manufactured homes: An affordable path to homeownership

(StatePoint) Does homeownership feel out of reach? A manufactured home is an affordable alternative that you may not have considered before.

What is a manufactured home?

Rather than building on site, a manufactured home is built in a factory on a permanent steel frame and transported to your property, where it will be affixed to a permanent foundation.

A new category of factory-built homes blends the affordability of manufactured housing with the appearance and financing advantages of site-built homes. They are nearly indistinguishable from site-built homes aesthetically and are constructed using the same building materials. Safety and quality are top priorities in their construction;

they are inspected to meet or exceed U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Code in such areas as durability, energy efficiency, thermal and electrical systems and fire resistance.

Offering affordability

A manufactured home may make homeownership possible for more American families. The average price of a new, single-section factory-built home today is around \$200,000, including the land, versus more than \$500,000 for a new site-built home.

Fortunately, this affordability does not come at the cost of quality. The process of building manufactured homes in a factory is quick, efficient and cost-effective, which accounts for their relatively low cost. It also does

not come at the cost of long-term pay-off. According to the U.S. Federal Housing House Price Index, a manufactured home appreciates in value similar to a site-built home.

Titling considerations

Depending on who owns the land you live on, you can title your home as real property or personal property (also called chattel or home-only). Real property, often called real estate, refers to land and any structures affixed to the land. Personal property is a broader category that covers any property you own that is movable, such as vehicles, tools, furniture and other belongings. If you are buying a manufactured home to install on land that you already own or are planning to purchase, it can be titled as real property once the home is affixed to the land. If you are renting a site in a manufactured housing community or leasing on private land, you will likely need to title the home as personal property.

While titling the home as personal property can be



Contributed photo

While often overlooked, manufactured homes offer both quality and value, and may be an affordable option to get you into a home of your own.

quicker and save you money on real estate taxes, it's important to know that some lenders will only provide financing for the purchase of real property. To widen your financing options and improve your chances of landing a better interest rate, loan terms and protections in the face of hardships (such as following natural disasters or changes in your

financial situation), consider a manufactured home as real property.

There are mortgage products specifically designed for buyers of manufactured homes, including some low-down payment options. For example, Freddie Mac's CHOICEHome loans offer financing for factory-built homes titled as real property with a down

payment as low as 3% of the purchase price.

Speak with your lender about which financing option best suits your circumstances.

To learn more about manufactured homes, and for additional insights into making homebuying more affordable, visit myhome.freddie.mac.com.

Spring Yard Work? Put Safety First

Know your machine
Follow manufacturer's guidance
Don't disable, adjust or remove safety devices
Use fresh fuel
Use manufacturer-approved batteries
Keep kids and pets away from working equipment

OPET **equip**
Powering good. EXPOSITION

LARSON PLUMBING & PUMPS, LLC

Lucas Larson • Bruce Larson
Office: **608-864-0871**
On-Call 24/7
Blair • MP #220481
"Don't sleep with a drip...call a plumber."
Ask for a FREE WATER TEST today!

See Us for Your Building Project!

STEEN CONSTRUCTION

CHIPPewa VALLEY HOME BUILDERS ASSOC.

SC DESIGN / BUILD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
12525 10th St., Suite 1, Osseo • 715-597-3120
www.steenconstruction.com

Superior Seamless Gutters LLC

Seamless Aluminum Rain Gutters

- 5" and 6" Gutters • Effective Leaf Covers
- Color Matching • Free Estimates

ARNOLD BURKHOLDER
CHILI, WISCONSIN
715-607-1710

Rural Mutual Insurance Company

Cindy Johnson

16824 Davis St., P.O. Box 146
Galesville, WI 54630
608-525-3311
cmjohnson@ruralins.com

"Keeping a roof over your head with Wisconsin Homeowners Insurance."

Greenview Metal, LLC

Manufacturer of quality Metal Roofing & Siding for ALL your building needs:
House Roof • Pole Barn • Free Stall
Chicken Barn • Riding Arena
... and the list goes on.

- 21 Colors to choose from
- 15 Colors to choose in texture
- 40-Year Paint Warranty
- Cut lengths up to 50 feet

Skylights (8-ft. thru 16-ft. available)
Soffit • Cannonball Door Track

FAST Turnaround!

All the trim to go with your steel!

We manufacture 3 different profiles:

- Ag Panel 9-in. Rib
- Low Profile 6-in. Res. Rib
- Snap Lock 16-in. Panel
...using 29 and 26 gauge steel.

N35198 Co. Rd. S, Blair • 715-538-1325

Kelly OIUM

Well Drilling & Pump Service
Eleva
715-287-3525
Lic #8217
Call For Free Estimates

- Well Reconditioning
- Well Abandonment
- Pressure Systems
- Backhoe Service for the Small Jobs
- Underground Water Lines

BLADE Millworks, Inc.

Wood is our Business!
Manufacturer of quality interior trim & millwork

419 Maple Street • Strum, WI
715-695-3418 • www.blademillworksinc.com

Variables to consider before downsizing a home in retirement

Aspiring to save money in retirement makes perfect sense. Once professionals call it a career and are no longer drawing a paycheck, cutting back on expenses can be a sound decision that ensures seniors won't outlive their money. And housing remains a significant expense, even for retirees who own their homes and no longer have monthly mortgage payments to make.

Many retirees seeking ways to save money consider downsizing their homes. According to the National Association of Realtors, 12 percent of people between the ages of 60 and 69 who move indicated their home was too large, and that percentage grows among movers between the ages of 70 and 78 (16 percent) and those who move after turning 79 (18 percent). Downsizing a home in retirement can seem like an ideal means to saving money after calling it a career, but individuals pondering such a move should consider a number of variables before putting their homes up for sale.

Costs

Downsizing may help retirees lower their property tax obligations, reduce their utility bills and lower their monthly mortgage payments (for those who are still paying off a mortgage on their current homes), but that does not mean moving will not incur new expenses that render such savings moot. Expenditures like closing costs, real estate commissions, moving-related expenses, and capital gains taxes can quickly add up. In addition, retirees who currently do not pay homeowner's association fees may be subjected to such fees when moving into a new home, and those fees can be substantial and hard to avoid. Indeed, recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicated that 71 percent of new constructions in the western and southern United States were built in communities with homeowner's associations. Prior to downsizing,

Prestige Power Tools

Joe Stutzman, N32979 Larkin Valley Rd., Blair

**We have most Milwaukee® & DeWalt® power tools in-stock.**

**If we don't have it, we will try to get it.**

We also carry fans, lighting & much more!

"Customer Satisfaction is Our Goal."



Sparks Electric

608-790-1334 • sparkselectricalsolutions.com



Covering Trempealeau, La Crosse & Jackson Counties

Are you looking for a reliable electrical company?

Call Sparks Electric. We are committed to providing high-quality work and exceptional customer service. We even offer free multi-point electrical checkups to new customers.

Call our electrical company today to request a free quote. We look forward to earning your trust!

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Take advantage of our full line of electrical services, including multi-point checkups, installations and electrical safety services. Our electricians have the tools and expertise needed to deliver quality workmanship every time.



Lighting



Electrical Panels



Bathrooms and Kitchens



Electrical Safety Inspections



24667 3rd St., Trempealeau • sparkselectric2021@gmail.com

HOURS: Mon.–Fri., 8AM–4:30PM; Closed Sat. & Sun.

potentially reduce their life expectancy. Retirees currently living in communities in which they are socially active should weigh the effects of leaving that social network behind. Retirees also can weigh the benefits of moving to 55 and over communities where they will be surrounded by people at a similar stage in life, and how living in such developments may improve their social lives.

Adjusting and adapting

Downsizing will require an adjustment period and a willingness to adapt. Retirees may have an emotional attachment to their current homes, and leaving that behind can be a difficult adjustment. Adapting to life in a new community also can be challenging, particularly if retirees are moving from areas where there are no restrictions regarding their properties to communities where homeowners' associations must approve of any changes to properties. Moving also may require finding new health care professionals, which can be a particularly difficult adjustment for retirees who have spent years building a strong rapport with their current health care team.

Downsizing a home might be a pathway to more financial freedom for many retirees. Seniors considering such a move can consider a number of variables to determine if moving is in their best interest.

Low-maintenance landscaping tips to keep your yard looking great all season

(BPT) - Choosing the right materials and incorporating well-planned design features can enhance the appearance of your landscape while reducing the effort needed for maintenance.

Many materials can help keep your landscape looking beautiful, such as mulch, landscape rock, flagstone, concrete pavers and natural stone. To create and maintain a professional look for your landscaped areas, Gabby's Gardens in St. Croix Falls, WI, owner Lavonne Thompson recommends these elements:

- * Construct paths using natural stone, concrete pavers, mulch or landscape rock. Not only do these materials create visual interest and define walkways, but they also improve accessibility.
- * Use mulch, landscape rock or gravel to give landscaped areas a finished look. "Mulch adds interest and gives a clean, finished appearance that enhances curb appeal," says Thompson.

Maintenance of mulched areas can be a challenge with thunderstorms, critters, traffic and falling leaves. To keep landscaped areas looking beautiful and minimize seasonal maintenance, Thompson uses NorthRock® Landscape Loc Mulch & Rock Bond, an environmentally friendly compound that can be applied to keep mulch and landscape rock locked in place.

Landscape Loc helps to prevent mulch movement from rain, wind, critters, mowers and blowers, while allowing the treated area to freely drain and breathe. It is safe for soil, groundwater, wildlife, people, pets and plants.

Landscape Loc can be used on landscape rocks that are 1/2-inch or smaller. It can also be used to control dust from gravel, sand, pebbles and light rock on walkways and driveways as well as to control erosion around those areas. The more porous the rock, the better Landscape Loc will bond. For denser rock, a heavier application is required.

Using a fan tip sprayer, apply Landscape Loc when refreshing and cleaning up landscape areas. It lays down white and dries clear, enhancing the look of mulch and other ground cover. Landscape Loc is available at Amazon and local retailers in one- and five-gallon containers or as a concentrate to mix with water. Watch an application of Landscape Loc Concentrate at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOdssqFrQVY>.



Contributed photo
Adding mulched areas around shrubs, plants and trees, as well as creating access pathways, are key design elements used to enhance the beauty of a landscape.

THE LAST FURNACE & AIR CONDITIONER YOU'LL EVER HAVE TO BUY.

WANT SOMETHING THAT REALLY LASTS?
Get an Amana® brand 96% Variable-Speed Furnace and Ultron® 16 Air Conditioner for your home.

We are so confident about their lasting power if the patented stainless steel heat exchanger, recuperative coil, or compressor ever fails on you, we will replace the entire unit for free as long as you own it.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE:
Plumbing • New Construction • Remodels
Light Commercial • Service Work • Septic Systems
Heating • Boilers • Air Conditioning • In-Floor Heat
Water Heaters • Wells • Pumps • Pressure Systems
Real Estate Well & Septic Inspections
"One Call We Do It All"



Heating & Air Conditioning
Amana
LASTS AND LASTS AND LASTS.



Glen Pelke

PLUMBING, HEATING & WELL DRILLING Inc.
835 Riverside, Mondovi
715-926-3848 | 608-323-7909 | 888-749-9856
www.pelkeglen.com • glenpelke@ntec.net

HD TREE SERVICE

— A NOTCH ABOVE THE REST —

OWNERS

ZAK DITTMANN 715.577.3376

JOSH HALAMA 715.533.2303

CALL OR TEXT FOR A FREE QUOTE

- LIMB & TREE REMOVAL
- STORM CLEANUP
- STUMP GRINDING
- TREE TRIMMING
- RESIDENTIAL TREE PLANTING
- 13 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- FULLY INSURED

Serving all of Trempealeau County

HD TREE SERVICE

SAVE \$30



MS172 C-E Chainsaw

STIHL

SAVE \$30

on all Kombi System Attachments



KW-KM Power Sweep

Vance

SMALL ENGINE

11750 Chase Street, Trempealeau • 608-534-6222

The basics of three popular siding materials

Few home renovation projects can change the look of a home as significantly as new siding. New siding can make a home look brand new, and a new color can dramatically change the perception of a home.

As homeowners begin to consider siding replacement projects, they might be surprised to learn their options in relation to materials are so numerous. Though it's great to have options, it also can be difficult to pick a material when there are so many products to choose from. Vinyl, fiber cement and wood are three popular siding materials, and understanding the characteristics of each can help homeowners make more informed decisions.

Vinyl - Vinyl siding has long been among the most popular siding materials. The National Association of Home Builders notes that popularity has declined in recent years, with the market share of vinyl siding dropping 5 percent over the last decade and nearly 13 per-

cent over the last 20 years. Despite that declining popularity, vinyl remains a strong option for many homeowners due to its affordability and minimal maintenance requirements. Consumer Reports also notes that vinyl siding is impervious to insects and water, an attribute that's highly appealing to many homeowners.

Fiber cement - Consumer Reports notes that fiber cement siding blends cement, sand and cellulose. Many homeowners like fiber cement siding because of its aesthetic appeal, as it looks like real wood without the vulnerabilities associated with wood (see below). The home renovation experts at This Old House report that fiber cement siding has exceptional durability and offers great resistance to environmental factors like harsh weather, UV rays and moisture. Fiber cement siding also is a low-maintenance, insect-resistant option that won't warp or rot. Fiber cement siding is not easily in-

stalled, which contributes to a higher overall cost.

Wood - Siding materials don't get much more traditional than wood. It shouldn't surprise homeowners to learn that wood siding can warp or rot, and anything made from wood can be vulnerable to insects. However, well-maintained wood siding can be very durable and certain types are less vulnerable to rot than others. Local climate will affect which wood siding options are best for a given area. Many see wood siding as characteristic of a high-end home, making the somewhat higher price tag compared to vinyl siding easier to justify.

There's no right or wrong decision when choosing siding materials for a home. Homeowners are urged to do their homework, including studying cost and the local climate, before choosing a material for their home.



Contributed photo

There's no right or wrong decision when choosing siding materials for a home. Homeowners are urged to do their homework, including studying cost and the local climate, before choosing a material for their home.

What is the 3-5-7 rule in home design?

Home design trends come and go, but one that has inspired a legion of committed followers is the 3-5-7 rule. The 3-5-7 rule is a for-

mula for interior decorating that encourages homeowners to group furnishings in odd numbers. The intention behind such groupings is

to ensure homes feel balanced and intentional without sacrificing aesthetic appeal. Adherents to the 3-5-7 rule feel that odd-numbered

groupings allow for an ideal blend of scale and height that creates a natural rhythm within interior spaces. Some even insist that odd groupings appear more curated.

Size can come into play when pivoting to the 3-5-7 approach to interior design. Three large furnishings can be arranged (i.e., sofa, area rug and a large piece of wall

art), five mid-sized items (chairs, coffee table, etc.) and seven small pieces (candles, framed photos, etc.).

D&C CONSTRUCTION

Dave: (715) 797-7217 • Cody: (715) 937-1091

General Contractor

New Construction

Garages

Decks

Garage Doors

Remodeling

Windows & Siding

Ladder Frame Buildings

 Like us on Facebook

Grand FLOORING DESIGN

402 Grand Ave
Neillsville, WI 54456

402 Grand Ave.,
Neillsville, WI
715-743-2930

GrandFlooringDesign@outlook.com

 Find us on Facebook

- Vinyl Plank
- Laminate
- Ceramic & Porcelain Tile
- Carpet
- Mattresses
- Countertops
- Hardwood Cabinets

Nelson Diesel & Dozing, LLC.

For all your excavating and aggregate product needs

N26111 Leque Lane, Ettrick
Cell: 608-792-1036

FULLY INSURED



FREE Estimates



JB STUMP GRINDING

Neillsville, WI 54456

Jeremy Boon
Owner

715-429-0228
Call or Text

FREE ESTIMATES

 Find us on Facebook

FULLY INSURED

NEW ROOF? YOU COULD SAVE!

Did you know a newer roof could help you save on home insurance?



Scott Larson, Agent
409 E Division St
Neillsville, WI 54456
(715) 743-2211
slarson2@amfam.com
amfam.com

Get a personalized quote today.



American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & Its Operating Companies, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53763 ©2025 23478 - 0425 - 28237242



MILLER ROOFING SERVICES LLC.

- ROOF REPLACEMENTS
- SHINGLE ROOFING
- STEEL ROOFING AND CUSTOM FABRICATION

Pittsville, WI
Cell: 715-451-3748
Ph: 715-884-2929
millerroofingservices@gmail.com
millerroofingserviceswi.com
Fully Licensed and Insured



Starwood RAFTERS, INC.



STORAGE BUILDINGS

Featuring Lam-Ply Trusses

- Easy Construction
- Lower cost per sq. ft.

See us for all your Lumber & Building Materials

- All Dimension Lumber
- Plywood • Steel



LAM-PLY TRUSS POLE SHEDS

- More Open
- Additional Ceiling Height
- Fewer Obstructions

Check our prices on trusses for your new home - You'll be surprised!!



715-985-3117
888-525-5878
Independence
www.starwoodrafters.com



Spring is just around the corner.

Thinking About Inside Remodeling Projects? **CALL US!**



Construction, LLC

507-429-8271

LIGHT COMMERCIAL: Fully Licensed & Insured

NEW CONSTRUCTION • ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS • DOORS
SEAMLESS GUTTERS • FULL REMODELING • WALK-IN SHOWERS • CONCRETE

Trusted service, genuine parts, and the John Deere performance you expect.

RIDING LAWN EQUIPMENT

Add 2 more years of coverage for only \$100 with Tractor Central's extended powertrain warranty!⁷



In stock lawn tractors starting at \$2,599



In stock zero-turns starting at \$3,499

4.9% APR fixed rate for 60 months²

OR No Interest if Paid in Full within 9 Months² on new Riding Lawn Equipment

\$29 Service Inspection Pickup & Delivery⁹

*\$29 pickup & delivery within 20 miles of any Tractor Central location. 50% off Pickup & Delivery beyond 20 miles. Until March 31, 2026

2026 Z315E Zero Turn

Price - \$3,499



- Mow up to 2 acres
- 20 HP* (14.9 kW) V-Twin engine
- 42-in. (107 cm) Accel Deep™ Mower Deck
- Maximum forward speed 7 mph with 3-gal. (13.6-litre) fuel tank
- 3-year/200-hour bumper-to-bumper warranty¹

4.9% for 60 months²
\$66/mo

2026 X330 Lawn Tractor

Price - \$3,999



- 22-hp (16.4-kW)* Cyclonic engine
- 42-in. (107-cm) Accel Deep™ Mower Deck
- Twin Touch™ forward and reverse foot pedals
- 4 year/300 hour bumper-to-bumper warranty¹

4.9% for 60 months²
\$76/mo

2026 Z530M Zero Turn

Price - \$5,899



- 24 hp* (17.9 kW) v-twin engine
- 48-in. accel deep™ mower deck
- 20-in. cut and sewn seat with comfortglide™ suspension
- 4-year/300-hour bumper-to-bumper warranty¹

4.9% for 60 months²
\$112/mo

2026 X350 Lawn Tractor

Price - \$4,099

- 22-hp (16.4-kW)* Cyclonic engine
- 42-in. (107-cm) Accel Deep™ Mower Deck
- Twin Touch™ forward and reverse foot pedals
- 4 year/300 hour bumper-to-bumper warranty¹



4.9% for 60 months²
\$78/mo

2026 X570 Lawn Tractor

Price - \$8,199

- 24 hp (17.9 kW)* iTorque™ power system
- 48-in. (122 cm) accel deep™ mower deck
- twin touch™ forward and reverse foot pedals
- 4 year/500 hour bumper-to-bumper warranty¹



4.9% for 60 months²
\$155/mo

2026 X730 Lawn Tractor

Price - \$15,499

- 25.5-hp (19 kW) iTorque™ Power System
- Power two-wheel steer, power lift system, Twin-Touch™ forward and reverse foot pedals
- 4-year/700-hour bumper-to-bumper warranty¹
- 60-inch mower deck



4.9% for 60 months²
\$292/mo

2026 Z730M Zero-Turn - \$10,259

Cash Price - \$9,759 (SAVE \$500!)

- 24-hp (17.9 kW)* fs series engine
- 60-in. high-capacity pro mower deck with welded deck reinforcements
- 22.5-in. seat with adjustable armrests, springs and comfortglide™ suspension
- cut height adjustment dial adjusts mower in ¼-in. increments from 1.5 - 5 inches



2.9% for 72 months³
\$156/mo

2025 Z920M Zero Turn - \$14,494

Cash Price: \$13,499 (SAVE \$950!)

- 23.5-hp gas engine
- 60-in. Side Discharge Mower Deck
- 24-in. seat with fully adjustable mechanical suspension
- Turf Tires
- 3-year, 1200-hour bumper-to-bumper warranty¹



2.9% for 72 months³
\$220/mo

New XUV 590M Open Station - \$15,199

Cash Price: \$13,999 (Save Over \$4,000!)

- Our fastest Mid-Size XUV with power steering
- Easier shifting, with integrated park position
- Electronic switch for instant 4WD engagement
- Enhanced dash display for operation at a glance
- #234028, #234029



4.9% up to 84 months⁶
\$214/mo

SAVE \$500 on Z700 Zero-Turns!⁴

SAVE \$750 on Z900 Zero-Turns!⁵

MARCH EQUIPMENT CATALOG!

Find your Savings Inside >



Tractor Central includes a 10-Year Limited Powertrain Warranty with New 1-4 Series Compact Tractors!⁶

NEW 1025R Tractor w/ Loader - \$22,899

Cash Price: \$21,149 (SAVE \$3,200!)

- 23.9 hp, 3-cylinder diesel engine
- 4-wheel drive and power steering and Standard Auxiliary Lighting
- 120R Dealer Installed Loader
- 6-yr/2,000 hr. Powertrain warranty¹
- SPHC ADD another \$1,000

1.9% for 84 mo² = \$291/mo



NEW 2025R Tractor w/ Loader - \$24,999

Cash Price: \$22,749 (SAVE \$3,000!)

- Standard LED headlights and fender lights
- Hydro transmission with TwinTouch™ pedals for ease of use
- Optional: AutoConnect™ mid-mower deck can be installed or removed in less than 5 minutes
- SPHC ADD another \$1,000

1.9% for 84 mo² = \$318/mo



NEW 3025E Tractor w/ Loader - \$26,495

Cash Price: \$25,995 (SAVE \$2,500!)

- Standard four-wheel drive (4WD) for maximum traction
- Tightest turning radius in its horsepower class
- Hydro transmission with Twin Touch™ pedals for ease of use
- Sale Price includes factory installed loader

1.9% for 84 mo² = \$337/mo



NEW 3032E Tractor w/ Loader - \$29,999

Cash Price: \$28,499 (SAVE \$4,000!)

- Standard four-wheel drive (4WD) for maximum traction
- Hydro transmission with Twin Touch™ pedals for ease of use
- Category 1 3-pt hitch compatible with dozens of implements

1.9% for 84 mo² = \$382/mo



¹Warranty based on years or hours used, whichever comes first. ²Financing subject to approved installment credit by J. f.s.b. offers valid on qualifying equipment purchased through April 30th, 2026. ³Financing subject to approved installment credit by J. f.s.b. offers valid on qualifying equipment purchased through June 1st, 2026. ⁴Cash off valid on qualifying equipment purchased through April 30th, 2026. ⁵Cash off valid on qualifying equipment purchased through June 1st, 2026. ⁶Financing subject to approved installment credit by J. f.s.b. offers valid on qualifying equipment purchased through March 31st, 2026. Monthly payments do not include sales tax. ⁷For residential use only. ⁸Available on purchase of new residential riding lawn equipment. ⁹\$29 pickup & delivery within 20 miles of any Tractor Central location. 50% off Pickup & Delivery beyond 20 miles. Until March 31, 2026. See dealer for details.

TractorCentral.com



ARCADIA 608-323-3363 CAMERON 715-234-4240 CHIPPEWA FALLS 715-723-8400 DURAND 715-672-8915 GRANTON 715-238-7186
MENOMONIE 715-235-4203 MONDOVI 715-926-3891 SHELDON 715-452-5195 WEST SALEM 608-786-1360 WESTBY 608-634-3141

Buying or Selling Rural Property?



RECENT WEISS REALTY LISTINGS!

- Buffalo Co. – 187.50 Acres w/Lodge – \$2,375,000 – Pending*

Buffalo Co. – 173 Acres – \$1,349,900 – Active

Buffalo Co. – 136 Acres – \$1,200,000 – Sold

Buffalo Co. – 80 Acres – \$625,000 – Reduced

Buffalo Co. – 50 Acres – \$350,000 – Reduced

Buffalo Co. – 43.42 Acres – \$399,000 – Active

Buffalo Co. – 30 Acres – \$319,900 – Sold

Buffalo Co. – 28 Acres – \$125,000 – Sold

Buffalo Co. – 27.23 Acres – \$175,000 – Reduced

Buffalo Co. – 19 Acres – \$95,000 – Active

Buffalo Co. – 12 Acres w/Home – \$375,000 – Pending

Buffalo Co. – 6.5 Acres – \$100,000 – Active

Buffalo Co. – 3 Acre Lot – \$69,000 – Pending

Chippewa Co. – 73.9 Acres – \$325,000 – Sold

Clark Co. – 148 Acres – \$665,685 – Active

Dunn Co. – 67 Acres – \$495,000 – Sold

Dunn Co. – 10 Acres w/Home – \$315,000 – Active

Eau Claire Co. – 180 Acres – \$1,375,000 – Pending

Eau Claire Co. – 134 Acres – \$1,296,000 – Sold

Eau Claire Co. – 83.6 Acres – \$499,900 – Sold

Eau Claire Co. – 79 Acres – \$725,000 – Active

Eau Claire Co. – 62 Acres – \$319,000 – Active
- Eau Claire Co. – 23 Acres – \$69,900 – Active*

Houston Co. – 147 Acres – \$1,250,000 – Sold

Jackson Co. – 80 Acres – \$440,000 – Active

Jackson Co. – 65 Acres – \$422,500 – Active

Jackson Co. – 25 Acres w/Cabin – \$189,000 – Sold

La Crosse Co. – 160 Acres – \$1,400,000 – Active

La Crosse Co. – 107 Acres – \$771,000 – Sold

Pepin Co. – 250.7 Acres – \$2,310,000 – Sold

Pepin Co. – 55 Acres – \$385,000 – Sold

Pierce Co. – 63.4 Acres – \$507,200 – Active

Trempealeau Co. – 373 Acres – \$2,950,000 – Reduced

Trempealeau Co. – 335 Acres – \$2,512,500 – Sold

Trempealeau Co. – 208 Acres w/Home – \$1,525,000 – Sold

Trempealeau Co. – 178 Acres – \$1,143,000 – Sold

Trempealeau Co. – 130 Acres – \$975,000 – Sold

Trempealeau Co. – 124 Acres – \$806,000 – Active

Trempealeau Co. – 45 Acres – \$325,000 – Active

Trempealeau Co. – 33 Acres – \$154,900 – Reduced

Trempealeau Co. – 4.89 Acres – \$150,000 – Active

Trempealeau Co. – .32 Acre Lot – \$73,000 – Active

Winona Co. – 57 Acres – \$415,000 – Pending

Winona Co. – 30 Acres – \$339,000 – Pending

In the past 5 years, Weiss Realty closed just over 1,200 transactions totaling over \$523,000,000 in sales volume resulting in over 75,000 acres sold.

WE CAN SELL YOURS TOO!

Specializing in: Hunting Land, Farmland, Hobby Farms & Country Estates
Experienced with: Surveying, Parcel Splits, Zoning/Planning & 1031 Tax Exchanges



Land Wanted! *If you are thinking about selling, call today for a FREE Market Analysis! WeissChoice.com*



Chad Garteski
507-269-2742
MN/WI Licensed Broker
Chad@WeissChoice.com



Brody Weiss
715-279-2156
WI Licensed Agent
Brody@WeissChoice.com



Alex Loesel
608-323-0116
MN/WI Licensed Agent
Alex@WeissChoice.com



Jake Davis
715-577-6370
WI Licensed Broker
Jake@WeissChoice.com



Amanda Killian
608-864-0762
WI Licensed Agent
Amanda@WeissChoice.com