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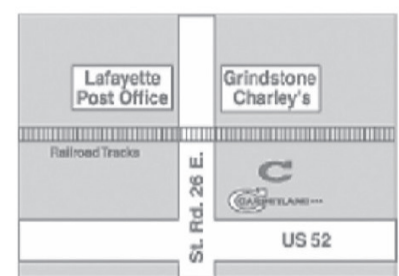
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# Local man builds his construction business, 'Bill The Builder'

BY CHRISTEL MCINTOSH

HJ correspondent

When it comes to the construction of a new home or perhaps the remodeling of your current structure, you want a reputable company to hire, to meet the needs you desire.

Sometimes, reputable doesn't necessarily mean that you need to search for the more popular companies. As then you could perhaps be facing a larger cost for that project and even delays, if they become contracted with multiple jobs.

Passion is also a value you should consider, as you want your home or remodel to be done right, from the start.

And of course, the experience of this said company is another important factor. There are many home construction businesses out there that will vie for the bid of the job you need to be completed, but if they do not have the experience, you could be left with nothing short of a nightmare.

William Whiteman has been doing construction work, through other companies for over 15 years now.

"I do more than just home remodeling. I have built homes, I do landscaping, and other odds and ends that have to do with the home, which has also included putting up fencing," said Whiteman. "My business, itself, is fairly new. I just started 'Bill The Builder' about 5-6 months ago when I went on my own. I worked for Perry McWilliams at McWilliams Construction for about 6 years."

Back when Whiteman worked for McWilliams, he gained experience through jobs such as newly constructed homes,

"One of our bids was to completely demo a cottage," added Whiteman.

"Then we had to build a new home in place of the cottage, from the foundation up. Once that was complete, we did the landscaping as well. So my years working with him taught me quite a bit, which has been great for me to start a business of my own, as I am pretty well rounded with knowledge and know-how."



**Pictured is the home of Janet and Ralph Kauffman of Buffalo. During a storm, a large tree fell causing damage to the Buffalo home. They hired William Whiteman of 'Bill The Builder' to repair the damage, while also adding some new touches to their porch.**

(PHOTO BY CHRISTEL MCINTOSH)

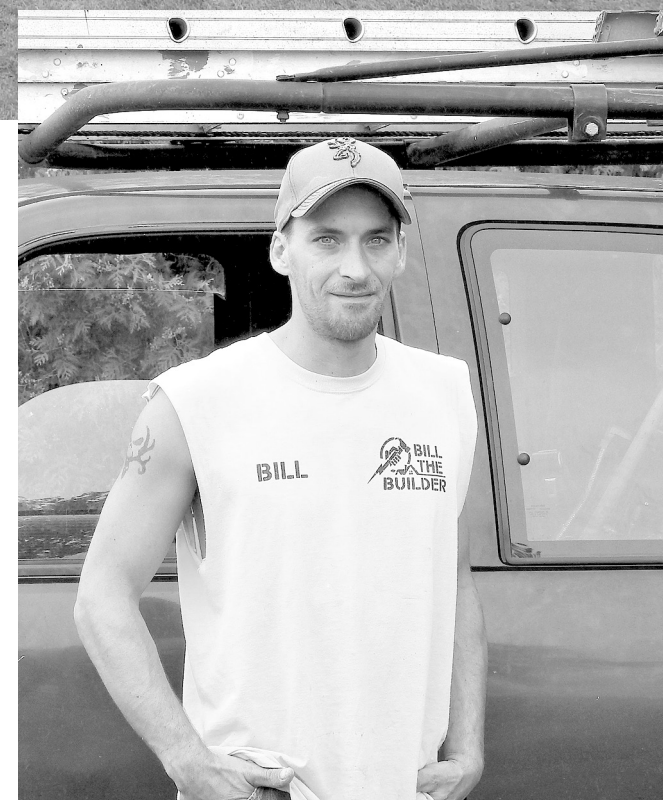
Whiteman also has experience with plumbing.

"Altogether, I have been doing construction for about 12 years. I am pretty proud of myself for doing what I am doing and being successful at it," stated Whiteman. "I have a good reputation going through Dye Lumber. I also work with some of the local realtors in town, such as Keller Williams and Real Estate Network. I will be doing some personal work for Ryan Clemons with Real Estate Network as well."

Whiteman is also a licensed contractor in White County and he's bonded and insured.

In his spare time, Whiteman also enjoys constructing things out of wood.

If you would like to receive a quote from William Whiteman from 'Bill The Builder', you may contact him at (574) 808-0289. He also has a Facebook page at [facebook.com/BillTheBuilder61417/](https://www.facebook.com/BillTheBuilder61417/).



**Pictured is William Whiteman of 'Bill The Builder' out of White County, Indiana. (PHOTO BY CHRISTEL MCINTOSH)**

# Reface Or REPLACE?



Kitchens are often the heart of a home. They're the place where people gather together to enjoy each other's company as they prepare food, pay bills or do other chores. Kitchens work overtime and can take a real beating over the years, especially the cabinets. While some homeowners choose to reface their cabinets, others choose to replace them entirely. There are pros and cons to each, of course, but either way, the heart of the home will get a much-needed facelift.

Refacing cabinets is generally the less expensive option of the two. With refacing, cabinet boxes are left in place while the exposed frames are refaced with plastic veneer or wood and new cabinet doors and drawers or drawer fronts are installed. For an additional cost, other accessories may be incorporated, such as pull-out shelves, a lazy Susan, flip-out drawer fronts, a wine rack or a pull-out trash bin. Some refacers will even replace countertops, sinks and flooring. Need a cabinet above the refrigerator? No problem. Your refacer can custom-build one for an additional fee. Refacing works best on cabinets that are in good condition but could use some updating. The average cost for a job runs from \$5,000 to \$8,000.

Replacing is just what it sounds like.

All of the old kitchen cabinets are removed and new ones are installed. This option is much more time consuming, but if your cabinets are in terrible shape or you are looking to create a better layout or add storage, new cabinets are your best bet. But, be prepared to shell out some money. New cabinets can cost anywhere from \$5,000 on up. Add in the cost of installation and extras like molding, and you can see why replacement is the more expensive option.

Both options have their pros and cons. Refacing can generally be done in a week or less, whereas installing new cabinets can take weeks. New cabinets mean new everything inside and out, whereas with refaced cabinets, you get just new doors, drawers and hardware. If your cabinets are older, that could be a plus as many cabinets built 20 or 30 years ago are of better quality than some of the cabinets on the market today. Refacing will do nothing for cabinets that are in poor condition or misaligned due to sagging floors.

To determine the best option for you, consult with some reputable contractors. They can tell you whether your cabinets are in good enough condition to reface and advise you as to the best route to take. If you are looking for more counter

space, for example, new cabinets may be the way to go.

Budget is always a factor. How much do you have to spend? Generally, it costs twice as much to replace cabinets as it does to reface them. Should you purchase stock cabinets or install them yourself, however, you may be able to save enough

to afford new cabinets. Look around and do your homework.

The right cabinets, new or updated, can enhance the feel of any kitchen. Review the options carefully and make the right choice for you. Reface or replace, you're sure to end up with a kitchen your friends and family.

## *Steps to take before an appraiser's visit*

Homeowners unfamiliar with the appraisal process might not know if there is anything they can do to make the process go more smoothly. While certain variables involved in the appraisal process, such as location of the home and the value of surrounding homes, are beyond homeowners' control, the Appraisal Institute recommends homeowners take the following steps before an appraiser visits their home.

- Clean the house. A dirty home that is full of clutter will not make the best impression on appraisers. Dirty homes may be vulnerable to insect infestations that can lead to structural problems with the home. While a dirty home is not necessarily an indicator of infestations or a reflection of a home's value, a clean home will create a stronger first impression with the appraiser.

- Make any necessary repairs ahead of the appointment. Homeowners who have been putting off repairs should make them before the appraiser arrives. Homes with repairs that still need to be made will likely be valued less than similar homes with no such repair issues. Though repairs can be costly, investing in home repairs will likely increase both the appraisal and resale value of the home.

- Obtain all necessary documents before the appraiser arrives. Homeowners who have certain documentation at the ready can speed up the appraisal process. Such documentation may include a survey of the house and property; a deed or title report; a recent tax bill; if applicable, a list of items to be sold with the house; purchase history of the home; and the original plans and specifications of the home.



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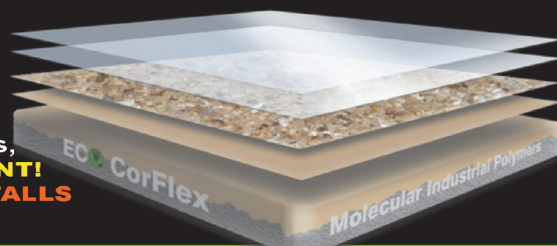
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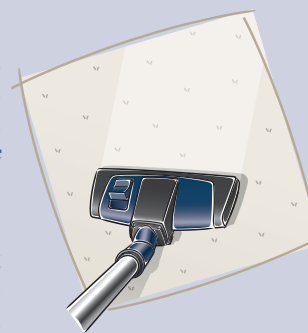
# CARPET CARE

Carpet remains a popular option in flooring, especially in bedrooms where bare feet are more likely. Who relishes the thought of sliding out of bed onto an icy cold tile floor in the dead of winter? Carpet can feel great underfoot but can take a real beating over the years. It is important that you clean your carpet on a regular basis to keep it looking its best.

Frequent vacuuming is a must to remove loose dirt and debris. Generally, the more pets and children you have in your household, the more often you will have to vacuum your carpet. Weekly vacuuming may not be enough, and you should always vacuum up messes right away. Tracked-in mud or spilt coffee grounds can easily get ground into the carpet if not removed right away.

There are several vacuum cleaners on the market. You want one with enough suction power to pick up a lot of debris. Experts recommend a top-load vacuum cleaner that will allow the dirt to fall inward. You should empty the canister frequently and change or clean the filters regularly for optimal suction.

Regular cleaning is a must to remove any oily,



sticky residue your vacuum cleaner misses. Several methods are available. Most experts recommend the multi-step process of steam cleaning. During this process, the carpet is first pre-treated with cleaner and then agitated to loosen the dirt and debris and work in the soap. Finally, it is rinsed and the water extracted.

You can steam-clean your carpet yourself, but most experts advise you hire a professional. Not only will they have all of the right equipment for the job, but they will know how to use it. Shop around for a good service, and when you find one, set up a regular cleaning schedule. Most experts recommend a professional cleaning every 12 to 18 months depending upon the number of people who live in your home and the amount of traffic it receives.

Most carpet cleaning services charge by the room. Jobs can run \$100 on up depending upon the number of rooms you have

done. Many services offer specials. If the cost is still too steep, you may want to look into renting or purchasing a steam cleaner. Just be aware that most do-it-yourself cleaners will leave behind cleaning residue that will attract dirt.

In between steam cleanings, you may need to spot-clean your carpet from time to time. Purchase a good cleaner and clean up spills immediately. Don't leave the stain to set in. Blot up the excess liquid and clean up the spill according to the manufacturer's directions. Do not rub or scrub the spill. You could cause the carpet to fray and twist.

Beyond all of this, what else can you do to keep your carpet in good shape? Take off your shoes and walk around your home in your socks. Ask those who live with you or stop by for a visit to do the same. Limit walking around barefooted. The natural oils in your feet will attract dirt.

Give your carpet the care it deserves, and it will last you for a long time. When you are ready to purchase new carpet, shop around. Find out where the best brands are, consult with the experts and make the right choice for your home.

# What's Hot In WALLPAPER

Whether you are looking to camouflage imperfections on a wall or make a statement in your home, wallpaper is an option. And, it is not necessarily the wallpaper you remember from your childhood. While botanicals like fruit and flowers are still available, many other designs have made their way into the wallpaper world, including the following.

## **Bold Geometric Prints**

Take a look at the fabric store. See a lot of bold geometric prints? Designers in the wallpaper world

have caught on to their popularity and are mirroring them. You will find all kinds of geometric patterns in wallpaper from big, bold fleur-de-lis to whimsical rectangles and triangles.

## **Grasscloth**

Grasscloth wallpaper brings the outside in with its natural textures and colors. Made of jute, reed and arrowroot, grasscloth will add warmth and texture to any room. It comes in a variety of colors from green and brown to cream and tan to black and white. Some designs even fea-

ture metallic twine woven in for a touch of glamour.

## **Metallics**

Taking their cue from the glitzy handbags and shoes of the fashion world, wallpaper designers have created a wide array of metallic wallpaper. Choose from bronzes, coppers, golds or silvers. Cast with light, metallic wallpaper will add shine and shimmer to any room.

## **Paintable Textured Papers**

Looking to create some texture on your walls in the color of your choice? Try paintable wall-

paper. It features many different textured patterns from classic to geometric to floral, and you can paint it whatever color you desire. Just select a paint color and roll it on!

## **Novelty Papers**

Elephants. Postcards. Text. Whatever you have your heart set on, there is probably a novelty paper featuring it. Some manufacturers even have chalkboard wallpaper available. Grab some chalk and leave your family a message on the chalkboard wallpapered kitchen wall.

These are just some of the hot trends in wallpaper. While some homeowners go all out and wallpaper rooms from top to bottom, others opt for just a feature wall. If wallpaper is not your thing, you can also try decals or murals. Decals come in a wide range of designs and are easy to apply. Just peel and stick. Many murals are also peel and stick and can turn a lackluster wall into a beautiful scene in a flash. You'll find many themes and designs for kids and adults alike.

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## Bathroom, kitchen makovers can be profitable improvements

Bathroom and kitchen makeovers are some of the most coveted and profitable improvements that can be made to a home. Installing new cabinetry, countertops and appliances can transform the look of a kitchen, but homeowners also must consider the functionality of design when renovating.

The National Kitchen and Bath Association suggests applying the kitchen "work triangle," which is a concept used to create efficient kitchen layouts. The triangle comprises imaginary straight lines drawn from the cooking appliance, sink and refrigerator. These are where much of the work in the kitchen takes place. The general idea is that when the work triangle is positioned accordingly — with the three components in close proximity to one another — the kitchen is easier and more efficient to use. Homeowners will be able to move freely among these elements when they are placed at appropriate distances,

reducing wasted steps.

The NKBA suggests following these guidelines to create efficient kitchens.

- No major traffic patterns should cross through the triangle.
- The sum of the work triangle's three sides should not exceed 26 feet. Each portion of the triangle should be between four and nine feet.
- Avoid cutting through an island or a peninsula.
- If the kitchen has only one sink, it should be placed between or across from the cooking surface, preparation area or refrigerator.

The work triangle is a suggestion, not a law of design. As kitchens evolve and more people use them simultaneously, designers may take certain liberties — even having multiple triangles at play. Homeowners should also design their kitchens so they function best for their own individual lifestyles.



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# Primer

## Is It Really Essential?

Looking for an easy way to change the look of a room in your home? Paint it, but before you crack open any cans, consider whether you need to use primer. Primer can be beneficial, but depending upon various factors, it is not always needed. Primer offers many benefits. It covers stains and seals the surface, allowing for faster, easier coverage with less paint and longer-lasting results. It prevents old colors from showing through and allows the topcoat to adhere better and shine more. Not every job requires primer, however. Whether you should prime your walls generally depends upon three factors: the condition of the walls, the color of the topcoat and the type of paint used. Light-colored, stain-free walls coated in latex-based paint may not require the use of a primer, providing you have chosen a latex-based topcoat in a darker color. If

you are going lighter in color or using an oil-based paint or a latex-based paint in a different sheen, flat over gloss, for example, you may want to prime the walls first. This will provide you with a clean slate for the paint to come.

Primer is also a good idea when you have selected a darker color of topcoat. You can have the primer tinted the same shade as the topcoat in order to allow for easier coverage in fewer coats.

Primer is a must in some cases, and you may come across dozens of choices when shopping. Do your homework. Know what brands experts recommend and why. Don't just look at the cost. A low-cost primer may not yield the high-quality results you expect. Look for a brand that is consistently rated at the top.

Traditionally, primer is applied under the topcoat. Some manufacturers today offer paint and primer in one. Instead of applying the primer first and then the topcoat, you can do it all in one step, saving valuable time. Paint and primer in one can be expensive, and not all brands are equal in quality. Do your homework and make sure you will get adequate coverage in fewer coats.

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# Furniture

## FUNDAMENTALS

New flooring, paint, linens and accessories will do wonders to perk up a tired space, but if you are short on time and money, you might want to try a simpler fix: rearranging the furniture. One of the easiest and quickest ways to spruce up any room is to rearrange the furniture. Move around some pieces, swap out some pieces, and voila, you have a new look for just a few hours of work. Of course, not any old arrangement will do. Here are some tips to ensure you create a good arrangement for the room.

Consider the purpose of the room. If you are creating a conversation space, don't center everything on the TV. Allow an area for TV viewing and an area for conversation. Looking to create a study space? Relocate

distractions like TVs and phones, set up a table or desk, and add a comfy chair for reading.

Pay attention to scale. Too tall or too small of a piece can throw off the feel of the room. Arrange pieces so they complement each other in scale. Use larger side tables with larger sofas and chairs, for example. Don't place Aunt Millie's small, ornate footstool in front of a large, overstuffed chair and expect it to work well. The chair will dwarf it. Place it elsewhere, perhaps in front of that Victorian settee you so love.

Allow space to move. Too much furniture crammed together and lined up against the walls can make a room feel small. Remove pieces you don't need, pull some pieces toward the center of the room and spread out everything else. Moving the sofa a couple feet from the wall and al-

lowing space to walk around it can make a room feel more spacious. If you are working with a rather large room, consider creating areas within it, such as a workspace in one corner of the room and an entertaining space in another.

Light up the room. Don't rely on one overhead light to do all of the work. Mix it up with various floor and table lamps, pendants and sconces spread around the room. Light up dark corners with floor lamps and highlight artwork with sconces. Hang a pendant above the dining table and set up a table lamp behind the sofa. Give the room more ambiance with various lighting sources.

Consider drapes. When hung appropriately, drapes can add drama to a room and make it feel complete. Want to create the illusion of a higher ceiling? Hang the drapes from ceiling to floor. Want to create the illusion of larger windows? Hang the drapes beyond the casement ends of windows.

Don't buck tradition. While it is fine to mix things up a bit, you don't want to go overboard and create too unique of a look. Take your dining room table, for example. If you have a chandelier in the center of the room, your table should go under it. Place it where it was meant to be and will look best, and if you can't, consider relocating the light above. Add a longer chain to the chandelier and swing it over the table. The same principle applies to beds and dressers. You can move sofas and chairs away from walls, but beds and dressers are best left against walls.

Hang artwork with care. Use your photos and prints to ground furniture. Hang a print above your sofa, but be careful it is not too high. The point of the artwork is to draw the eye to the arrangement not away from it. To ensure accurate placement, tape up some templates before hanging your artwork. This will save you time and prevent you from having to fill a lot of holes in your wall.

These are just some fundamentals to follow when rearranging furniture. You are the best judge, of course, and keep in mind it may take several rounds of moving around furniture before you come up with an arrangement that works. Furniture arrangement truly is a process of trial and error.

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# Making a family move easier

Whether or not to relocate can be a difficult decision. Sometimes such decisions are borne out of necessity when a parent is relocated by his or her company. Other times it is a personal reason to try out a new neighborhood or upgrade to a larger home. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates a stable annual rate of moving hovering at around 12 percent of the population since 2008.

Whatever reason is behind a move, it can take some time to adjust to both the idea of moving and the new living space — especially for children who may seem disconnected from the decision. The following tips can make the transition a little easier for families.

## Talk about it

Do not blindside children with a move. Begin having conversations as a family as soon as the possibility of moving arises. Involve the children in some of the decisions. Ask about the features they want to see in their new home. Explain that people, be it prospective buyers, real estate agents or movers, will be visiting your current home and that this may be a little disruptive. Talk about the reasons for the move, such as a new job or that the family has outgrown the space. Kids can process much more than many adults give them credit for.

## Discuss any concerns

Children may have concerns about the move that differ from adults'. Many of these may pertain to fears about making new friends or coursework at a new school. Let them voice their opinions. Removing some of the mysteries by visiting schools or local hangouts before the move is made can assuage some fears.

## Create some familiarity

Set aside boxes or bins that will house kids' toys or things that the family recognizes. These may include photographs, games, throw blankets, or the creature comforts of home. Make these the first items that are unpacked upon moving into the new house.

## Use the agent as a resource

Many real estate agents live in the towns where they make their living. Find out if the agent can set up a meet-and-

greet or if he or she knows of any clubs or leagues that suit your family's interests. Making a few introductions ahead of time will give children and adults some familiar faces on their first days in their new home.

Families shouldn't shy away from making their own introductions as well. Knocking on a few neighbors' doors and letting them know a new family is coming to the street can pave the way for familiarity and friendships.

## Stay in touch

Encourage children to stay in touch with their current friends. Video chat enables kids to see and speak with peers. When things settle after the move, arrange for a surprise play date where children can introduce their old friends to newer ones.

## Stick to a routine

One of the ways to breed familiarity is to stick to the same routine. If a big Sunday family dinner was the norm, continue the tradition in your new home. Wake in the morning and go to bed at the same time. According to Vanessa Lapointe, a registered psychologist in Surrey, British Columbia, structure and routine are key for children. Try to focus on one new thing at a time to minimize stress.

Moving can be exciting and scary at the same time. Children may be anxious about the process, but families can work together to iron out the kinks and settle into their new homes successfully.



It can take some time to adjust both to the idea of moving and the new living space.

## Did You Know?

Many homeowners have lofty goals for their homes. Such plans may include extensive renovations or even additions. While many of these projects create beautiful changes in a home, it's important to consider the impact that renovations can have on property value before beginning a project. Many home improvement projects do not add as much value as homeowners may think they do. In fact, some homeowners "overbuild" for their neighborhoods. This means the amount of money invested in improvements

can likely never be recuperated because the house value simply exceeds those around by too much money. To avoid overbuilding, homeowners can ask themselves several questions before beginning a renovation project.

- Will my house be the largest house in the neighborhood? Larger homes tend to have a lower price per square foot, so you may not want to improve to this extent.

- Will the house blend with others in the area? If your house will stick out like a sore thumb, it will

detract from its own value and could impact the value of other homes in the area.

- Have I examined the cost vs. value of the project? Many home improvement resources analyze the cost of a project versus the overall value of that project with regard to property value. For example, a \$100,000 basement remodel may not add \$100,000 to the value of the home in the event you choose to sell down the line. It's important to know which projects provide the best return on investment.

# Glittery GLAM

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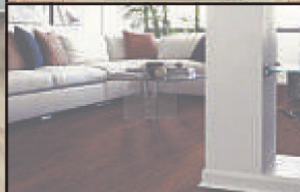
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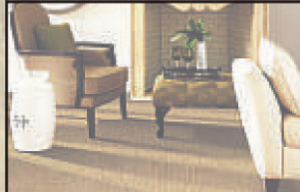
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Looking to add a little pizzazz to a room? Consider splashing some glitter onto the walls. There are a couple of ways you can go about this. You can use paint with crystals or apply a glitter glaze on top of the base coat. Both the crystals and the glaze come in a variety of colors, and when you grow tired of the look, all you have to do is prime the walls and apply a fresh coat of paint.

Adding crystals to paint is easy. Just visit your local hardware or paint store and select the color of crystals you want. One to two packets per gallon will suffice, though for a really glittery look, you may want to use more. Drop the crystals into the paint, and to prevent them from settling to the bottom of the can, use a drill with a mixing attachment. Then, just paint the room as you would normally and prepare for a sparkling outcome.

Unlike the crystals, glitter glaze is a two-step process. First, you need to paint the walls. Then, you may apply the glaze. Several brands and shades are available. Directions for use will vary from product to product, but most will require you to apply the glaze on top of a dry base coat. Don't worry if the glaze appears milky. It will dry clear. You should work in small sections using a roller and a brush for hard-to-reach areas. Rolling at different angles will prevent ridges and lines. The glaze will remain wet and workable for about five minutes or so and dry to a shimmery finish.

Transforming plain walls into glittery glam is easy with the products today. Head to your local hardware or paint store to see what's available.

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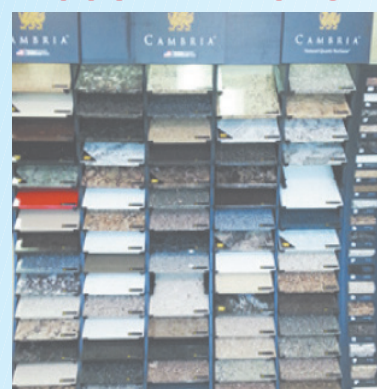
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