

HOMESTYLE

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The Rise Of The Basement

Tips for a better
space

4 Inspections This Spring

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The Rise of the Basement: Top Tips for a Better Space

With fewer homes for sale and good returns on the remodeling investment, more homeowners are reclaiming their lower levels and remodeling their basements.

Basements are coming out of hiding these days. And they're doing it in style, with before-and-after transformations featured everywhere from HGTV to Pinterest and YouTube.

What's driving this trend? A tight housing market, for one thing. With houses at a premium - and a proliferation of DIY how-to's - more homeowners are inspired to reclaim their unused space and expand their living area.

A smart, affordable upgrade

Updating your lower level is a sound investment in your home.

Remodeling magazine's 2016 Cost vs. Value Report put the average basement remodel at \$61,303, with a 70.3 percent payback - a far better investment return than adding a bathroom or garage.

Props for your property value

Depending on local regulations, the additional space can often be added to your home's total square footage, making your market listing more appealing to buyers and potentially increasing your property value.

To recoup the most from your remodeling efforts, make sure

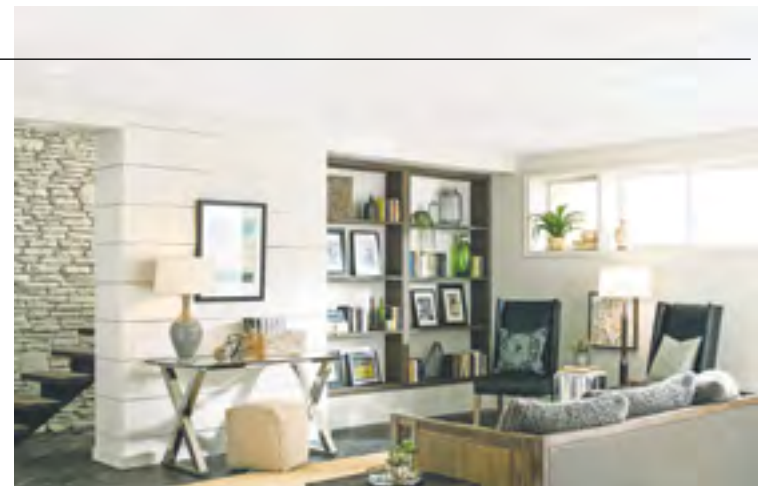
your design and decorating choices are attractive and functional - not too quirky or customized.

Look up, look down: Banish water all around

Before you begin making decorating choices, tackle any needed repairs, including waterproofing your lower level. It's a good idea to seal your walls and floors first, and important enough to hire a professional if you're short on time.

And since below-grade spaces are usually cool, humid and prone to water damage, consider investing in a good dehumidifier and

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4 EXTERIOR INSPECTIONS FOR YOUR HOME THIS SPRING



Spring is the best times for home maintenance repairs. An inspection should be done once or twice a year for things like rotting wood, peeling paint, mold growth and leaky windows. Managing these areas will not only make your home look and feel nicer, but will also add to the value of your home.

To keep your home energy-efficient while looking well-maintained, inspect these four areas of your home this spring and make the needed repairs before summer.

1. Check siding, bricks, wood, decks, fences, driveways and other surfaces for dirt, grime, mold and mildew. Clean these surfaces by pressure-washing each area thoroughly.

2. Inspect your windows and doors for leaky air spaces. Windows and doors often separate from the frame in cold weather, decreasing the energy-efficiency of the home. You can

fix this problem by caulking cracks around doors and windows (on the exterior) and by replacing weather stripping.

3. Check your deck and other wood surfaces for decay, deterioration and splintering. Repair and reseal your deck to help protect the wood throughout the summer months.

4. Look for cracked, fading or peeling paint. Keeping your paint fresh will help make your home look great and will keep your home well-protected from the elements.

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choosing moisture-resistant products.

Elevate your ceiling style

Ugly or damaged ceilings can ruin the look of your newly updated basement space, so take steps to repair or re-place your ceiling. Plaster any cracks and replace yellowing tiles.

If you're updating the ceiling, look for products from companies like Armstrong Ceilings that are specially treated to resist the growth of mold and mildew. From there, the sky - or the ceiling - is the limit. Savvy design choices, like coffered ceilings, or wood planks add style and the results are easier to achieve than most people think.

Stuck with an older, 2-foot x 4-foot dropped ceiling grid? There's no need to suffer without style. Homeowners can take advantage of today's beautiful new 2-foot x 2-foot ceiling tiles by

adding 2-foot cross tees to their existing grid systems.

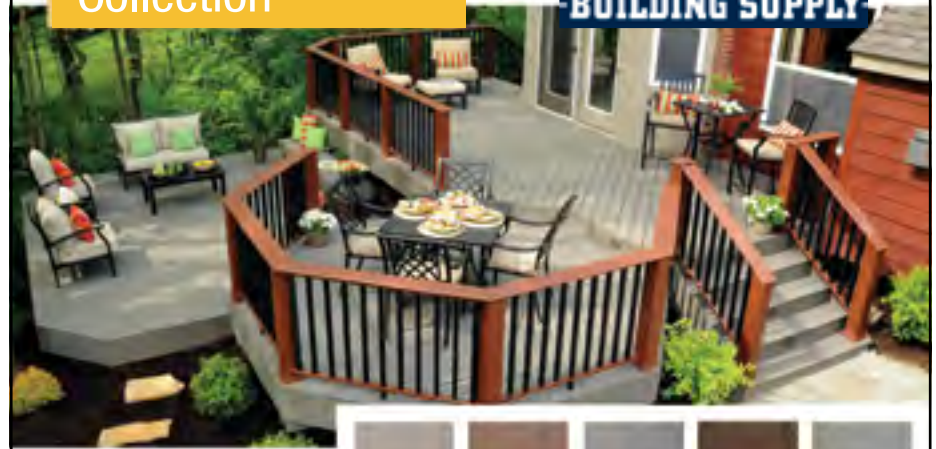
Make sure your flooring choices stand up to moisture, too. Patch any cracks in the concrete floor and consider adding a subfloor if the surface slopes or is uneven.

Many homeowners gravitate to the warmth and soundproofing effect of carpeting in basements. Low-pile or Berber carpets resist wear and are inexpensive options. A moisture-barrier pad between the carpet pad and the carpet adds another level of water resistance and reassurance.

Now is a great time to finish your basement. You'll enjoy the added living space now, and likely realize a healthy return on your investment in the future.



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Samm Sound: Audio and Visual Experts



Pictured from left to right: Mike, Vic, Al DiMeo.

SAMM Sound, a family owned business located at 1103 Bloomfield Ave in West Caldwell, NJ has been providing customers with home and outdoor entertainment systems, home security, and auto entertainment and safety features since 1973. SAMM Sound is run by owner, Al DiMeo, his brother, Victor DiMeo and his son, Michael along with experienced staff members. Open Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 6:00pm and Saturdays from 9:30am until 4:30pm, SAMM Sound invites any interested parties to stop by the store and view products first-hand.

In addition to his family, Al DiMeo works with staff

that have been involved with and dedicated to SAMM Sound and its customers for decades. One such employee is the home audio department manager, Gary Kendelski, whom DiMeo refers to as “an integral part of the operation.” Kendelski has been with SAMM Sound for more than thirty years. Although SAMM Sound’s customer base has increased greatly in size and locale over the years, the business strives to give the same individualized attention to all its customers, whether they are homeowners or commercial businesses.

SAMM Sound provides free consultations for the installation of any of their devices. Customers can also

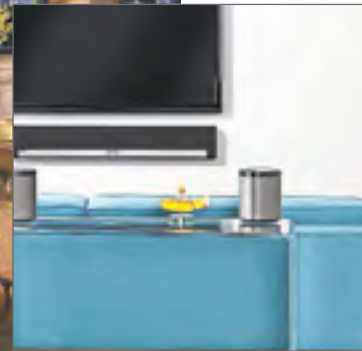
visit SAMM Sound’s store which boasts an impressive 9,000 square foot showroom to view products first-hand and receive a demonstration on any audio or visual equipment from SAMM Sound’s professional and knowledgeable staff members. “We have a strong reputation,” asserts DiMeo, who stresses the importance of leaving customers satisfied and willing to give word-of-mouth recommendations to potential customers. SAMM Sound’s reputation and “commitment to excellent service” has kept the business running for more than forty-four years, a feat which DiMeo aptly calls “impressive for any small business.”

At SAMM Sound, a consumer can find brand-name

televisions such as Sony, LG and Samsung, indoor and outdoor surround-sound speakers, home surveillance cameras, audio entertainment systems and back-up cameras for automobiles and boats.

SAMM Sound has a four-car garage on site where staff members can install and demonstrate automotive entertainment, back-up cameras and vehicle tracking

devices. DiMeo explains that the latter is most commonly used by corporations such as delivery services who wish to maintain top quality safety in vehicles, but can also prove useful to individual drivers or parents who would like to “check-up on young drivers.” Vehicle tracking allows parents to see where their children are going and how fast they are going. Whether interested in automotive entertainment or



Perhaps one of SAMM Sound’s most interesting products is their home automation system. Home automation allows a homeowner to check if their doors are locked, place the lights in their home on a timer, control the heat and air conditioning, and view surveillance through any smart device such as an android, tablet, or iOS phone. Not only do these features give home-owners peace of mind while they are on vacation, but they can also save them money on heating and electric bills.

If customers ever experience problems or have questions, SAMM Sound provides service calls to trouble shoot or give advice on any of their equipment. View a complete list of SAMM Sound products and detailed explanations of all the entertainment and safety features SAMM Sound offers at www.sammound.com or call 973-575-8910 to speak to a representative.

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