



Columbus Home Builders Association

Presents
The

HOME BUILDERS SHOW



Friday, February 22, 5 pm - 9 pm
Saturday, February 23, 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday, February 24, 12 pm - 4 pm



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2019 COLUMBUS HOME BUILDERS SHOW

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Home show is
Presented by:



Friday, February 22
5:00pm to 9:00pm

Saturday, February 23
10:00am to 6:00pm

Music Festival 4:00pm - Midnight

Sunday, February 24
Noon to 4:00pm

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2019 Columbus Home Builders Show

Home Builders Show promises fun, opportunities

MATT LINDBERG
The Columbus Telegram

The 2019 Columbus Home Builders Show returns this month with plenty of new and innovative ideas for your home's interior and exterior, while also offering plenty of family fun.

The show, set to run from Friday, Feb. 22-Sunday, Feb. 24, will once again take place in the exhibition room at Platte County Agriculture Park, 822 15th St.

"It's got a variety of different builders - landscaper builders to realtors to bankers and everything else to do with building, remodeling and financing," said Steve Long, a longtime member of the local home builders association and a lead organizer of the event. "There are people who will be there to talk and visit with, get new ideas, and it will be an opportunity to find out the latest and greatest stuff."

More than 70 vendors are expected to attend, Long said, noting they're coming from all over the state. There will vendors from the Columbus area, as well as Lincoln,



THE COLUMBUS TELEGRAM FILE PHOTO

Steve Long, owner of Sears Hometown Store in Columbus, poses for a picture in October 2018 inside the establishment. Long and many others are gearing up for the 2019 Columbus Home Builders Show set for Feb. 22-24 at Platte County Ag Park.

Grand Island and Wayne, among others.

"It's just a good way to get good ideas for a project you might want to do and it's relatively inexpensive," Long said. "Sometimes a

face-to-face meeting with someone you're thinking about hiring might give you a better feel than calling someone blind out of the book."

Entry is indeed affordable as it

costs only \$3 per adult, while children up to age 12 are free if accompanied by a parent.

Don't worry parents. There will be plenty of fun and games for the little ones, too. Horn T Zoo, of Monroe, will have a petting zoo set up on Saturday and Sunday. Also, Girls Scouts will be selling cookies, the Shriners will be providing balloon animals and Paws & Claws will have a mobile adoption center on site.

Those looking for more entertainment that weekend should stick around Saturday night. From 4-midnight, the River's Edge Music Festival will get underway in the nearby Ag Park Ballroom with performances by several notable Nebraska acts, including the Columbus Jazz Orchestra. Band ticket admission is \$10 in advance (see the River's Edge website) or \$12 for access to the home show and bands.

Although the annual show began in the 1980s, the Columbus Home Builders Association didn't assume sponsorship until 1993. That

makes this year the 26th anniversary of the association's ties with the home show, which serves as the organization's big fundraiser.

"One of the reasons we do it is to give people the opportunity to get ideas of projects they want to do," Long said, noting the association uses funds to provide scholarships, make donations to various groups and to support local housing efforts. "It's kind of our way of giving back to the community. This is a good community event ... We want to help as many people as we can to be able to afford a home as possible as home ownership is important."

The show runs from 5-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23; and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24.

"There is a wide variety of exhibitors that cover a wide gamut of the homebuilders," Long assured.

Matt Lindberg is the managing editor of The Columbus Telegram. Reach him via email at matt.lindberg@lee.net.

Tips for hiring an exterior painter

All the sprucing up in the yard may make you turn a critical eye to the exterior of your home

GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

While you can paint the outside of your home yourself, most homeowners choose to hire a contractor for this big job. Here are some tips for picking a pro from Consumer Reports.

Set up a meeting

Ask friends, family and the local paint store for recommendations, then set up a meeting time with each contractor. He or she will want to walk around your home and take a close look at all the surfaces to provide a detailed estimate.



ANDY DEAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Be wary of short visits. Ask how big the contractor's crew is and how much experience they have.

Get it in writing

Each contractor should provide you with a written estimate that includes a complete breakdown of costs, including labor and supplies. Look for the brand of paint they plan to use, number of coats and surface prep work that must be

done, like replacing rotten wood. Once you pick a contractor, they also should provide you with a written contract. The contract should include everything in the estimate, plus a clear outline of what is and is not included in the work. You also can ask for a guarantee of the work; your paint may offer a warranty, but it probably doesn't include labor.

Check references and credentials

Talk to past clients and, if you can, look at their work from several years ago to see how well it holds up. Also check more recent projects to see the skills of the current crew. Make sure each contractor is up to date with any local or state licenses and that they have their own insurance.

Did You Know?

METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Investing in a home renovation project not only requires money, but also time and patience. While contractors, architects and designers can estimate how long a project may take, it is impossible to anticipate all of the scenarios that can affect that estimated timeline. Information from the real estate firm Keller Williams indicates an average kitchen remodel involving installation of new countertops, cabinets, appliances, and floors can take three to six months. But if ductwork, plumbing or wiring must be addressed, the job may take longer. A midline bathroom remodel may take two to three months. Adding a room to a house can take a month or two. The home improvement



resource Renovation Junkies offers similar estimates, with the average home renovation taking between four and eight months. Homeowners need to consider time when planning their home projects.

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2019 Columbus Home Builders Show

Why it's smart to have a smart home

METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Devices are everywhere. According to a recent visual networking index forecast from Cisco, by 2021, there will be four networked devices and connections per person across the globe. Those figures are even greater in North America, where Cisco estimates each person will have 13 networked devices and connections by 2021.

With all those devices, it's no surprise that a greater number of people are embracing the smart home movement. Those who have yet to jump on the bandwagon can benefit from learning more about smart homes and why it's intelligent to have a smart home.



owners can adjust the temperatures on their heating and cooling units while away from home. That means they can arrive home each night to a comfortable home without having to run their HVAC systems all day while no one was home. In fact, the CNET/Coldwell Banker survey found 45 percent of Americans say that smart home products save them an average of \$98.30 each month.

Investment:

Whether you're a developer or a single-family homeowner, real estate is an investment. Making a home as appealing to prospective buyers as possible is a great way to get a better return on your real estate investment. The CNET/Coldwell Banker survey found that 81 percent of buyers would be more likely to buy a home if smart home products were already installed. That can make the market for your home more competitive, ultimately earning you more money at resale.

Smart homes are both the present and the future. Homeowners who want to make their homes more livable today and more marketable tomorrow should consider investing in smart home products.

Items to get you started on creating your smart home

Technology has changed the way people live in the 21st century. Once ubiquitous, land lines anchored to kitchen walls have now given way to smartphones that can be taken anywhere. Bulky television sets that required at least two people to move have been replaced with high-definition offerings so light and thin they can be mounted on living room walls.

It's no great surprise that technology also is changing the physical places we call home. Smart homes are a rapidly growing trend. In a typical smart home, devices such as the thermostat, television and even the refrigerator can be controlled remotely through the internet.

Converting an existing home into a smart home can seem intimidating, especially for people who don't consider themselves tech savvy. But today's user-friendly technology makes it relatively easy for anyone to turn his or her home into a smarter one.

Hub

The hub refers to software or hardware that connects all of your devices and gets them to work together. Think of the various devices you have and then think of their manufacturers. Chances are strong you have devices manufactured by various companies, and enabling those to work together might seem impossible. A hub does that work for you. And because they can be con-

nected to your smartphone, hubs also make it possible to control devices while you're away from home.

WiFi router

Some people rent their routers from their internet/cable providers, while others buy their own routers. Regardless of which category you fall into, you're going to need a good WiFi router to get your smart home up and running. Determine which type of WiFi your home currently has and then find a router that's compatible with that WiFi. Request a list of routers that are compatible with your WiFi from your service provider, as not all routers will necessarily work with your internet connection.

Devices

You won't necessarily need to upgrade your devices to get a smart home. In fact, if you control or can control any device in your home with a smartphone, you are already on your way to having a smart home. Upgrading to a programmable thermostat that's compatible with your smartphone might be a great idea if your current thermostat is old and not internet-compatible. With a programmable thermostat, you can control the temperature in your home remotely. That ensures the home is a comfortable temperature when you arrive home and allows you to turn off costly heating and cooling units when no one is home.

What is a smart home?

According to SmartHomeUSA.com, the term "smart home" is commonly used to define residences in which appliances, lighting, heating and cooling units, televisions, computers, entertainment systems, and security systems are capable of communicating with one another. Each of these components can be controlled remotely, typically via a smartphone.

are numerous, and will likely only multiply as people utilize more devices.

Time: A recent joint survey from CNET and Coldwell Banker found that 57 percent of Americans say that smart home technology saves them an average of 30 minutes per day. That's an especially beneficial advantage for busy parents and/or professionals who find it difficult to juggle all of their daily responsibilities.

Money: Another benefit to smart homes is their cost savings. Because devices can be controlled remotely, smart home

Why is it smart to have a smart home?

The benefits of a smart home

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2019 Columbus Home Builders Show

New shingles protect the curb appeal of homes

(NAPS)—Increasingly, homeowners seeking to protect the curb appeal of their residences are looking up—at their roofs.

In many areas, roofs have black streaks caused by algae—and this is the top appearance-related problem reported to roofing contractors. Fortunately, homeowners don't have to accept the fate of algae making a roof look old before its time.

A new type of roof shingle provides a long-term solution to help prevent algae growth from taking hold—protecting your home and helping to keep it looking good for years to come.

Invented by 3M to combat black streaks on roofs caused by algae, copper-containing roofing granules have been proven successful on hundreds of thousands of homes across the country over the last two decades. Available as shingles with Scotchgard Protector, this long-term, proven solution provides homeowners a beautiful roof free from ugly black streaks.

Known for insisting on nothing less than the best product for the job, professional contractor and TV host Mike Holmes recently named these shingles a "Holmes Approved Product"—and is working to increase awareness among homeowners to help eliminate black streaks on roofs for good.

"I'm proud to partner with 3M and I'm excited to see how far we can take the message," says Holmes. "Together, we're going to continue to improve the quality of our homes, increase the value of our

homes and change our industry for the better."

This fall, The Holmes Group will partner with two Atlas Pro™ Plus contractors to transform homes in need of a curb appeal face-lift. The teams, led by Mike Holmes Jr. and Sherry Holmes, will work together to make over two homes with Atlas Pinnacle® Pristine Shingles with Scotchgard™ Protector. Viewers can tune in to the online microseries this fall.

"The Holmes name brings added value to the already highly respected Scotchgard brand," says Stan Bastek, director of marketing and sales development for Atlas Roofing. "When the Holmes group endorses a brand, they are communicating to consumers that they see the same problem we do: how ugly black streaks on roofs reduce curb appeal and home value."

"The Scotchgard brand is synonymous with protection for homeowners, so protection from roof algae is the fulfillment of what that brand promises—a roof free of black streaks that retains its aesthetic appearance," according to Frank Klink, Ph.D., senior laboratory manager, 3M. "Our decades of research into the scientific properties of copper, and field experience with shingle technologies and roof algae, have proven that a minimum 10 percent blend of 3M copper-containing granules uniformly distributed across the shingle surface, and hip and ridge, is required for superior protection against algae."

To learn more, visit 3M at www.3M.com/resistblackstreaks.

Quick and simple ways to make a front door pop

METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Visitors' impressions of a home are often dictated by the home's entryway. Must as one may judge a book by its cover, the same can be said about the impression that a front door and entryway can create, regardless of how accurate that impression is.

Making certain changes to an entryway can go a long way toward improving curb appeal. Entryways also can set the scene for a home's interior. Whether one chooses to be classic or bold, modern or traditional, there are various ways to quickly transform a home's entryway.

■ **Bold front door color:** Color can dramatically enhance an entryway. Painting an existing door or replacing it with a more vivid option can do the trick. The DIY Network says certain colors stand out as favorites. These include turquoise, yellow, red, indigo, orange, and black. The door color should complement the other shades of the home, such as those on siding and trim.

■ **Custom walkway:** Guide guests right to the front door with an attractive (and safe) walkway. Stamped concrete or decorative paver blocks may fit the bill. This walkway can extend to the street or to the driveway.

■ **Contain plants.** Landscaping around the entryway should be neat and well-tended. Overgrown plants or shrubbery may give off an air of neglect. Container plants and carefully curated shrubs can create a neat and inviting aura.

■ **Highlight the address.**



Make sure the home can be found easily with bold and decorative house numbers. Consider two different address signs: one illuminated and easily viewed from the

curb, and another closer to the front door.

■ **Utilize high-end materials.** The relatively small area of real estate by the front door enables home-

owners to splurge on more opulent materials that can really add a feeling of luxury. These can include colorful tiles, ornate planters, decorative wooden doors, or elaborate knobs and lighting fixtures.

■ **Add architectural details.** Find out which architectural elements will meld with the style of the home and then incorporate them. Moldings, columns, shutters, and trim are areas to consider.

The entryway to a home garners a lot of attention. Homeowners can enhance their spaces with entryways that really make a statement.

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2019 Columbus Home Builders Show

Get the best mortgage financing deal

METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Few people are able to walk into a home, like what they see and then pay for a house in cash. In the vast majority of home purchases, mortgages make the dream of home ownership a reality.

Getting a mortgage requires research and some preparation on the part of borrowers if they hope to get the friendliest terms possible.

Homes are substantial, decades-long investments, so it's smart to shop around to find the best rates and lenders available. These tips can make the process of applying and getting a mortgage go smoothly, and may even help borrowers save some money.

■ **Learn your credit score.** Your credit score will be a factor in determining just how much bargaining power you have for lower interest rates on mortgage loans, according to the financial resource NerdWallet. The higher the credit score, the better. Well before shopping for a mortgage, manage your debt, paying it off if possible, and fix any black marks or mistakes on your credit report.

■ **Investigate various lenders.** The Federal Trade Commission says to get information from various sources, whether they are commercial banks, mortgage companies, credit unions, or thrift institutions. Each is likely to quote different rates and prices, and the amount they're willing to lend you may vary as well. Investigating various lenders can help you rest easy knowing you got the best rate for

you. Lenders may charge additional fees that can drive up the overall costs associated with getting a mortgage. Compare these fees as well so you can be sure you get the best deal.

■ **Consider a mortgage broker.** Mortgage brokers will serve as the middle person in the transaction. A broker's access to several different lenders can translate into a greater array of loan products and terms from which to choose.

■ **Learn about rates.** Become informed of the rate trends in your area. Lower rates translate into significant savings amounts per month and over the life of the loan. Rate may be fixed, though some are adjustable-rate mortgages (also called a

variable or floating rate). Each has its advantages and disadvantages, and a financial consultant can discuss what might be in your best interest.

■ **Discuss points with your financial advisor and lender.** Some lenders allow you to pay points in advance, which will lower the interest rate. Get points quoted in dollar amounts so they'll be easier to compare. If you're unfamiliar with points, discuss the concept with your financial advisor.

The vast majority of homeowners secured a mortgage to purchase their homes. Learning about the mortgage process can help new buyers navigate these sometimes tricky financial waters. MM18C499




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2019 Columbus Home Builders Show

Tips for embracing the benefits of natural light

BRANDPOINT CONTENT

(BPT)—With daylight saving time in full effect, sunlight can be harder to come by. According to a recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), humans spend an average of 90 percent of their days indoors, so savoring every opportunity for natural sunlight is more important than ever, especially during winter months. However, more time spent indoors and longer nighttime hours can mean fewer opportunities to soak up the benefits of natural light. But did you know that you can enjoy all the perks of natural lighting through simply upgrading or adding windows into your home?



vitamin D, while decreasing direct exposure to the sun and potential sun-related cancer risks. Additionally, according to experts, sunlight can reduce blood pressure, help us cope with anxiety and stress, and protect against the effects of seasonal affective disorder felt most commonly in the winter. Allowing natural light into homes also helps to regulate circadian rhythms and sleep cycles, providing more energy and better focus. One study published in an online supplement to the journal *Sleep* even showed that people exposed to more natural light during the day were able to sleep an average of 46 minutes more each night.

The health benefits of natural light

When building new or completing a renovation project, consider adding more or larger windows to increase the amount of natural light allowed into a home and to enjoy the many health benefits that come along with it. Creating opportunities for increased natural light in your home provides the benefits of

Location, location, location!

As you plan, it's important to consider the direction your windows and patio doors face, to take full advantage of the available natural light. For example, south-facing windows will allow for the most winter sunlight, but little direct sun during the summer. Meanwhile, north-facing windows admit relatively even, natural light, producing little glare and almost no unwanted summer heat gain. Finally, east- and west-facing windows admit good daylight in the morning and evening, respectively. However, these

directions could create a glare and admit heat during the summer and contribute little solar heat during the winter.

The energy efficiency of modern windows

Exposure to natural light through windows goes hand-in-hand with energy efficiency at home. Even though they may supply sufficient light, older windows—especially those with multiple panes of glass, as opposed to one large pane—are notorious for air leakage and allow heat to escape the home while letting in cold air. Homeowners who find themselves in the market for new windows should look for Energy Star-rated options, as well as windows that have argon or krypton gas fills, and are made with special Low-E glass coatings.

You've seen the light, now it's time to make a change

Has your view on windows and their importance changed? Consider window options from quality manufacturers like Ply Gem,

that have a variety of window style options, customizable sizes and plenty of energy-efficient benefits and certifications. With Ply Gem Windows, you won't have to compromise a large window size for optimal performance, providing plenty of natural light alongside long-lasting energy efficiency and durability.

If you decide to install or upgrade windows, keep in mind the following helpful tips:

- To maximize daylight, comfort and energy efficiency, be sure to identify the Energy Star climate zone you live in and select a window that meets your zone requirements.

- To determine your home's orientation and sun exposure, try using the compass app on your smartphone.

- Hire a reputable contractor to help you select the right windows for your home and to ensure your windows are installed according to local building codes.

For more information about windows, energy efficiency and the importance of natural light, visit www.plygem.com.

Five ways to create an inviting room using tile

BRANDPOINT CONTENT

(BPT)—Today's tile trends extend so far beyond their traditional use as a staple of bathroom design that you may not recognize them. While once the most attractive and innovative tiles had to be imported, contemporary handcrafted tile and stone products for home design are now being made right here in the United States.

Homeowners and interior designers alike are always seeking distinctive visual touches to make each home special. Here are five ways tile design can enhance a room.

Elevate small spaces. Use tiles interchangeably to create a unique design. The

Ann Sacks Radius Collection by designer Barbara Barry has five distinct modular designs that can be used independently, or combined to create patterns to delight the eye. Creative use of a variety of tile shapes like these can easily elevate small spaces such as baseboards, fireplace surrounds or backsplash areas in a kitchen.

Make a color statement. Whether you choose a single color or mix colors to create a pattern, the choices can overwhelm. "I enjoy the soft juxtaposition of watery blue tones, soft green tones and the neutral colors of gravel," explained Barry. If you're not working with a designer, consider traditional complementary color pairs when

making decor choices, such as red-green, blue-orange or yellow-purple.

Create a calm mood. The latest trends in interior design reflect the desire for homes to be sanctuaries. Inspired by the clean lines, appropriate scale and exacting proportion prevalent in Midcentury Modern architectural design, Barry describes her collection as "soft modern, defined by a curved edge for a sensual feel." Barry adds, "In this busy world, I want to come home to calm rooms and quiet spaces." Choosing colors, lines, shapes and scale with simplicity in mind can help contribute to a feeling of calm.

Personalize your space.



Find what appeals to you, and work with a designer or manufacturer who can meet your requests. In her collection, Barry provides tools for consumers or designers to customize patterns. Designed to spark the imagination, five distinct patterns in varying scales punctuate interiors with personality. Smaller manufacturers can personalize your project with their flexibility, customizing

color choices and resurrecting a retired pattern or color, or even by recreating tiles present in a home refurbishing or renovating project.

Create visual interest. Choose different textures through materials like wood, glass or tile to break up an otherwise ordinary surface in a room. Radius is available in all Made by Ann Sacks matte and gloss colorways, which can be installed as a singular color statement or mixed to evoke a unique, personalized design, whether to create a captivating statement-making wall or to cover an entire floor.

Ann Sacks fell in love with tile while on a family vacation to Mexico when she was 13, and later used that

passion to create a business inspired by those Mexican tiles. She hired gifted artisans to grow her business into a true American success story. Ann Sacks, founded in 1981 in Portland, Oregon, draws talented craftspeople to create inspiring designs in tile, stone, plumbing, lighting and accessories. These creations are traditional in terms of craft, but aligned with contemporary design trends.

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