Home Improvement Show METRAPARK EXPO CENTER March 5-7, 2021

The largest trade show in a five state area with more than 650 exhibits

Landscaping • Home Remodeling • New Products • Interior/Exterior AND MORE



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Spring Home Improvement Show is a special advertising publication of The Billings Gazette.



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38TH ANNUAL SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

What a year it's been.

Early last March as Beau Hedin was putting the final touches on the annual Home Improvement show he promotes at MetrPark, the COVID-19 pandemic was just starting to make the rounds. Despite the dire warnings, there was still hope then that the virus would bypass Montana without much damage.

The free tradeshow, then in its 37the year, went off even better than planned. More than 30,000 people attended, strolling among more than 650 exhibits making it the most well-attended home show in a five-state area, promoters said. Then, the world fell apart.

People got sick, hospitals filled up, businesses went dark, families were separated, paychecks were cut, job eliminated, and lots of people spent more time at home than they ever wanted.

Since then, things have started to calm down. The virus is being wrestled into submission by vaccines and continued mitigation efforts like social distancing and an emphasis on keeping everything sanitized.

This year, the usual ray of hope that comes with springtime is magnified, not only with the coming end of a cold winter, but the end of COVID, too.

Fighting COVID has cost our economy dearly and this year's 38th Annual Home Improvement Show has local businesses itching to begin the recovery. It also has people itching to see each other again, to mingle and carry on.

"We feel blessed to be going ahead with the show," said Hedin, whose Rimrock Promotions organizes the show. "Everyone wants to keep moving forward, to get things opened up and the economy thriving again."

The Spring Home Improvement Show at the Montana Pavilion and Expo Center at MetraPark supports more than 400 local business and offers more than \$30,000 in prizes. It runs March 5-7, from noon to 8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Promoters have been careful to design the show in a way that maintains its usual size, variety and footprint, but allows for state health rules governing crowds and sanitation.

"Most of the work to keep people healthy, like at Walmart or Costco or any other business in town, goes on behind the scenes, from how many people are cleaning, to what they're cleaning, to how often and what they use to clean," Hedin said.

The layout of the show has been restructured to create more space so that people can socially distance more effectively.

What won't be behind the scenes will be the hundreds of bottles of hand sanitizer that will be stationed everywhere, said Hedin.

"Every year we promote how big the show is, how many prizes there are," he said. "This year, we're promoting those things along with how many bottles of sanitizer there will be. It's just a part of the way people do business now, and that's a good thing."

Business owners aren't the only people eager to get back to normal. Nearly everyone, after nearly a year of isolation and social restrictions, is eager to mingle again, especially if it can be done safely. Getting together is something many people took for granted before the pandemic.

And, for just about everyone, springtime, and the end of COVID, can't come soon enough.

To Heights > et (Hwy 87/10) CENTER Buildings used for Show

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\$30,000+ GRAND PRIZES

Bigger, better, & more prizes is the story for the 38th Annual Spring Home Improvement Show, March 5-7, at the Expo Center and Montana Pavilion at MetraPark. The Spring Show has always been known for its value, variety, and number of prizes. At this year's show there are a record number of prizes worth over **\$30,000**. Registration will be at & during the show. Show hours are: Friday, Noon - 8:00pm, Saturday, 9:00am - 6:00pm, and Sunday, 10:00am - 5:00pm. The registration blanks may be obtained at the show. Need not be present at the drawing to win.

GRAND PRIZES

\$4,000 Ultimate Home Owners Package Courtesy: Billings/Laurel Ace Hardware Stores

- Gas powered Toro Lawn Mower and Snow Blower.
- Gas Powered Stihl Chain saw & Trimmer, 1000w Honda
- Generator, 20 gallons Benjamin Moore paint. (items subject to substitution)

\$3,000 Towards any services Courtesy: Lynnrich Siding & Windows

- \$3,000 towards any services offered **Lennox Central Air Conditioner Courtesy: White Heating & Cooling**
- Lennox Model #13ACX central air conditioner. \$3,000 Tempurpedic Queen Bed Set Courtesy: Mattress Firm
- Includes Adapt Mattress and Ease Adjustable Base

\$2500 Exterior Remodel Courtesy: Finishing Touch Exteriors

■ \$2500 towards any complete Roofing, siding, or gutter project.

FEATURED PRIZES

Double Garage Door: Courtesy: Bailey Doors

- Double garage door with remote opener Brooks Firepit Table Courtesy: The Fireplace Center
- Outdoor Great Room Brooks Firepit Table.
 Home Blinds/Shutters/Shades Package
 Courtesy: Billings Best Blinds
- Up to \$1,000 worth of custom blinds/ shutters/shades. Valid towards product/ labor/installation

Home Insulation Package Courtesy: Billings Insulation Service

■ \$1,500 of insulation products & services for vour home

House Cleaning Package Courtesy: Brice's Masterclean

- Up to \$1,000 towards cleaning service. \$1799 Huskeylock Serger Courtesy: Spring Blossom Quilt and Sew
 - The HUSQVARNA VIKING® HUSKYLOCK™ s25 is innovative at every turn from the inside, and out. it will inspire you to fall in love with the power and capability of a HUSQVARNA VIKING® overlock machine

Custom Garage Floor Overlay Courtesy: Rocky Mountain Hardrock Flooring

■ Up to 400 Sq. Feet. Includes product and labor. Promotional Prizes

Painter for a Day Courtesy: Matt The Painter

 Valid for 1 Painter- interior painting labor up to 8 continuous hours. Does not include the cost of materials/paint

Ultimate Family BBQ Night Courtesy: Burnin' The Bone BBQ

■ Feast on Slow Smoked Pulled Pork with your favorite sides, buns, sauce, baked beans, slaw mix and dressing! Montana's ultimate take and bake. Ready to Heat and Devour! Will Feed Family Up to 6!!

Ultimate Photo Experience Courtesy: Clark Marten Photography

\$1,650 package including: Facial massage for two at Sanctuary Spa the day before the shoot / \$350 Portrait Session / \$1,000 credit towards product/services / \$100 Dinner to Ten after your photo shoot (all inclusive- must book photo session to use other package aspects)

Synthetic Grass Package Courtesy: JW Synthetic Grass

 \$500 gift certificate towards product/ installation combination project.

Retractable Door Screen Courtesy: Phantom Screen Doors

■ Retractable Screen Door -Custom Designed. Includes Installation

Interior/Exterior Window Cleaning Courtesy: Alpine Window Clean

 Entire Interior/Exterior Window/Window Screen Cleaning plus bonus dryer vent cleaning

Roomba Robot Vacuum Courtesy: Kelly Bohnet / Remax Experts

■ Model 675

Granite Countertop Package Courtesy: American Granite and Stone

■ \$1,000 towards any product/service/installation

Granite Countertop Package Courtesy: American Granite and Stone

■ \$1,000 towards any product/service/installation

DAILY GIVEAWAYS

\$5 Montana Melt Gift Card Courtesy: Montana Melt Food Truck

■ 200 available.

Free Beer at Thirsty Street Brewing Courtesy: Newman Restoration

■ 125 Pints Available

Free Tickets to the Showcase of Homes Courtesy: HBA Billings

■ 50 available

\$5 MTN Mudd Gift Card Courtesy: MTN Mudd ■ 20 available

Big Yellow Bay Courtesy: Tvetene Turf

4 available

1 Year Costco Membership Courtesy: Costco Billings

■ 2 available

HIGHLIGHTS

2020 Spring Home Improvement Show 38th Annual Show

Date: March 5TH – 7TH, Fri, Sat, & Sun

Fri - Noon to 8:00pm / Sat - 9:00am - 6:00pm / Sun - 10:00am - 5:00pm

Location: Two buildings - MT Pavilion and EXPO Center.

Size: Over 650 exhibits - Over 100,000 square feet of inside exhibits. Plus 35,000 square feet of outside exhibits.

SPECIAL FEATURES-

- Showcasing the latest Home Imp. Trends and Innovations
- Free Upper Lot Shuttle (New Freedom Insurance)
- National touring infomercial displays
- On Site Hail Defender Interactive Display
- Custom modular home-outside Expo Center
- Hands on Interactive Displays
- Custom Water Features
- Custom Synthetic Grass Putting Green
- Free Pepsi Products compliments of Dimich Pepsi of Billings.
- Food Galore! Billings Best Food Trucks. Diverse food selection including smoked on-site BBQ, Asian, carnival treats, fire oven pizza, custom grilled cheese and more!
- Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption via Leisure in MT

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!

Kids will have a great time with our Kids Experience highlighted by Free Custom Balloon Animals by Pattycakes the Clown (sponsored by Lynnrich)

Continues to be Largest Trade Show in a 5 state area

Over 650 exhibits and 30,000+ attendance

Admission & Parking: Free

Prize Package: Total value at over \$30,000.00.

Website: www.billingshomeimprovementshow.com

ì		Home	38th Annual e Improven	ent Show
i		Name	F	Phone
i		Email		
ı	✓ DESIRED	PRIZES		
	Lynnrich	Remodel	☐ Mattress Firm Bed Set	☐ Billings Insulation Pkg.
ī			☐ Bailey Dbl. Garage Door	☐ Brice's Masterclean Pkg.
Ċ	☐ White's C			☐ Finishing Touch Remodel
	☐ Spring BI	ossom Serger	Billings Best Blinds Pkg.	RMHR Garage Overlay
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THAT ADD VALUE

xterior renovations can enhance the appearance of a property and make it more enjoyable for homeowners. Certain renovations have the potential to add value to a home, while others may do the opposite. Learning which one have the largest return on investment can help homeowners select features that will have the most positive

Curb appeal goes a long way toward attracting potential buyers. According to the National Association of Realtors, first impressions of a property have a strong influence on buyers. Landscaping and external features can do much to influence such impressions..

■ Lawn care program: Investing in a lawn care program that consists of fertilizer and weed control application and can be transferred over to a subsequent home owner is an attractive feature. NAR says such a care program can recover \$1,000 in value of the \$330 average cost, or a 303 percent ROI.

■ Low-maintenance lifestyle: When choosing materials for projects, those that offer low-maintenance benefits can be preferential. These include low-maintenance patio materials, composite decking, vinyl fencing, and inorganic mulched beds.

Fire pit: A fire pit can be used for much of the year. In the spring and summer, the firepit is a great place to congregate to roast marshmallows or sip wine and gaze into the fire. In the fall, the fire pit can make for a cozy retreat. A fire pit that has a gas burner is low-maintenance, and the National Association of Landscape Professionals says that most can recoup about

\$4,000 of their \$6,000 average price tag.

■ Softscaping: Hardscaping refers to structures like outdoor kitchens or decks. Softscaping involves the living elements of the landscape. Hiring a landscape designer to install trees, shrubs, natural edging, and rock elements can do wonders toward improving the look and value of a home.

■ Pool or water feature: In certain markets, particularly hot climates, a pool or another water feature is a must-have. However, in other areas where outdoor time is limited, a pool or water feature can actually lower the value of a home. Speaking with a real estate professional can give homeowners an idea of how a pool will fare in a given neighborhood.

Outdoor improvements can improve the marketability of a home, as well as enhance its appearance and function.



The final weeks of winter, and even the first few weeks of spring, are still chilly in many parts of the world. Despite those last vestiges of winter chills, late winter is a great time to begin preparing gardens for the coming planting season.

Gardens may have to withstand months of harsh weather each winter, and such conditions can take a toll. Gardeners can consider the following tips as they try to restore their gardens and get them ready for spring planting.

■ Disinfect your tools. It Os common to clean tools in late fall or whenever theyÕre typically placed in storage for the winter. But cleaning and disinfecting are not necessarily the same thing. If tools were not disinfected at the end of the previous gardening season, disinfect them before doing any work on the garden. Doing so can ensure any lingering bacteria or fungi on tool surfaces are killed prior to the beginning of gardening season. According to the University of Minnesota Extension, plant pathogens, including bacteria and viruses, can be transferred to and infect plants through bits of soil and plant debris left on shovels and pruner blades. Thoroughly disinfecting such tools prior to using them in the spring is a great way to reduce the risk of disease in your garden.

■ Clear debris from garden beds.

Leaves, twigs, sticks, and other debris may have gathered in the garden over the winter. Such debris can inhibit the growth of plants and vegetables, so make sure all of it is removed prior to planting. Weeds might even begin to sprout up in late winter and early spring, so remove them before they go to seed.

■ Test the soil. Testing the soil prior to planting can help gardeners determine what their gardens will need to thrive in the coming months. Garden centers and home improvement stores sell home testing kits that are effective and easy to use. Once the results are in, speak with a professional at your local garden center about the best time to amend the soil.

■ Loosen compacted soil. Soil can become compacted over winter. If compacted soil is not loosened prior to planting, plants will have a hard time getting the water and nutrients they need to thrive. Loosening the soil also provides another opportunity to inspect the garden for any underlying issues, such as fungior weed growth, that you may have missed when clearing debris or testing the soil.

Late winter is a good time to assess a garden and address any issues that developed over the winter so plants and vegetables can thrive come the spring planting season.

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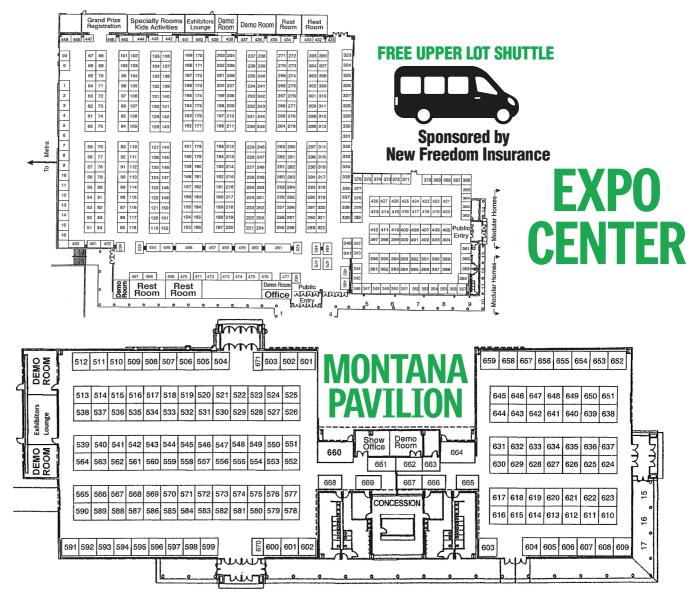
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ome renovation projects are done for several different reasons, whether to update styles, repair damaged or broken items or to achieve more living space. More than ever before, homeowners are choosing improvement projects geared toward making their homes healthier.

Establishing a healthy home means different things to different people. For example, to an environmentalist, a healthy home may incorporate ecofriendly or green products. To those with young children or mobility-impaired seniors, a healthy home may be one free from potential hazards. Others may view a healthy home as one that alleviates allergies.

The World Health Organizations says inadequate housing conditions, such as poor ventilation, radon, urban pollution, and moisture issues, can contribute to many preventable diseases and injuries – especially respiratory problems, nervous system disorders, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer. Furthermore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ranks indoor air quality as a top five environmental risk to public health. EPA studies have found that indoor air pollution levels were roughly two to five times greater than outdoor pollution levels.

People interested in making their homes healthier can embrace these renovations and lifestyle changes.

■ Be aware of furniture materials. Toxic PBDEs, which are chemicals used as flame retardants on furniture fabrics produced prior to 2006, can send toxins into the air. Some manufacturers may still use these flame retardants in new forms, but with similar risks. Before purchasing furniture, ask if a product is

treated, and select naturally fire-resistant materials like wool and cotton.

■ Lighten up. Lighting is often underappreciated but can have a dramatic impact on whether a home feels inviting, warm and/or uplifting. Experiment with different types of bulbs and lighting fixtures to turn drab and dreary environments into brighter places. Lighting may improve mood and productivity.

■ Let the sun shine in. Modify window treatments to let more sunlight into the house. There is evidence that the sun, particularly UV light, is a potent bactericide. The Sunlight Institute advises that there's no harm in letting natural sunlight do its work, as bacteria within eight feet of low-intensity UV light can be killed in 10 minutes.

■ Inspect and service wood-burning appliances. A study published in the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology has found regular inhalation of wood smoke limits immune activity and function, and anyone who burns wood indoors should be aware of these potential health risks. Ensuring proper ventilation of smoke and routinely cleaning the chimney can help cut down on particulate matter.

Turn to nontoxic cleaning products, pesticides and insecticides. Always opt for nontoxic, natural products when cleaning in and around the house.

■ Declutter the home. A cluttered, hectic space can affect emotions and mental state, never mind attracting dust and making a home harder to clean. Spending time in spaces that do not elicit stressful feelings is healthier and can help residents to rest and recharge.

Making a home healthier can be on the list of this year's renovation plans.



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HOW TO ADD SHADE TO A DECK OR PATIO

Sun-blocking ideas like awnings, shade trees and large umbrellas can help people enjoy their yards all day long.

Homeowners eagerly await the arrival of the warm weather so they can cast off the remnants of cabin fever and bask in the sunshine. However, as summer nears its dog days, the same sun homeowners once coveted can contribute to uncomfortable conditions in outdoor entertaining spaces.

Meteorologists at WHAS11 in Kentucky took to their neighborhoods in July 2020 to test just how hot surfaces can get in the sun during peak daytime temperatures. Concrete sitting in the sun almost all day reached a temperature of 134.7 F, while the same concrete in the shade clocked in at



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just under 80 F. When air temperatures are around 90 F, unshaded concrete and asphalt can be 125 F and 140 F, respectively. While wood decking may not be as hot as asphalt and concrete, it still can get steamy underfoot.

Homeowners who want to be able to enjoy their outdoor spaces in an array of temperatures can think about investing in shade solutions. Sun-blocking ideas like awnings, shade trees and large umbrellas can help people enjoy their yards all day long.

■ Canopy: A patio canopy is typically a freestanding unit that can be installed over a patio or a deck. Some people prefer to bolt it down so it will not be knocked over in windy conditions. The fabric on the canopy can be removed during the offseason, helping to improve its longevity.

Awning: Awnings may be stationary or retractable. Many are installed directly onto a home and can cast shade on specific areas of outdoor entertaining spaces.

■ Shade Similar to an awning but a bit less structurally rigid, shade sails are large pieces of triangular fabric installed over areas of a patio, pool or landscape, according to The Family Handyman. Shade sails are light and airy and can be customized.

■ Trees: A natural way to increase

shade in a yard is to plant more shade trees. If sun glare is an issue all year long, and it's not just the heat of the sun that is troublesome, think about planting evergreen trees. Deciduous cousins will drop their leaves in fall and only be effective during the warm weather.

■ Patio umbrellas: Many umbrellas start at around \$25. Umbrellas can be paired with patio tables, while stationary cantilever umbrellas sit out of the way on their own heavy-duty stands. A cantilever umbrella tends to provide more shade than patio table umbrellas.

■ Curtains: Homeowners can block sunlight outdoors the way they do inside, offers MSN. Hang curtains from the sides of canopies or between posts on a deck to provide shade and cozy spaces.

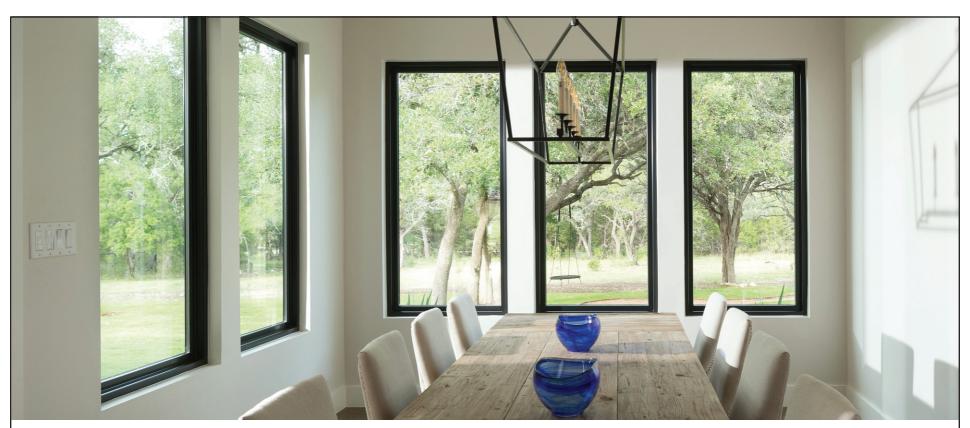
Shade is in high demand when the sun is hot. Options abound for making outdoor areas more comfortable.





ome renovation trends are everchanging. Renovations that might have been de rigueur 20 years ago may seem dated now. Recognizing the potentially popular trends of tomorrow is a great way for homeowners to give their homes a fresh new look and put themselves in position to capitalize on popular trends when they put their homes on the market. That's especially so after 2020, a year when millions of people spent more time at home than ever before. All that time working from home and relaxing at home gave millions of homeowners ideas about what they like about their homes and what they hope to change. The following are some renovation trends that various experts suspect could emerge in 2021.

- Eco-friendly living: Climate change, and how to combat it, was a hot button issue during the 2020 presidential election in the United States. So it should come as no surprise that urdesignmag.com, a web magazine that showcases creative trends in design, architecture, art, technology, and fashion, predicts that eco-friendly living solutions figure to be hot commodities in 2021. Eco-friendly appliances, furniture and designs can help to conserve energy and reduce waste, which environmentalists and government agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency note are two critical components in the fight against climate change.
- Large windows: Large windows can provide stunning views of the outdoors and allow ample natural light into a home. It may not be a coincidence if large windows prove to be a hot trend in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic that dominated much of 2020 forced many people to spend considerably more time at home. Darker homes without much natural light can adversely affect mood, especially when people are spending more time at home. HGTV predicts that homeowners will seek ways to bring more natural light into their homes in 2021, and large windows naturally brighten homes while making rooms appear bigger, helping people feel less cramped. That's an especially beneficial characteristic when spending more time indoors at home.
- Minimalism: The anticipated popularity of minimalism in 2021 may also be connected to the pandemic. As professionals were forced to work from home and many families spent more time together inside their homes then ever before, they may have recognized a need to cut back on clutter, including extra furniture. A minimalist approach is both simple and clean, which can make homes feel less claustrophobic.
- Multi-functional spaces: Homeowners asked a lot of their homes in 2020, as rooms were transformed into multi-functional spaces seemingly overnight. HGTV notes that spending more time at home showed homeowners that it may not make sense to dedicate entire rooms of a home to a single purpose. Renovations that can help homeowners transform rooms into multi-functional spaces figure to be hot commodities in the years ahead.



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