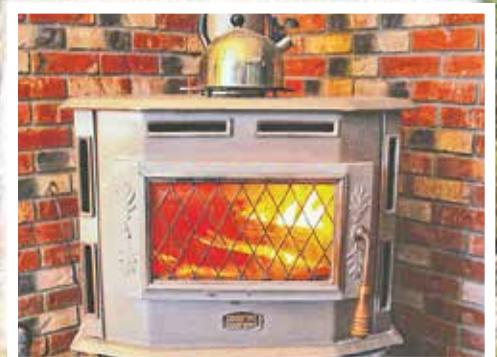


# Autumn

## HOME & GARDEN

SEPTEMBER 7, 2016  
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**MORNING SENTINEL**

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The latest in kitchen and bath design  
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Woodstove pros and cons  
Paint like a pro  
Fall gardening tips



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# Duratherm Window Corp. turns wood into useful beauty

## *And sawdust into warmth for Maine homes*

**“We provide installation instructions and work with the contractor closely, but we don’t go on site.”**

**TIM DOWNING,  
DURATHERM PRESIDENT AND CEO**

**BY TERRI HIBBARD**  
*Correspondent*

The spiral stairs made at the Vassalboro Duratherm Window Corp. plant will absolutely steal the show, whether installed in a home or business. Although there are many designs, some more simple, others more intricate, each is a stunning combination of art and craft.

Many of these works of art grace homes and businesses in central Maine and although the look is priceless, the cost is not as high as you might think.

According to Tim Downing, Duratherm president and CEO, many cost between \$6-\$7,000, despite the high quality materials and high-end craftsmanship.

“We were on the front end of mass customization,” said Downing. “We have forms that we use that build in efficiencies. Don’t get me wrong, there is still a lot of labor involved, but we can do it much faster than a contractor on-site could.”

Once built, the unit is actually stood upright in the factory to be sure all is as it should be. Once delivered, they are installed by the contractor.

“We provide installation instructions and work with the contractor closely, but we don’t go on site,” Downing said. Installation looks more intimidating than it is, he said. “Anyone with basic carpentry knowledge can have a successful installation. If they install plumb and level, they should be all right.”

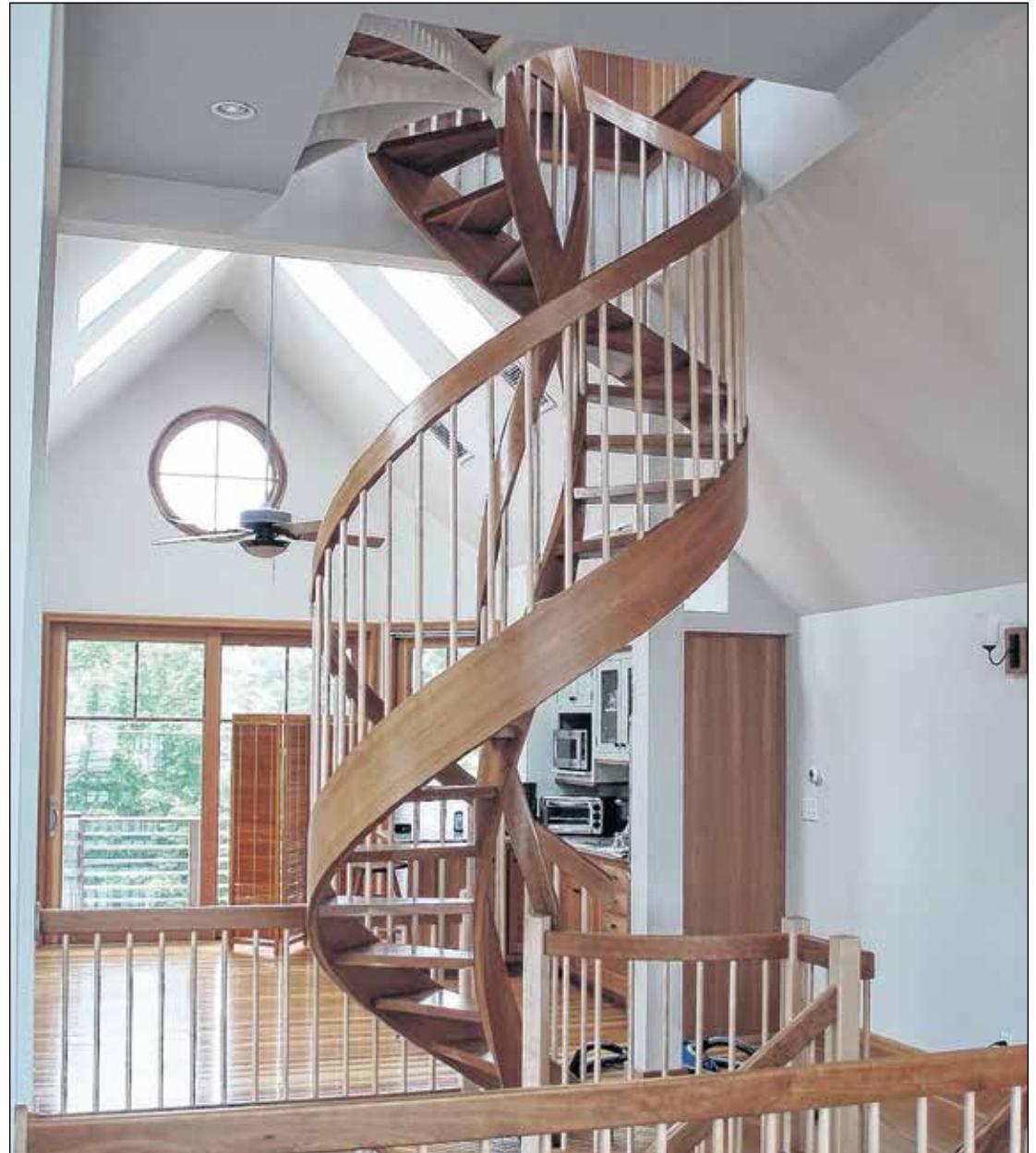
According to the Duratherm website, their York Spiral Stair uses a unique construction: “Most spiral

stairs are built around a center post. Not ours. York’s double helix design, with two handrails and more useable tread space, makes for a more comfortable, safe and practical stair.”

A beautiful and complex spiral staircase takes from 10-12 weeks, from choosing the design to being ready for installation.

Duratherm did not start out making spiral stairs but has gone through many transformations since its beginning, Downing said.

According to the company website: “Our founder, Phil Cole, started Cole’s Mill, just after World War II ended in 1945. But just as things were getting started, Phil went off to fight in the Korean War. When he returned home in 1953, Cole’s Mill became Architectural Woodcraft. We moved to our current Vassalboro location in 1967. Our emphasis also moved from primarily millwork (mostly door and window trim, interior doors, wainscoting, cabinetry) to windows. It didn’t happen all at once, but over a few years. Working in the local school building market,



*Contributed photo*

More DURATHERM, **PAGE 13** A completed York Spiral Stair in a home.

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# Paint like a pro for a look that will hold up through the years

BY VALERIE TUCKER  
Correspondent

Fall is a great time of year to do exterior painting. This recent hot summer weather has been far from the ideal, according to painting expert Bob Oakes at Audette's ACE Hardware in Winthrop. People don't realize that weather conditions can make or break a paint project and affect the longevity of a job, he said.

"For example, if it's too hot and humid outside, the paint will dry too quickly, leaving behind brush marks and blisters and preventing the paint from sticking well to the surface," Oakes explained.

The perfect time to paint is when the weather has been dry for at least two days and daytime temperatures are between 47° and 85° F, depending on the recommendations of the paint brand. Humidity should be low or moderate, and there should be no fog, drizzle, dew or gusty winds, he said.

"Paint that is allowed to dry more slowly lasts longer," he explained. "That saves the homeowner a lot of money and time in the long run."

A successful painting job starts with quality materials, including sandpaper, scrap-

**"Paint that is allowed to dry more slowly lasts longer. That saves the homeowner a lot of money and time in the long run."**

**BOB OAKES, PAINTING EXPERT FOR AUDETTE'S ACE HARDWARE**

ers, brushes, rollers and even cleaning materials. For those new to the best ways to prepare a surface, Oakes said he's happy to advise.

"It's important to wash the exterior surface of a house to remove any pollen, mold, mildew and dirt," he said. "I recommend denatured alcohol for removing some types of stains and dirt, because soap and other cleaners can leave a residue."

Audette's ACE sells electric power washers and rents both gas and electric choices. Before using the equipment, he strongly advises getting some instruction from their staff of professionals.

"If you use too much pressure, you can do some severe damage to the wood or get up under shingles and clapboards," he said. "We can show customers how to use power washers successfully."

Garden hoses also can be equipped with attachments that allow even two-story homes to be cleaned efficiently and inexpensively. Other im-

portant things to remember:

If there's a mold or mildew problem, it's important to discover the root cause and try to eliminate it before painting.

Seal all those spots to keep moisture out and make the paint job last as long as possible. Replace rusty nails and repair rotted wood in shingles or clapboard siding. Wood siding may have pulled apart over the years, leaving spaces where water and cold air can seep in. Use weather-proof caulking to seal these leaks.

Although the preparation may be tedious and less rewarding than putting on a beautiful new coat of paint, it's the most important step of all.

"Another excellent fall painting project is the outside steps and deck or patio," he said.

He is a fan of Rust-Oleum RESTORE 10X to make an old deck look nearly new again.

"It will look great for another 10 years if it's applied exactly according to instructions," he said.

Those who tried to skip the steps of cleaning and preparing

the deck for a coating of RE-STORE will be wasting their money and time, he warns.

"I've put on about 150 gallons of this stuff, and it's a great product when it's applied correctly," he said.

If painting in cooler fall weather, finish painting by mid-afternoon to allow the paint plenty of time to dry and reduce any condensation on the surface.

"It's a good idea to wipe down all surfaces with a rag or towel before painting the next day, also," Oakes said. "There might be moisture that collected on the surface overnight, even if

it's not easy to see."

For a simple project, Oakes suggests trying a new paint color on the front door. Since it will take less paint and can be repainted easily, it's a chance to experiment inexpensively with a vibrant color or a contrasting hue. Lighter shades work well on exteriors, since they attract less light and heat. Neutrals like tans, whites and creams can make flower gardens stand out and give an opportunity to try brighter accent colors for trim and doors. Audette's carries ACE-brand paints, Valspar, Benjamin Moore and Clark + Kensington lines at their 22 Peck Farm Road store in Winthrop. The store is open 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Visit [audetteshardware.com](http://audetteshardware.com) or call 377-2711 for more information.



Photo contributed

Roger Audette started Audette's Hardware, in 1946, in Winthrop. Owner Ernie McLaughlin (pictured) bought the store 30 years later and moved it from downtown to 22 Peck Farm Road. He and his best pal, Miss Lily, are proud of Audette's ACE Hardware employees, service and ranges of products. For all painting and staining projects, both interior and exterior, customers get expert assistance from Bob Oakes. Audette's carries the ACE brand of paint, as well as Valspar, Benjamin Moore and Clark+Kensington paint. "Customer service is our top priority," Oakes said. "We try to help the customer in any and every way we can."

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# For the latest in kitchen and bath design head to McCormack Building Supply

BY NANCY GALLAGHER  
Correspondent

Planning a kitchen or bath renovation? Prefer seeing and touching actual products to choosing from photographs? Seeking experienced design advice that incorporates current design trends? Need a recommendation for a trustworthy contractor to execute that design? Here's a three-word solution: McCormack Building Supply.

Using Kitchen and Bath Specialist Judy Higgins' expertise as a guide, McCormack's upgraded five kitchen displays and multiple bathroom vanity displays, incorporating the latest in design trends can offer significant help, says McCormack Vice President Steve Farnham. With over 90 feet of display space, their Kitchen and Bath Center offers an extensive and diverse array of actual products and finishes to consider. All with free delivery.

Higgins, a 20-year McCormack veteran, maintains her membership in the National Kitchen and Bath Association to keep current on industry styles and trends. Scouting hint: Find Higgins first, and then find the Kitchen and Bath Center. "She has an eye for detail," says Farnham.

See and touch various woods and view multiple color options and door styles, along with the knobs and pulls that finish the look. What's trendy in cabinet colors? White and gray, and McCormack's features a full display in each color. In faucets, satin nickel, oil-rubbed bronze and black are current faves. Interested in a different patina? Look for the shiny pewter model.

In addition to laminate countertops in a host of colors, McCormack's carries full lines of solid surface countertops.

"Solid surface seems to be taking over the market, from the quartz to granite," says Farnham. "Quartz is probably the hottest item for solid surfaces currently." With one of their vendors, "you can even pick out the slab that you're going to be putting in your home," says Farnham.

McCormack's displays cabinets from the industry's leading manufacturers, such as Omega, Starmark, and Echelon. McCor-

mack's also carries unfinished Young Furniture Fine Custom Cabinetry.

For the tech-savvy home, there's even a USB port drawer to store all those devices and wires. "The industry's really changing," says Farnham. New soft close cabinet door hinges do exactly that—slowly and quietly.

McCormack's offers free computer-aided kitchen and bath design using the industry's leading computer software. Design Specialist Higgins will create a full color, 3-D rendering of the proposed space. She can even incorporate particular appliance models into the design to ensure an accurate fit. The customer can then take an on-screen virtual tour to experience the space. For remote customers, views from different perspectives can be printed and emailed. Higgins can work directly with a homeowner, with a contractor, or both on the design. "We're dealing a lot more with homeowners, especially in kitchen and bath," says Farnham.

At some point most homeowners will need a contractor. If a homeowner doesn't have one, McCormack's can make experienced recommendations based on the scope of the project. That homeowner can then evaluate prior performance before making a choice.

For certain types of renovations, such as replacing a counter top on existing cabinets, Higgins or a solid surface vendor will travel to the job site in order to "make sure that what we order fits your space," says Farnham. On-site measuring, templating and installing is all part of this free service.

To find top kitchen and bath brands, a contemporary outlook backed by 27 years of institutional memory, and a get-it-right attitude "take a right at the light past Fort Halifax Park" in Winslow to McCormack Building Supply.

McCormack Building Supply is located at 8 Lithgow Street in Winslow. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, please call 873-6467, consult their website at [mccormack-buildingsupply.com](http://mccormack-buildingsupply.com) or view their Facebook page.



Contributed photo  
McCormack Building Supply Kitchen and Bathroom Specialist Judy Higgins displays a StarMark kitchen cabinet grouping featuring a quartz Cambria solid surface countertop.

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# Ditching dirt and dodging winter woes

## *Fall cleaning suggestions and words to the wise from a pro*

BY NANCY GALLAGHER  
Correspondent

The warm, sunny days we've enjoyed this summer have made for great picnics, deep tans, and undampened outdoor sports. But as we were having fun outside, inside the dust bunnies were sneaking into quiet corners and a filmy haze began clouding our windows. Did we mention the grit burrowing deep in the carpets or the origin-unknown spots on the upholstery?

Pets, kids, and life's little accidents take a toll on our homes. So the experienced staff at Advance 1 Cleaning Services, Inc., in Waterville is ready to roll up their sleeves to make summer's accumulated surprises disappear before winter.

Windows should be washed before it gets too cold—best by October. A top to bottom deep fall cleaning can remove all those corner dust bunnies before it's time to button up for cold weather. Freshening up carpets and upholstery can welcome us back indoors to nestle in a warm and tidy place through the colder months, or just be a part of a final cleanup before closing a house or camp for the winter.

Some cleaning needs appear without warning. For smoke, fire and water emergencies, customer service characterizes this family-owned and operated business.

"When you're in a disaster situation, you come home and your house is flooding or you walk into black walls everywhere, no matter what time of night it is, you can call and a real live person is going to answer," says Tiffany Moody, Estimator/Sales. Advance 1 also provides mold remediation and sewer backup services.

"They're not fun, and when they happen we'll be there to help," says Moody.

Moody offers a number of helpful tips to prevent weather-related winter problems:

"Cover outside spigots with insulated covers, and make sure that your exterior water faucet is shut off on the interior, and that the hose is all drained," says Moody.

Don't turn the thermostat all the way down if going away. "Hot water baseboard requires

"Hot water baseboard requires water to circulate through it so it doesn't freeze and break. So often people will come home from a beautiful vacation to just a mess. Outside walls get hit with wind and cold, making them especially susceptible."

TIFFANY MOODY, ESTIMATOR/SALES  
ADVANCE 1 CLEANING SERVICES, INC.



Contributed photo

Advance1 Cleaning Services, Inc. staff members Derek Adams, Operations Manager, Tiffany Moody, Estimator/Sales, and T. J. Bolduc, President, stand ready to answer questions and provide information about their services.

water to circulate through it so it doesn't freeze and break," says Moody. "So often people will come home from a beautiful vacation to just a mess. Outside walls get hit with wind and cold, making them especially susceptible."

Moody also recommends a chimney cleaning. It is not a

service Advance 1 provides, but she sees many losses caused by a clogged chimney or from neglecting routine furnace maintenance.

A year-round fire safety tip Moody offers is to clean the dryer vent, especially on the outside. It should be "cleaned and kept clear so everything

can exit the home," says Moody. Especially as the snow piles up outside.

A little elbow grease and routine maintenance this fall can smooth the path through a safe, clean winter.

Advance 1 Cleaning Services, Inc. is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Round-the-clock emergency service is available by calling 873-1241. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please contact Advance 1 Cleaning Services, Inc., at 57 Water Street in Waterville, by telephone, at 873-1241 or online at [advance1clean.com](http://advance1clean.com).

# Woodstoves give us cozy, comfy heat but can aggravate health problems

BY TERRI HIBBARD  
Correspondent

Mainers love their woodstoves. That includes me.

We bought our All-Nighter — Moe is his name and model — shortly after the first oil crisis in 1973, when we realized it wasn't a good idea to rely only on oil from countries that could decide to shut off our supply.

The stove has been a great addition to our home. In the winter, Moe is the center of attraction, drawing people to it like moths to a flame. Back when the house was full of youngsters, on a chilly morning the kids liked to perch on the seat nearest it or on the hearth to eat their cereal and warm up before heading out to school.

During the infamous ice storm of 1998, we cooked on Moe and invited people in to enjoy our stove's cozy warmth and a hot meal.

But old woodstoves like mine can aggravate asthma and other health problems worse. In recent decades, the Environmental Protection Agency has gotten serious about regulations to make woodstoves more efficient and environmentally sound.

According to the Maine government, about half of all homes in Maine use wood for at least some of their heating needs. Wood is a renewable resource and is considered a green alternative fuel. However, about one in three of the woodstoves used in Maine are more than 20 years old. Like mine.

Rocky Gaslin, co-owner of Rocky's Stove Shoppe in Augusta noted that not all wood-burning Mainers are in my predicament. He says,

"Efficient woodstoves have been on the market since the 1990s."

Newer stoves, he explained, have a catalytic combustor made of ceramic and coated with platinum to increase the temperature of the gases generated by the wood fire from 800 or 900 degrees to about 2,000 degrees. This hot burn eliminates most of the particles that cause pollution and aggravate health problems.

Other efficient stoves use baffles that supply air to re-burn gases a second time creating a higher temperature and less pollution.

So can a combustor or baffles be added to an old stove like mine to make it more efficient?

"No," said Gaslin, "You'll probably have to change your stove."

Combustors and baffles must be designed into a stove.

The good news for owners of old stoves is that, according to Gaslin, we can buy a very efficient woodstove for about \$1,500-\$3,000. With the purchase of these approved stoves, financial help is available.

The federal government offers a \$300 tax credit for the purchase of an efficient wood or pellet stove, and Efficiency Maine will give a \$500 rebate for the purchase of an EPA-approved wood or pellet stove. The (very long) list of approved units is available at [efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com).

Even more stringent EPA regulations will go into effect in 2020, reducing the allowable particle emissions from 4.5 grams per hour to 2.5

More WOODSTOVES, **PAGE 11**

## Fall is for Planting

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"Mums and asters will tolerate only a very light frost. Mums may survive the winter if mulched after the ground freezes; asters are hardier."

**ANNA LONGFELLOW BROWN,  
DESIGN MANAGER  
LONGFELLOW'S GREENHOUSES**

# Fall gardening tips from Longfellow's

**BY WANDA CURTIS**  
*Correspondent*

As summer draws to a close, many Mainers are contemplating putting their gardens to bed. It's actually not too late however, to still plant flowers that can add color to your garden right up until the first frost.

According to information from those in the know at Longfellow's Greenhouses in Manchester, certain frost-tolerant annuals may last for weeks in the garden or in containers. Some of the cold-resistant plants which can be planted in September include asters, millet, mums, pansies, and flowering cabbage and kale, according to Anna Longfellow Brown. Brown is Design Manager at the business.

"Pansies will continue to develop healthy flowers as long as we have no hard frosts," said Brown. "Mums and asters will tolerate only a very light frost. Mums may survive the winter if mulched after the ground freezes; asters are hardier. We have many colors of the usual garden mum, as well as some varieties that are true perennials in this climate.

"The colors of flowering cabbage and kale deepen as the weather cools and persist until snow covers the plants. They provide the latest color but will not survive the winter.

"These all should be planted in an area where they will receive full sun."

She added that flowering plants can be protected from hard frosts by covering them with a sheet or other light-weight cover.

For those gardeners interested in preserving flowers from their gardens, Longfellow's said that immature flowers provide better results than full-blown ones.

"Harvest flowers that are suitable for drying, before frost," said Anna. "Hang in small bunches in a dry, dark, airy location until dry. Search online for information on drying specific flowers for crafts. Silica gel may be purchased at craft stores for drying small numbers of flowers; results are usually great."

In regards to drying Peegee Hydrangea blossoms, Anna said that September 20-25 is usually a safe period to harvest those blossoms. However, she said that it's important to protect the blossoms from any early frosts by covering the plants with a sheet. "Petals have to mature enough to develop a papery texture, in order to hold their shape after drying. Also, if you kept the shrubs well-watered during the summer, the quality of blooms will be better. Cut them fresh and arrange in bouquets or wreaths; allow

them to dry in place. You can dry them upside down in bunches, but they are brittle to work with after drying."

Fall is also the time to plant spring bulbs. Longfellow's has a variety of bulbs for sale including tulips, daffodils, crocuses, alliums, hyacinths, and snowdrops. Brown said that bulbs can be planted right up until the ground freezes. She said that if bulbs don't get planted before the ground freezes, they can be planted in good soil in deep pots as long as they are spaced appropriately. She added that one bulb per pot is ideal because otherwise the roots may get damaged when separating plants in the spring.

"Water them and place them in a very cool, protected location where they won't freeze, such as an unheated basement or garage or a cold frame," she said. "Check about once a month, to make sure they are not drying out completely, and water if very dry. By spring, they will be growing actively, so give them more water and good light as soon as possible. Then, when the garden soil is workable, plant them outside in their final location."

For those gardeners interested in extending their vegetable growing season this fall, general manager Will Longfellow recommends building a cold

frame or using frost protection cloths to help mitigate frost damage. He said that frost protection cloths can be placed over hoop tunnels to help

protect more delicate plants from the weight of the cloth. Longfellow's stock both the frost protection cloths and hoop frames.

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# At Mattson's, floor covering choices are nearly limitless

BY VALERIE TUCKER  
Correspondent

The housing market has bounced back from historic lows, and buyers are shopping for flooring choices, whether they are remodeling or building from scratch. Consumers also have interest in recycling and sustainable materials, and the trends reflect that demand.

In Hallowell, Mattson's Flooring and Window Treatments manager Steve Goranson said if a customer is interested in carpeting, the choices are nearly unlimited. Voted Central Maine's 2016 top choice as best place to buy floor coverings and best place for interior design services, Mattson's meets today's demand for variety, quality and competitive pricing.

Decorator Joyce Schoenthaler meets with customers at their homes or businesses to review color palettes, choices of materials and budget considerations. She knows what flooring materials work best in different environments and how to work with a customer's overall design plan.

Today's carpet brands can be made from recycled materials



Staff photo by Charles Barnes

Decorator Joyce Schoenthaler meets with customers at their homes or businesses to review color palettes, choices of materials and budget considerations.

that are softer and easier to keep clean than any carpet made 20 years ago. Carpets can offer striking textures and visual appeal. For example, a cut-and-loop shearing effect will give the carpet surface a "heathered" multi-layered texture. With names like Victorian

Linen and Coconut Cream, the choices of colors and tones complement every decorating style.

Some customers think carpets are harder to clean and maintain than hardwood, but Goranson challenges that belief. Smooth surfaces allow the dust to blow

Recycled wood flooring is in high demand. That new hardwood floor may have been part of an old barn 100 years ago. "That subtle warmth and beautiful aged look doesn't come from lumber that was a tree six months ago."

STEVE GORANSON, FLOORING AND WINDOW TREATMENTS  
MANAGER, MATTSON'S FLOORING

around when windows and doors open and close.

"Actually, dust is everywhere, and it's just that it's easier for people to see on hardwood," he said.

Carpets keep dust in one place, and a good-quality vacuum cleaner can pick it up efficiently.

Hardwood remains very popular, and offerings have expanded to include different lengths, widths and grains. For homes with a family room and kitchen on the same level, a single easy-care hardwood floor can make maintenance a simple task. Recycled wood flooring is in high demand. That new hardwood floor may have been part of an old barn 100 years ago,

Goranson said.

"That subtle warmth and beautiful aged look doesn't come from lumber that was a tree six months ago," he said.

Although wood flooring is a timeless and low maintenance investment that holds its value for generations, proper flooring installation is essential. The sub-flooring must be perfectly level, clean and free of nail heads or irregularities. Mattson's staff will help with those requirements and ensure a trouble-free installation.

"We offer free estimates and

More FLOORING, **PAGE 11**

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# Hammond Lumber Co. designer wins kitchen award

## Turns customer's dream into reality...and gold

CONTRIBUTED BY ROD WILES  
Hammond Lumber Company

Lori Hardy has created hundreds of kitchens during her 14 years working as a designer, eight of them in the Kitchen Bath & Flooring Center at Hammond Lumber Company's Bangor store. After helping a Dedham couple create a kitchen for their new home in 2015, she decided to submit her design to an industry contest.

This spring, Hardy received word from Candlelight Cabinetry that her entry in the national competition had won the company's Excellence in Design Gold Award for finishing second among more than 40 designs submitted. (First place was platinum.)

"I'm thrilled," she says. "Although I've been designing kitchens for a long time, this is the first one I've entered in a contest."

Hardy designed the award-winner for the home of Laura Michaud and her husband, Bill. When they were ready to think about where the kitchen should go and what it should look like, they called Hardy at Hammond Lumber, and the process began.

"Lori came down numerous times to the house," says Laura Michaud, "and actually laid out patterns with tape on the floor so that I knew where my islands were. And she measured on the walls, and I could see drawings that showed my refrigerator's going here, my sink is going to be there, and my stove top here. So, when we got to the ordering point, we knew it was all going to fit in here perfectly. And it did."

Hardy says that, depending on the details involved, it usually takes a few weeks to a month of going back and forth with the homeowner to get a rough layout and a design. She and the Michauds hit it off well as they began to talk about the customers' space and how they would live in it.

"Laura and I would call or email," says Hardy. "I could shoot her an email if I had a question. If she thought of something, she could email me her list. It made it much



LORI HARDY  
Hammond Lumber Co.  
Kitchen Designer

easier also to keep track of what she wanted, to make sure those important things were incorporated into the space. And then as time progressed, we could see how things were evolving and changing."

One of the services the Hammond designer provided was helping the Michauds blend their different ideas together so that both would be happy with the result.

"Lori was really great at helping my husband Bill and I meld our two styles together," Laura Michaud says with a chuckle. "He's definitely more ornate in his choices, and I like things a little simpler. She was great at helping us find that fine line that he liked and I liked, and keeping us both on track...and still married!"

The Michaud kitchen, along with one in Holden also designed by Hardy, will be featured on the Eastern Maine Medical Center Auxiliary's 12th Annual Kitchen Tour on Saturday, October 1st. Details about the tour are available at [www.emmcauxiliary.org](http://www.emmcauxiliary.org).

More information about designing a kitchen with Hammond Lumber Company is available by calling 1-866-HAMMOND to reach the nearest Hammond Kitchen, Bath & Flooring Center, or going online to [www.hammondlumber.com](http://www.hammondlumber.com).



Contributed photos

Hammond Lumber Co. award winning kitchen, designed by Lori Hardy.

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# Flooring

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

will come to the customer's home or business and measure for an exact fit," Goranson said. "We offer professional installation, but we're also happy to advise the do-it-yourselfers."

Mattson's includes cleaning advice and products made for a floor's finish. Some manufacturers even produce their own brand of floor cleaner, he said, just because improper cleaning materials can ruin a perfect finish. Some of the standard cleaners actually can damage the floor surface.

"Proper cleaning can make all the difference in the longevity of the flooring material," he said. "This isn't your grandmother's

floor from many years ago."

Goranson knows the customer might think the cleaning product is a sales gimmick, he said, so he gives a bottle as part of the installation package. That extra effort is part of the company's reputation for service after the sale.

"We do a lot of repeat business, and people refer us to their friends," he said. "Customers want a quality product, but they also want service after they buy."

Vinyl remains a staple of the flooring market. Digital technology can superimpose marble, granite, and other popular surface grains on the tile, and water will clean the floor efficiently without the need for chemicals. Cork is another popular choice.

"Cork flooring has always been popular, but it has become more desirable for several reasons," Goranson said. "It is renewa-

ble, because it is a bark that is removed from a tree."

The cork layer can grow back and be re-harvested many times to make a durable, recyclable and no-maintenance floor for any room in the house at a reasonable cost.

Remodelers adding a sunroom or updating a bathroom should consider tile flooring, Goranson said.

"Tile has a natural, handcrafted look that is durable and easy to care for," he said. "It works well in high foot traffic areas and the choices are limitless."

For more information, visit the showroom at 276 Whitten Road in Hallowell, their website at [mattsonsflooring.com](http://mattsonsflooring.com), or call them at 620-8888. Hours are 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri., and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sat. and by appointment.

# Woodstoves

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

grams per hour, Gaslin said, while older stoves emit 50 grams of particles per hour.

So does Gaslin have a woodstove?

"I have a woodstove and two pellet stoves," he said.

He chose a Jøtul woodstove because it is "efficient, easy to use and beautiful."

For those who can't afford a

new stove right now, experts tells us that using the right wood — well-seasoned (dry) hardwood such as sugar maple, red oak, beech, yellow birch and white ash — is extremely important. Just as important, burn it at the right temperature to limit particle pollution and creosote build-up. The thermometer on my stovepipe, for example, has a Creosote Buildup Zone (100-300° F), a Burn Zone (300-550° F) and an Overfire Zone (600-800° F or higher).

Even more stringent EPA regulations will go into effect in 2020, reducing the allowable particle emissions from 4.5 grams per hour to 2.5 grams per hour, while older stoves emit up to 50 grams of particles per hour.



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# The right machine from Ingraham's makes back-breaking jobs a cinch

BY VALERIE TUCKER  
Correspondent

The air is cooler and the days are getting shorter so it's a good time to take the financial plunge because those earth-moving projects have been postponed long enough.

The staff at the Knox-based Ingraham Equipment Company knows a property owner sometime need a machine that can do much more than dig and they know what questions to ask and what equipment works best within the customer's budget.

"We have been a family-owned business since 1960, so we've got over a half-century of experience," said Deb Ingraham.

She and her husband Rod primarily carry the Case IH, New Holland, and Cub Cadet lines, but their inventory includes much more.

"We have many other smaller equipment lines that we represent and a quality selection of used equipment, also," she said.

Haying the field, grading the driveway, planting two dozen blueberry bushes or dragging a twitch of firewood to the cellar door might take more than a few back-breaking hours by hand but with the right machine, such chores are quickly and easily done. Once the buyer has decided that a compact tractor will fit the bill, there are many choices.

The process of choosing a first tractor can be daunting, but armed with a little implement savvy and machinery know-how, most can learn the language, according to Wayne Flewelling, a long-time Ingraham employee.

Compact tractor models have increased in popularity over the past 50 years. Today, the market runs the gamut from economy and entry-level to fully tricked-out. With variations in chassis size and weight, engine power and transmission choices, and the buyer can be faced with some tough decisions.

"Figuring out what a customer needs can be a little more difficult than figuring out what a customer wants," Flewelling said.

The process needn't be as complex as it might appear. According to Ingraham staff, any tractor worth considering will have a clean, fuel-efficient diesel engine, transmission(s), rear three-point hitch, rear drawbar, one or two power take-off (PTO) points and a hydraulic system. Tractors can be platforms for attaching and powering implements and other tools, like emergency home generators, snow plows and belly-mounted finish mowers.

Deciding on the size of the tractor depends on what the owner plans to do and what the land is like. For mowing grass on a small level lawn, buy a riding mower but plowing a field, baling hay, or

"Figuring out what a customer needs can be a little more difficult than figuring out what a customer wants."

WAYNE FLEWELLING, SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
INGRAHAM EQUIPMENT



Contributed photo

Owner Rodney Ingraham (right) and equipment sales representative Wayne Flewelling are part of the expert team at Ingraham Equipment Company in Knox. Since 1960, the company has offered quality sales, service and parts for the Case IH, New Holland and Cub Cadet lines of heavy equipment. The family-owned business, now in its 56th year, also offers other smaller equipment lines and a quality selection of used equipment.

pulling stumps requires a more powerful machine.

A too-small tractor may take all day to mow a large lawn. An underpowered tractor may not be able to climb the slopes if the land is too hilly. If the land is uneven, a too-small tractor may not have enough ground clearance to negotiate the bumps. For those heavier chores, an undersized tractor may bend or break with the strain.

Carefully consider what a tractor will be used for in the future, rather than just today, Flewelling suggested.

"Many people are surprised at just how useful a tractor can be," he said. "When it comes time to till the garden, clear snow or cart heavy loads, they wish their little tractor were a little more powerful, a little heavier or built a little stronger."

Think beyond the equipment purchase.

Where will a tractor will be stored? A larger one needs more storage space, wider paths, stronger bridges and higher clearance from overhead obstacles like roofs and branches. Will the tractor need to be hauled to other locations? That may mean buying a trailer if it won't fit in the back of the pickup.

Consider some optional features for the new tractor, such as power steering, hydrostatic transmission, four-wheel drive, or even a limited slip differential. Most of these options consume engine horsepower and may influence tractor size requirements.

What implements a buyer needs depends on what they will be used for. When shopping for a new or used tractor, it's a good idea to try to find one with as many model-specific attachments as possible. These include belly mowers, loaders and backhoes, which

are custom-fit to that particular make and model. They are expensive to add later and not interchangeable among different tractors, as with three-point hitch implements.

Rotary mowers are the most popular attachment, and variations include mid-or belly-mounted units, PTO-powered mowers for pulling behind larger tractors. Field mowers are used to rough-cut fields, brush or tall grass, especially over uneven ground. Variations include rotary cutters, boom, sickle bar, flail and disk mowers.

A tiller or plow can break ground; a front loader can be used for light digging or moving material; a box scraper or rear blade can grade land. Other attachments to think about include a post-hole digger, aerator, York rake, landscaping roller, carryall, rear scoop and bale spear.

# Duratherm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Phil saw the types of windows that were common in those days and decided that his company could produce, “a better wood window” than was being produced. And, how right he was.”

The company’s wood windows and doors still make up of 95 percent of the business. Unlike the stairs, customers won’t find many Duratherm windows and doors in central Maine, al-

though many coastal homes and businesses do have them.

“These are a completely custom high-end product, made with woods that will last a lifetime,” said Downing. “They’re also very efficient. But they are extremely expensive due to the materials, the amount of labor and the custom nature.”

The company began building stairs in 1975 and currently has 70 employees.

For more information, check the website at [durathermwindow.com](http://durathermwindow.com) or call 872-5558.

**Durabricks are local and clean-burning fuel for your wood stove.** Durabricks are a by-product at Duratherm and people who burn wood are smart to buy them for many reasons, said Tim Downing, president and CEO of Duratherm Window Corp. in Vassalboro. “It’s a completely carbon-neutral product, all manufactured from our factory,” he said. “It’s local, green, very safe and it burns very clean. Durabricks don’t create any creosote because the moisture content is quite low.”

The company now has a new press that makes the Durabricks a little larger and more uniform.

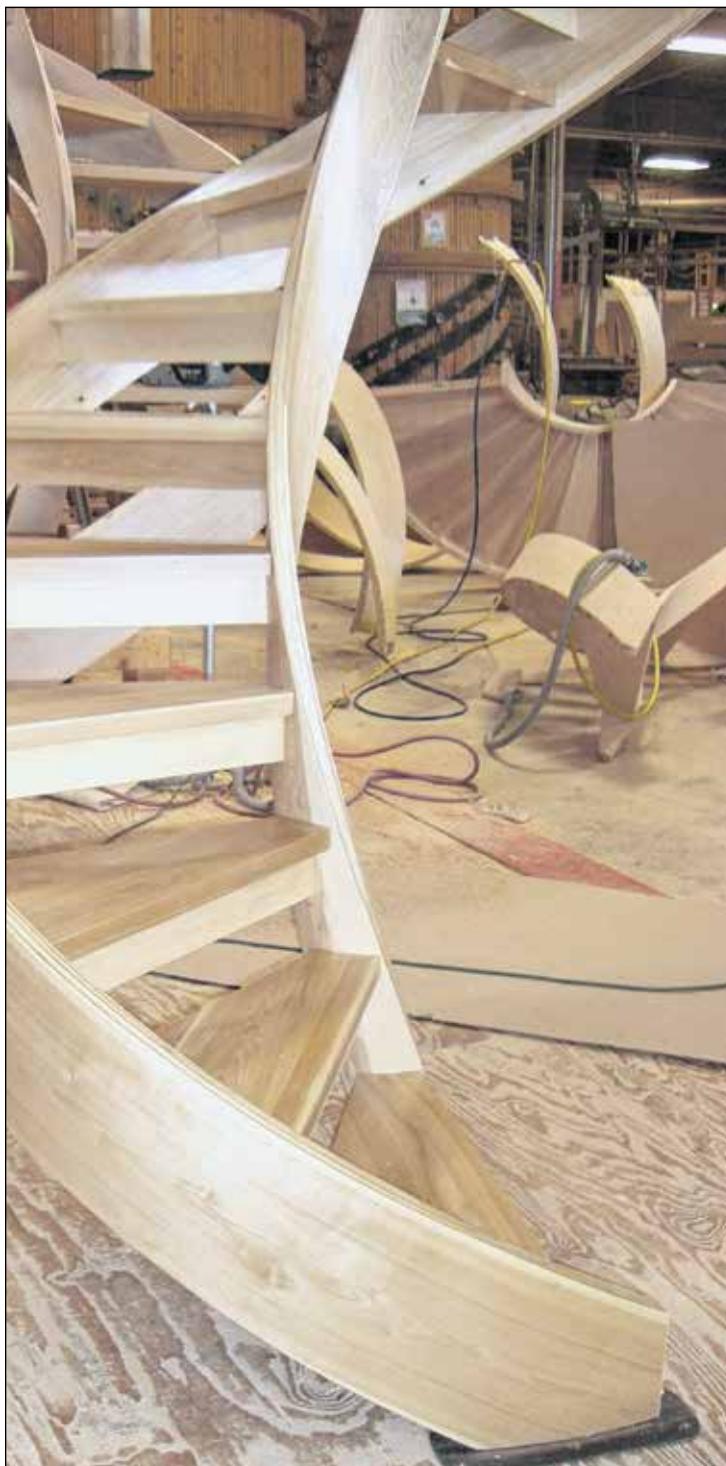
Durabricks also are a good value, Downing said, at a cost of \$125 a ton on special right now. Each ton consists of 60 bags weighing 33.5 pounds each. Ordinarily, Durabricks are \$200 per ton. Individual bags are currently on special at \$2.50, down from \$3.50.

The bags, containing the Durabricks are “potato bags from the county.”

Other alternative wood products often are packaged in plastic, but there is no plastic anywhere in Durabrick bags.

What’s more, delivery by the ton is free to senior citizens who might be surprised to learn that the delivery guy is the company president.

“It’s been a nice opportunity for me to get out into the community and deliver these.” he said. “I’ve met many nice people.”



Contributed photo

Work on this hickory spiral stair, in progress at the factory.



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# Closing the pool for another season

Closing a pool at the end of the swimming season can be bittersweet. Homeowners may be sad to bid adieu to the lazy days of splashing and swimming, but ready to embrace the cooler weather and the beauty of autumn. Before the leaves begin to fall from the trees, pool owners must prepare to close, or winterize, their pools.

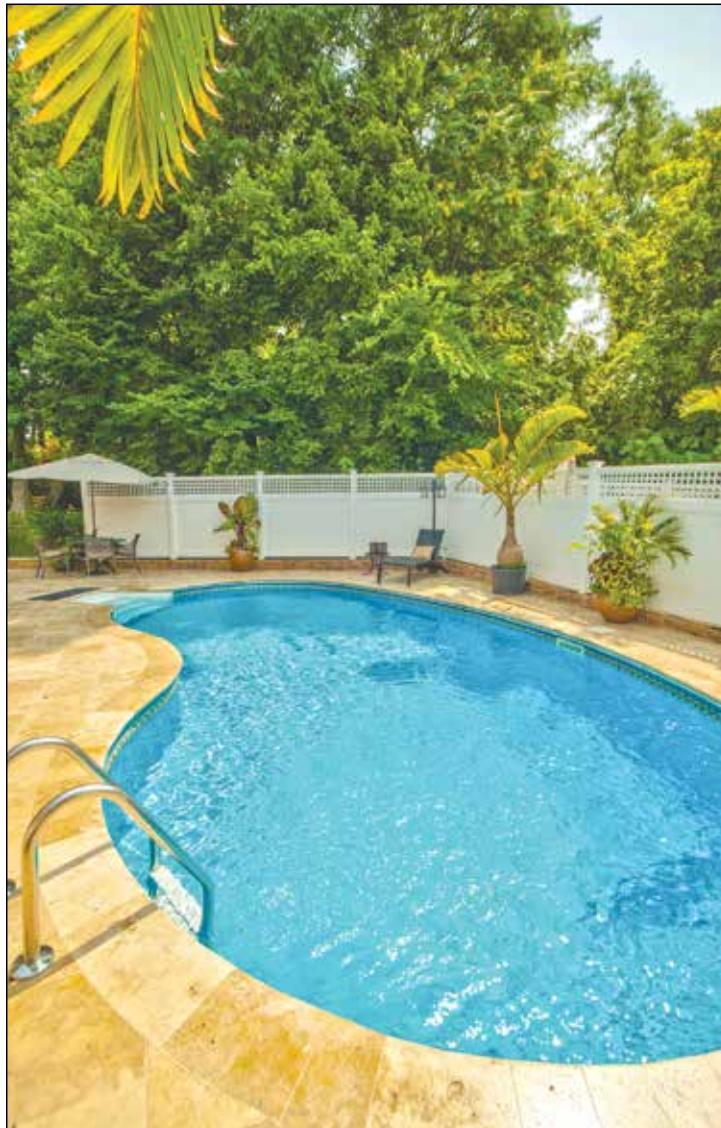
- Gather your supplies.

Make a list of the supplies you need to close the pool. Having everything on hand will make the process far more efficient than trying to wing it. Closing a pool can be a large job, so it pays to have some extra hands available. Enlist some helpers who will be available to hand you materials or to assist with placing the cover on the pool which can be challenging to do on your own.

- Don't wait until the last minute to purchase necessary chemicals. The chemicals used throughout the season will also be needed in the winterization process. Therefore, be sure you have enough before pool supplies become difficult to find in area stores. These include sanitizer, algacide and pH-balancing chemicals.

- Clean the entire pool area. Ensuring the pool water and the surface of the pool is clean can make reopening the pool easy. Vacuum the pool thoroughly, removing any debris and organic matter that can contribute to algae growth. Don't forget to brush down the walls of the pool and clean the jets and area where the filter skimmer meets the pool. Pool walls have plenty of crevices where algae can hide and multiply.

- Test the water. Leading pool products manufacturer Hayward recommends adjusting the pH to between 7.2 and 7.8 to prevent stains, scaling and algae growth. Alkalinity should be 80 to 125 ppm for plaster/gunite pools and 125 to 150 ppm for other pool types. Test the level of available chlorine, and super-chlorinate the pool to maintain a sanitation level of at least 4 ppm. Once the pool cover is on, the amount of chlorine that escapes due to sunlight and evaporation will decrease. An algacide may be used, if desired, as well. In very cold climates, a pool-water antifreeze may



be necessary. Check with your pool supply retailer for more information.

- Run the filter. Run the filter at least 24 hours before disassembling the filter for the season. This will help circulate any chemicals added through the water.

- Drain the pool's water to the appropriate level. Water should fall just below the skimmer opening. Many pools do not need to be completely drained for the winter.

- Shut off the filter pump, heater and any other equipment. Let all water drain out and allow equipment to dry before storing them away. Follow the manufacturer's directions for lubrication and covering. Install freeze plugs if you choose to use them.

- Adjust electricity settings. Turn off the circuit to outdoor outlets that feed the pool equipment, testing to make sure the

power is off.

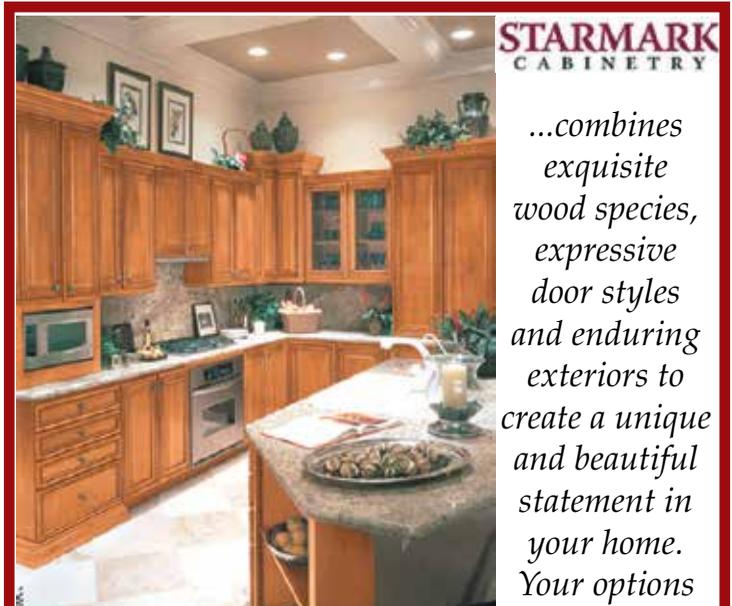
- Put accessories away. Remove any ladders, diving boards, slides, external drain lines, and other recreational materials from the pool, storing them in a garage or shed so they are not subjected to potentially harsh winter weather.

- Inflate air pillows to roughly 80 percent full if you will be using them. Gather your helpers to attach the pool cover or leaf catcher net. Secure it thoroughly with anchors, water bags, wire fasteners, or whatever method is applicable for the cover and pool type. Remember, a quality pool cover will last for several years and keep leaves, dust and other unwanted items out of the water.

Come early autumn, homeowners can begin closing their pools to keep them secure and clean until the next swimming season begins.

## Did you know?

Raking leaves may be an autumnal traditional for many homeowners, but those who want a less strenuous way to prevent their lawns from being suffocated by fallen leaves may want to consider mulching them. Fallen leaves should never be left to linger on a yard for very long, and some homeowners may be surprised to learn that waiting to rake until all of the trees on a property have shed their leaves can be detrimental to the lawn. That's because fallen leaves trap moisture and prevent sunlight and air from reaching the grass, making lawns more vulnerable to disease. Fallen leaves also can harbor insects, again putting lawns at risk of disease. Mulching may be the best option for homeowners who prefer to avoid spending several weekend afternoons each fall raking leaves. Many lawnmowers are now equipped with mulching capabilities, which can remove the need to rake. When leaves are mulched, they are minced into tiny pieces that are left behind on the lawn. Such pieces are so small that they won't block air or light from reaching the grass, nor are they likely to harbor insects. But as these tiny pieces of leaves decompose, they enrich the soil with nutrients, so much so that some lawns may not even need to be fertilized in the fall.



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# Transform spaces into cozy retreats

Cool weather often drives people to spend more hours indoors than they do during the warmer months. Autumn is a time to winterize gardens, put away lawn furniture and prepare for the holiday season. Autumn also provides the perfect opportunity to begin home interior projects.

Many people decide to redecorate their homes to reflect each season. When temperatures change, it's time to transition from the light colors and breezy fabrics symbolic of summer to thicker, darker materials that evoke coziness.

With some inspiration and a little know-how, any homeowner or apartment dweller can cozy up a space in time for fall and winter.

- Invest in area rugs. While

wood floors can look beautiful and work well with many different design styles, wood can feel chilly underfoot. Thick area rugs add warmth to a room and can help it look more lived-in. Area rugs also help a room appear more cohesive, coordinating with other colors in a space and providing a visual border.

- Practice layering in rooms. An affordable and relatively easy way to make a room seem more cozy is to layer fabrics and other accents. Layers can include throws and blankets. Remove place mats from the dining room table and use them on accent tables or an ottoman in the living room. Table runners also can add a splash of color to the top of bedroom dressers.

- Play with texture. Look for

fabrics that boast texture and can add a tactile feel to spaces. When used on throw pillows or small accents, faux fur can create that cozy cabin feel. Draperies made from nubby fabrics or those with grooves and ridges can add dimension to a room as well. Even a lampshade made of an unusual fabric, such as a waffle-patterned material, can add a little depth and warmth to a space.

- Reevaluate your lighting. Lighting a space is more than just flipping on a switch. Finding the right balance of lighting fixtures can instantly transform the feel of a room. Create more warmth and a cozy feel by switching out bulbs from cooler shades to warmer ones. Those that give off yellow and pink hues rather than cool blues. Accent lighting helps establish a comfortable space for curling up and reading a good book. Spot lighting, such as fixtures that are trained on artwork or inside of a curio or china cabinet, also can set a more welcoming mood.

- Install a bookshelf and start a book collection. Piles and stacked books can add warmth to any space. Books evoke the hallowed halls of schools and quiet nooks in the library.



Fill shelves with books interspersed with additional design accents, and you will instantly make a room feel more inviting.

- Choose dark paint. Do not feel nervous about incorporating deeper shades in rooms. Dark colors give rooms a more enclosed feel than lighter colors, and that can create a warm and cozy feeling. This works particularly well in larger spaces that feel vast and empty. If you're scared to paint all of your walls, try a darker shade below a chair rail or just paint one accent wall.

- Add architectural elements. Think about adding rich moldings to crown the ceilings or to frame doorways. If you have the space for a nook, create a window seat beneath a picture window or add a bench and cushions in a corner for a nice escape spot.

Use the colder weather as an opportunity to reinvent some of the rooms in your home. With paint, texture, fabric, lighting, and more, rooms can be quickly transformed into cozy respites from the cold.

## Protect pipes from freezing this winter

Freezing pipes are a concern for homeowners who live in cold climates. When temperatures dip below freezing, the risk that pipes will freeze rises. Should a pipe burst, the damage that results can be extensive and costly.

Any pipe can freeze, but those that are directly exposed to the cold are the most vulnerable. These include pipes that feed outdoor hoses, swimming pool supply lines, pipes in unheated indoor rooms (i.e., basements or garages), and any pipes that run close to the outdoors through uninsulated walls. Water expands as it freezes, and that expansion can place pressure on whatever is trying to contain it including pipes.

To avoid serious damage, homeowners need to prepare for the arrival of colder weather and be smart about how they protect pipes.

- Drain water from swimming pools and water sprinkler supply lines prior to the onset of cold weather. Drain water before freezing temperatures arrive, and don't forget to drain outdoor garden hoses and store them inside after watering season has come and gone.

- Close indoor water valves that feed outdoor spigots/bibs. Open the spigot outside to allow water to drain out. Keep the outside valve open so that any water that has accumulated will continue to drain and expand outward without damaging the pipe. An insulated bib dome also can help prevent

frozen pipes.

- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to reach pipes inside of cabinets. Keep the doors open to spaces that may not be heated or insulated as well as other areas of the home so that heat can find its way inside. Consider wrapping these pipes with an insulating material as well, such as heat tape or pipe sleeves.

- Maintain a consistent thermostat temperature. Ensure the temperature inside your home does not drop below 55 F; otherwise, problems can arise. Use a programmable thermostat to keep the house comfortable even when you are not home. Individuals who are traveling should set the thermostat so that it will keep the home at the recommended temperature to avoid frozen pipes.

- Open one faucet. When it is very cold outside, particularly at night, let water slowly drip from one faucet to prevent freezing. Choose the sink that is furthest from where water enters the house so water is flowing through all of the pipes to reach that faucet.

- Increase insulation around where pipes enter the house. Use insulating foam to seal any drafts where pipes enter the house from the outdoors.

Frozen pipes cannot always be avoided. Therefore, it is important that everyone in the household knows how to shut off the main water valve in the event a pipe bursts. This can prevent expensive damage to a home.

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Think Local. Think Green. Think Dura-Brique.

The Final Product is intended for consumers in greater central Maine. The finished Dura-Briques are a great heating solution for many different situations. Whether heating your home with a wood stove, fireplace or wood burning furnace, or just enjoying an evening campfire with family and friends. Dura-Briques are the convenient, safe, green and economical solution.

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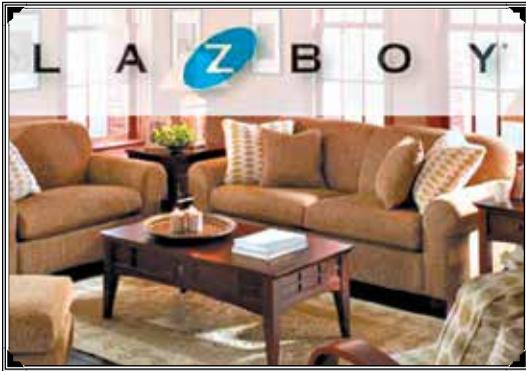
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