HOME OF THE WEEK

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For more information about the Home of the Week, contact:
Pam Kavanaugh Edwards | Dunes Realty, LLC | 712-259-4074

Licensed in IA&SD
A new backsplash can completely transform an outdated kitchen and can protect your walls.

Tips for making your kitchen look stylish on a budget

AVERY NEWMARK
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Kitchen renovations are one of the most popular, as well as one of the most rewarding, home improvements. A new kitchen design can make that space a more functional, compelling heart of your home, in addition to increasing your home’s resale value.

The average cost of a kitchen remodel is between $13,475 and $38,170, according to HomeAdvisor. If you don’t want to spend that much, Wren Kitchens’ experts have revealed the best tricks and tips for making your kitchen look luxurious and refreshed without splurging.

Check out these simple solutions that will help give your kitchen a new look this year:

**Get creative with a backsplash**

A new backsplash can completely transform an outdated kitchen and can protect your walls.

“For a subtle and sophisticated look, choose color palettes that complement your countertops and cabinets to create a fresh feel without remodeling the entire room. For a more adventurous style, naturally inspired colors such as copper and brass are a current popular trend,” according to Wren Kitchens.

**Opt for quartz**

Countertops are where things get done in the kitchen, whether it’s office work or meal preparation, so you want something that will last. Quartz is extremely durable, looks great, and is a strong contender for those looking to spend money on a high-quality, long-lasting product.

**Change out your handles**

New handles can be made from a variety of materials and finishes, and they’re a great way to update the look of your kitchen.

“When looking for something more customized to your style, you can mix and match a choice of handles to your cupboards to create a completely unique and bespoke design. The finishing touches are what guests appreciate, and these smaller touches are where you can save money when creating something different,” Wren Kitchens states.

**Vinyl is the trick to showstopping floors**

Although flooring can be costly, it doesn’t mean you have to settle for less.

“Vinyl flooring is becoming more popular and is a simple and more cost-effective way of adding something more to your kitchen area.”

**Add pendant lighting**

With the flick of a switch, pendant lighting can change the mood of a room. This simple, low-cost feature can make your kitchen appear more expensive without costing a fortune.

“Dependent on the vibe of your kitchen, you can opt for glistening glass pendants for something more stylish or exposed wired bulbs for kitchens that are more rustic.”
New construction home with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and 2 car garage. White cabinets in kitchen and appliances included. Unfinished lower level.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

LAND FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL LOTS: 1800 BLK OF HWY 20 LAWTON, IA

East of Midwest Equipment. • 22.27 acres

1/2 miles east of Charles north side of road • 29.04 acres

1/4-1/2 mile, east of Midwest Equipment N'side of road • 34.5 acres

Property surrounds Hobart sales. Side of Hwy 20. GC land • approx. 70 acres

FARM LAND FOR SALE

1700 HWY 20, LAWTON: 43.25 acres

Currently cash rent, approved for commercial sites.

1800 HWY 20, LAWTON: Approx. 86 acres, most tiliable except windbreak
With spring rolling in, you’re probably thinking about cleaning your windows. After all, newly gleaming glass makes a great impression from the road, but a grime-covered window blocks your view of the lovely outdoors and spoils the look of your home. Cleaning windows can be a slippery business, though, so you’ll want to be as well-informed as you can when you start.

The basics of window cleaning aren’t complicated, and if you have a one-story home, you can do this work yourself without much trouble. You can clean the average window with a squeegee, a bucket of soap and water, and a little elbow grease.

However, window cleaning above the first floor can be risky if you have a multistory house. You’re standing on a ladder, working with a bucket of soapy water, and it’s often tempting to stretch to reach just a little farther. According to the Centers for Disease Control, ladder falls cause 500,000 injuries per year, so it’s important to take precautions.

This is why many home-owners choose to hire a pro to handle second-story window cleaning. You’ll pay between $150 and $300 for the average window cleaning job, and it’s worth it for the pro’s expertise and safety knowledge. If your windows have any unusual quirks, they can clean them properly without damaging them. For example, leaded and stained glass bring their own sets of challenges. Since window cleaners are experienced pros who work with windows a lot, they can spot potential problems that might need repair. And window problems are easier to deal with the earlier you catch them.

When you’re making your initial contact with cleaning pros, you’ll want a lot of information on hand to get an accurate estimate. Here’s what they’ll need to know:

- Number of windows
- Windows sizes
- Window types
- Any problems that make a window harder to access

It’s always a wise idea to check license, bonding, and insurance when you hire a pro. But it’s even more crucial when hiring a window cleaner. That higher ladder accident risk means you want to make certain the pro’s insurance protects you if something gets damaged, or worse — someone gets injured.

Do you decide to clean your second-story windows yourself, make sure you follow all the proper safety procedures for using a ladder. Use a ladder that’s rated for the height you’re cleaning, have a buddy steady the ladder on the ground for you, and don’t take unnecessary risks by stretching too far.

By the way, here’s one more hint: If you don’t want to deal with exterior window cleaning, you can also install replacement windows that tilt inward and make it super-easy to clean from the inside! You can easily clean windows on any floor level like this. Many double-hung windows, which cost between $150 and $650 each, feature this helpful addition.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskAngi and we’ll try to answer them in a future column.
Various types of rope for various tasks and projects

**Dear James:** It seems like I always need rope of some sort for various indoor and outdoor projects. I don't like that cheap, thick yellow stuff. Are there better types of rope?

— Ethan L.

**Dear Ethan:** Rope comes in handy for many home projects, ranging from holding a cabinet in place during installation to putting tension on a tree when cutting it down. This range of projects requires many different types of rope for the best outcome. The prices and sizes can vary significantly. Keep in mind for safety reasons that the size (diameter) of the rope is not the best indicator of its strength. Actually, the rope material has a great impact on its strength. Always read the strength specification shown on the package for the maximum weight it can handle. Don’t compromise to get something cheaper.

As you probably found, most rope you find at hardware and home-center stores is made of three-strand twisted yellow plastic. The type of plastic is actually polypropylene. It is inexpensive, but it’s really not the best type of rope for most applications.

Three important factors to consider when selecting the proper type of rope for a job are: relative strength, elasticity and knot-forming characteristics. No one type of rope is best in all these factors, so it is best to have several types of rope on hand. Yellow polypropylene rope has medium strength and low elasticity. This makes it fine for holding light loads. It is made of plastic, so it is not harmed by moisture and can be stored anywhere without concern for rot. It is commonly used on boats and around swimming pools because it is the only common type of rope that floats on water.

One drawback of polypropylene rope is it is stiff and difficult to tie into a knot. Polypropylene plastic is often used for living hinges in plastic items, so it has a memory. If you try to tie it into a knot, it usually springs back and unties itself. When polypropylene rope gets old, it has an unpleasant prickly feel when handling it.

White polyester rope is better to use for supporting items because it is relatively strong and has very low elasticity. The combination of its stiffness and strength makes it particularly good when lifting heavy items. It costs slightly more than $1 per foot for typical 5/8 inch-diameter rope.

If you have to make knots with polyester rope to tie something down, select a soft-laid type of rope, which is more flexible. For straight lifting and strength, a hard-laid type is best. Being made of plastic, it is rot-resistant and can be stored and used in damp locations.

Nylon rope costs about the same and has similar properties to polyester rope. The major difference is nylon rope is much more elastic. This makes it less applicable to lifting and tying heavy loads but much better for a safety rope. If you fall and are supported by nylon rope, its elasticity will ease and absorb some of the shock. This is also a benefit when pulling out a car that is stuck in mud.

The other two less expensive types of rope are made from natural materials. Manila rope is moderately strong and good for pulley applications because it does not stretch much and it is stiff. It is often coated with oil so it resists rot. Natural sisal fiber rope is the most inexpensive, and it is a good general-purpose rope for packaging and bundling yard waste. It is not oil-coated, so it can go in the compost pile.

Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

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WWW.DUNESREALTYSIOUXLAND.COM
Organization is an interior design’s best friend. Unsurprisingly, human perception is almost entirely visual, so why not make visuals the best they can be?

To be sure, organizing is not extremely interesting; it’s up there with going to the dentist, for some. However, I enjoy making lemons into lemonade. So pour yourself a glass or two of wine, put your favorite music on and roll up your sleeves, because the task at hand is to organize. Your interior decor will thank you for it, and when you stand back you’ll feel your rooms are refreshed.

I had a friend who once came into my office and opened every desk drawer and closet — and nearly fainted. I am not the only one to blame, but most normal folks tend to shove everything out of site and into drawers, corners and under beds and sofas. Those can be valuable storage spaces, but how you go about it makes it right or wrong.

My first piece of advice is to go to a supply and container store and buy yourself a variety of plastic or wood containers or baskets, in multiples and in different sizes. This will make your closets and storage areas look visually organized and thought out.

Curate your closet as if it were a display. Yes, this means getting rid of things you don’t wear, can’t wear or won’t wear — be realistic. Closets are a place to go soft: perhaps linen-covered boxes for seasonal items, special garments or shoes. Buying new and sturdy hangers is another way to organize your wardrobe. For those who have the patience, I recommend sorting your clothing by type, e.g., long-sleeve shirts, pants, shorts, jackets, suits, short-sleeve shirts. For those who are even more patient, you can sort those clothing types by color. It makes getting dressed easier.

Clear out that catchall closet and let’s create an office. Start by removing the door. Patch and paint the area where hinges once stood. Above the future desk area, place one or two shelves, which can be store-bought or custom-cut and stained in your desired shade. Add some corkboard to the back of the closet, which will now function as a bulletin board. The top of your desk can be a plywood board, covered in laminate or marble for a snazzier look. Add a rolling file cabinet and a desk chair and you’re well on your way to organizing your business, party invitations and monthly obligations. If there are electrical outlets nearby, a small desk lamp can provide lighting, and you can plug in all of your communication devices.

Finding extra space is always convenient when you’re organizing. Pretend you live on a boat: every inch of space matters. Underneath your bed and underneath your sofa are good places to store items if the goods are properly protected in containers with lids that can be opened and closed. And why not add a pair of skirted end tables for more storage? Any place can function as long as it’s organized — oh, and let’s not forget, visually appealing.

Joseph Pubillones is the owner of Joseph Pubillones Interiors, an award-winning interior design firm based in Palm Beach, Florida. His website is www.josephpubillones.com.
When is it appropriate to use black in home decor? Once considered harsh, black is now more popular than ever and is often the go-to color for those looking for an elegant, upscale vibe. Black offers the opportunity to infuse a bold and luxurious look into nearly any space. When using black, there are some top tips to keep in mind.

**Do's**
1. Do use black in social areas such as living rooms, family rooms and even dining spaces.
2. Do pair black with other neutral colors such as cream, blue and even brown.
3. Do incorporate black as an element to help ground spaces that may be overly bright.
4. Do use black as a cabinetry choice. Black cabinets are a popular designer choice for both kitchens and bathrooms.
5. Do use black on large areas such as upholstery, artwork and area rugs.

**Don'ts**
1. Don't be afraid to use black in unexpected areas such as children’s bedrooms or small spaces such as bathrooms.
2. Don't be afraid to be daring. Look for ways to use black in bold, unexpected ways.
3. Don't worry about pairing black with other dark colors such as indigo blue or deep chocolate brown.
4. Don't avoid using black as an accent color. Black makes a great accent when looking to create a sense of contrast.
5. Don't overlook the opportunity to use black on architectural elements such as baseboards, moldings and banisters.

Cathy Hobbs, based in New York City, is an Emmy Award-winning television host and a nationally known interior design and home staging expert with offices in New York City, Boston and Washington, D.C. Contact her at info@cathyhobbs.com or visit her website at cathyhobbs.com.
How to choose lighting for houseplants

A lot more people are growing houseplants because they are staying home and want a prettier house. Unfortunately, many homes don’t have enough good-quality light for plants that need bright light.

JEFF RUGG

Obviously, lights can be added to those dark corners, but what kind of light should you get?

Not every lightbulb, or the quantity and quality of light it produces, will work for growing plants indoors. Plants use large amounts of red and blue light, lesser quantities of other colors and very little green, which is the color they reflect back to our eyes. The measurement scale of the color of light is expressed in the temperature scale of degrees Kelvin, or K.

Sunlight at noon on a slightly overcast day is around 6,500 K. A normal incandescent light is much cooler, around 2,800 K, while a cool, white-blue fluorescent light is a warm 4,100 K. I know that it sounds odd to say that a yellowish-red lightbulb that produces heat is cooler than a bluish-colored fluorescent light, but it is true when you are only looking at the colors of light and not the kind of bulbs producing the light. Bulbs with color temperatures below 5,000 K look more yellow/red, while bulbs rated between 5,000 and 6,000 K are white, and bulbs above 6,000 K tend to look blue.

Some lightbulbs are sold as “daylight,” “sunlight,” “natural,” “balanced” or “wide spectrum.” These terms mean the bulb is producing a color of around 5,000 to 6,000 K. On the other hand, a “full-spectrum” bulb produces a light that covers the entire range of visible light (400-700 nanometers) without gaps in its spectral output. I have grown aquarium plants and vegetable transplants under full spectrum lights, and a mix of cool and warm fluorescent lights and the plants lit by full-spectrum bulbs easily outgrew the others.

Old-style incandescent bulbs have an efficiency rate around 5%, and the spectrum of light produced is not ideal for growing plants. Incandescent bulbs produce a large amount of heat, which will increase your cooling costs and can burn plant leaves. High-output, full-spectrum fluorescent lamps are a great choice for indoor plant growth. They are 3 to 7 times more efficient than incandescent bulbs, but they need to be placed close to the plant. Compact fluorescent bulbs can be good for growing a single plant in a room away from windows. Newer fluorescent bulbs are only five-eighths of an inch in diameter, while old bulbs are 1 1/2 inches in diameter. The new bulbs produce more light and more heat, but they use less electricity. The new bulbs cost more and require a new fixture.

HID, or high-intensity discharge lamps, include high-pressure sodium and metal halide bulbs. HID lamps are typically used for streetlights or for warehouses and greenhouses. They are used by home growers who are determined to get the most light possible. They produce a huge amount of heat and can’t be placed near plants. They may need ventilation fans installed.

LEDs, or light emitting diodes, used to be expensive but are now very competitive in price with other bulbs. They use very little electricity, produce almost no heat and last much longer than all other bulbs, so in the long run, they are cheaper, cooler and produce a very good quantity of light. The light quality can vary. Check the package to see what color range the bulb will produce. LED bulbs in the 5,000 to 6,000 K color range will be best for plants. Otherwise, you may need a pair of bulbs, one in the blue range and one in the red range, to get a good quality color for your plants.

Email questions to Jeff Rugg at info@greenerview.com.
When it comes to textiles, there is no shortage of colors, weights, fibers and patterns. It can be quite overwhelming when searching for the perfect pattern for your decor.

Looking at just one style of pattern like plaid can send you down the rabbit hole with an unlimited number of patterns to sort through. Don't worry, though. As a self-identified plaid and check enthusiast, I am here to break down the most common variations to make designing easy.

While plaid and check patterns have quite a lot in common in how they are woven, the fastest way to tell them apart is check patterns are usually made up of only two colors, whereas plaid will almost always have multiple. Houndstooth, buffalo check and windowpane are the most popular check patterns in decor. These fabrics come in a variety of colors and size variations that make them perfect for a multitude of projects.

Houndstooth is a Swedish pattern that is a relative of the shepherd's check pattern, except instead of standard squares, this textile has shapes that are notched, much like a pointed canine tooth. This textile is most commonly found in a black-and-white colorway, though preppy pastels and calming neutrals are becoming more and more popular. It is a timeless pattern that mixes well with other textiles and is just as much at home in your family room as it is in a formal dining area. Perfect for pillows and throw blankets, it is a great accent fabric to add depth and interest to your rooms.

Buffalo check is the bigger and bolder sibling to gingham and is a hugely popular fabric choice when it comes to home decor. Due to its adaptable nature, it is used for larger upholstered pieces, bedding, table decor and accent pillows alike. This pattern comes in a wide variety of color pairings and is a versatile textile that can translate to anything from traditional to modern farmhouse depending on the usage. Recently our designer, Dianne, turned a classic upholstered chair on its head (or, turned on the diagonal, if we're being technical) to create a diamond design that is a true showstopper.

Windowpane is a classic textile that is most commonly used in menswear and menswear-inspired decor. Made up of one large stripe crossed with an equal width or smaller stripe, it is a simple and elegant pattern that can be used in many situations. I love using this pattern in our bedding for a strong and timeless aesthetic or on a large sectional to add some visual interest.

Not many patterns can boast to be classic, modern and traditional all at the same time, but checks are one of those few. This playful but structured textile can be used in a multitude of ways. The possibilities and styles are endless when working with these wonderful patterns. I can't wait to see what looks are created with them this year.

Adapted from nellhills.com.
Katie Laughridge is the owner of Kansas City interior design destination Nell Hill's. For more information, contact Katie at info@nellhills.com.
The cold of winter and the rains of spring both take their toll on your roof. It’s a good idea to get your roof inspected at least once every few years. Experts say the most ideal time is during either spring or fall. This allows a professional to assess the problems caused by the previous season and prepare for the upcoming changes in weather.

Regular inspections also allow your contractor to catch small problems before they become big problems. And where roofing is concerned, big problems can become very expensive if not caught before they start leaking.

Roofing pros see their schedules begin to fill up early in the spring, so it’s a good idea to call someone sooner rather than later. Expect to pay around $200 for this service.

**What to expect from a roofing inspection**

A roof inspection can be done in a single day. Here are elements a reputable roofing professional should always address:

- Overall appearance of the roof, both exterior and interior.
- Going into the attic to look for moisture or mold and check for proper insulation and ventilation.
- Evidence of ceiling cracks and leaks.
- Condition of fascia, gutters and drains, skylights, chimneys and vents.
- Curled, broken or missing shingles.
- Areas where water may collect, like roof valleys.
- Damaged or missing flashing points.

Your region will affect your inspector’s areas of emphasis. Areas with frequent storms need to be inspected for potential blow-off and roof strength. More humid climates call for an emphasis on potential moisture damage.

The inspector should provide you with a written report within seven days that includes both photos and written descriptions of their findings, the overall condition of the roof, and itemized recommendations for potential repairs.

**Performing a self-inspection**

You can also perform a self-inspection in between professional inspections to gauge the condition of your roof. If you do this, invest in high-quality fall protection equipment so you can stay safe while on the roof.

Look for these elements while self-inspecting:

- Integrity of shingles and flashing around pipes, chimneys and vents. Pay attention to soft spots and missing, broken or worn shingles.
- The quality of the gutter system. It should be attached properly and free of debris.
- Your home’s interior. Closely inspect top-floor walls and ceilings for leaks or stains. Check the attic for wet spots or rotting wood.

Gutter guards are potent tools to keep your gutters clean. You can choose from several different options, but all gutter guards fulfill the same basic purpose: blocking debris from entering your gutters while allowing water to still drain freely from your roof.

That said, there's no such thing as a completely maintenance-free gutter system. A good cover will minimize debris, but smaller particles can still make their way through. You should still get your covered gutters professionally cleaned at least once every two years — more often, if you have large trees nearby.

If you have gutter guards, don't let them make you complacent. Keep an eye on your gutters during heavy rainfall and make sure everything goes down the spouts and not over the edges. If you don't pay attention to gutters, you can find yourself with a damaged roof, fascia or basement.

You can install gutter guards yourself if you're so inclined, but experts recommend hiring a professional for this work. You'll want your gutters to be cleaned at the same time guards are installed, to provide a good baseline for the future.

Proper installation is crucial to getting gutter guards to work properly.

## Are gutter guards worth it?

Gutter guards are potent tools to keep your gutters clean. You can choose from several different options, but all gutter guards fulfill the same basic purpose: blocking debris from entering your gutters while allowing water to still drain freely from your roof.

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### Gutter guards by type

The various gutter guard materials offer their own pros and cons. Here's a look at the most popular options, and their prices:

- **Metal mesh screens:** $1.20 to $4 per foot. These are sheets of metal with holes punched through. They block most debris, but anything smaller than the holes, such as seeds, will get into your gutters.
- **Micro mesh screens:** $9 per foot. This is a solid cover with an engineered curve sloping down into a gap between guard and gutter. Water will flow down the curve while debris flows off the edge. It's one of the most effective methods. Many name brand covers use a system similar to this principle, and can cost up to $30 per foot.
- **Gutter brushes:** $3 per foot. These long rolls of brush fit inside the gutter like filters, allowing water to pass through while blocking leaves. They work well, but need to be cleaned more frequently.
- **Plastic or vinyl grid screens:** $0.40 to $4 per foot. This is one of the least expensive options, but also less effective than others. The grid works similarly to a metal mesh screen, but doesn’t last as long.
- **Full surface tension covers:** $4 to $8 per foot, or higher for name brands. This is a solid cover with an engineered curve sloping down into a gap between guard and gutter. Water will flow down the curve while debris flows off the edge. It's one of the most effective methods. Many name brand covers use a system similar to this principle, and can cost up to $30 per foot.

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Dear James: I noticed a damp spot from an extremely slow leak under my kitchen sink. I cannot afford to call a plumber right now. Is there some method to temporarily repair it? — David J.

Dear David: A plumber would rightly recommend that the drain should be replaced, and it will eventually need replacement. Even though it is a relatively minor job for an experienced plumber, it is expensive to have the plumber just walk in the door and inspect it. Once the leak is stopped, you will have time to study videos on how to replace the pipe yourself.

Place a pan under the drip to catch the water. Place it on something to raise it off the floor so it will dry out. Since you may not know how long the pipe has been leaking, there may have already been some damage done to the building materials or ceiling below the leak.

Check to see how damp things are and whether you notice any weak or rotted wood on the bottom of the cabinet under the sink. If there is much damage, you will probably have to call a contractor to repair the damage. Most home improvement and repair contractors can also easily replace the pipe at the same time.

Since it is a very slow drip and the hole in the pipe is so tiny, it may be difficult to find. Keep in mind, water runs down a pipe, so where it appears to be dripping may not be the exact location of the hole. Wipe the entire pipe dry and quickly wrap a tissue around it. Watch for where the tissue first gets wet to locate the hole.

Your concern now is to stop the leak with a temporary fix long enough to get to your home center store for materials for a longer-lasting patch. With the pipe dried off, wrap waterproof

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**Make a temporary repair to a leaking sink drain**

**Leaky Pipes**

The best way to deal with a leaking pipe is to replace the section of pipe, but when a pipe springs a leak, a temporary solution can help you deal with the emergency.

**EPOXY FIX**

Epoxy is a quick and easy way to stop a leak and is ideal for leaks around fittings. To ensure a solid seal, remove any dirt or grease around the hole with detergent. Next, clean the pipe with medium-grit sandpaper or emery cloth. Then, apply the epoxy by following the manufacturer's directions.

**CLAMP FIX**

Patch kits for plumbing leaks are available at the hardware store, or you can make your own with a heavy piece of rubber and pipe clamps. Position a piece of rubber over the leaky hole. Then, install pipe clamps and tighten the integral screws on the clamps with a screwdriver. This holds the patch in place and makes a seal.

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**Reader asks for garden vegetable seed catalog info**

**Question:** I saw an article that you wrote that said there were garden vegetable seed catalogs available at the Direct Gardening Association website. I can’t find that site. Can you help?

**Answer:** Well, that group ended last year during the pandemic. So, to help you out, here are my favorite vegetable seed catalog companies.

- **Jere Gettle** has been a vegetable gardener since he was three. By 17, he was selling heirloom garden seeds. He now has three retail stores and an entire heirloom village you can visit. The Baker Creek catalog has over 1,500 seeds. He and his wife Emilee publish the Heirloom Gardener Magazine and the Heirloom Life Gardener book. For more information, check out www.rareseeds.com.

- **Dixondale Farms** is the home of the Onionman and a lot of good onions. dixondalefarms.com. The Harris Seeds catalog has a good selection of vegetables, plus flowers and tools. Find them at www.harrisseeds.com.
Rugg
From H12

The Chas. C. Hart Seed Co. Is one of the few garden seed companies that understands the difference between genetically modified (GMO) and genetically engineered (GE) seeds. This company has been around for over 125 years and is an excellent source of garden seeds. If your charitable organization needs vegetable garden seeds this is the company to contact at www.hartseed.com.

Double A Vineyards is an awesome source of grape vines. doubleavineyards.com. Indiana Berry & Plant Co. Is a great source for strawberries, brambles, blueberries and grape vines. indianaberry.com

Renee’s Garden has garden-tested and taste-tested heirloom and gourmet vegetables, flowers and herbs. Her seed packets are very detailed, and Renee personally grows every vegetable. Her seed packets are tested heirloom and garden-tested and taste-tested. indianaberry.com

tomato.com. Wood Prairie Family Farm is the place to get any kind of potato. www.woodprairie.com. Many heirloom varieties are extremely rare and would probably be extinct if it weren’t for a community of gardeners who are committed to keeping these treasures alive.

Gardening Catalogs
Catalogs, plant tags and hardness zone maps help in choosing plants for your area. These references help indicate whether a plant is likely to survive the conditions of a particular location.

GROWING ZONES
The USDA Hardiness Zone Map is the record of weather temperatures throughout North America. It is subdivided into colored sections that represent temperature differences within the zone. For more information on growing zones, visit https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov

GARDENING CATALOGS
When selecting plants, there are many things to consider: including color, climate, growth and varieties. Take time to learn the terminology and symbols found in catalogs to choose plants that are right for your garden.

CHOOSING PLANTS
Plants that are well-suited to their environment will establish quickly; they will also have a healthy root system and be healthier plants. Locally grown plants are superior because they tolerate the local soil types and climate conditions and therefore require less pampering, less water consumption and lower fertilizer use.

Dulley
From Page 12

tape around the leaky area and out about six inches on each side. Black electrical tape, duct tape or aluminum tape should work well.

The two most common methods to replace a leaky metal pipe are using plumber’s epoxy or a pipe clamp. The plumber’s epoxy is also particularly effective for sealing leaky fittings. To use the epoxy, you must shut off the water to that pipe and be sure no water still drips from the hole.

The exterior of the pipe must be very clean for good adhesion. Clean it with detergent to remove any grease or oils. For added insurance, use medium-grit sandpaper and sand it down to the bare metal. This cleans the surface and creates a rough surface for better adhesion.

Read the instructions on the packaging to determine how much working time you will have before the epoxy starts to harden. Mix the two parts together and spread the mixture over the hole with a putty knife. Put it on thick. If it is difficult to reach, use your fingers. Always wear protective gloves when working with epoxy.

If the leak is easy to reach, installing a pipe clamp over the leak is effective. Get the proper size for the pipe diameter.

Send your questions to Heres’s How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.
**Fresh paint for spring refresh**

This time of year, with the first hints of warm breezes blowing through and a peek into the sunny days to come, never fails to put me in the mood to clean and modify my spaces.

Everyone likes to talk about spring cleaning but what about post-winter hibernation refresh? Indeed, this year more than ever it feels like I need to make a big change to welcome in a new season of my life.

What better way than with a fresh coat of paint on the walls? Painting the interior of your home is a big undertaking and is certainly not without its challenges.

Last month we took the leap and repainted our entryway at the shop and it has truly transformed the space. I knew I wanted to go in a new direction from our juicy and vibrant Hedge Apple green that had been featured for many years, but wasn’t sure which color would be able to span the multiple rooms and looks that we have in that area of the shop.

As soon as I saw a swatch of our new color, Atchison, I knew I had found the one.

Atchison is a creamy, dreamy, earthy taupe that brings to mind clean and comforting spaces and makes me think of cozy nights spent with family and friends. This shade is one of pure comfort and home, so I thought there is no better name than one that pays homage to our original home in Atchison, Kansas.

It is one of the three essential neutrals found in our Nell Hill’s paint line along with our medium shade Northland Greige and lightest shade Hawthorne Blossom, a warm white.

Taupe is a wonderful paint color because it provides the best of all worlds. It brings a warmth to a space that is hard to achieve with stark white while remaining the perfect backdrop for any accent color palette from pastels to jewel tones to even more neutral hues. Atchison has a depth to it that is enveloping, soothing and oh-so-charming, making it perfect for spaces where you want to create a welcome and cozy atmosphere.

A few of our talented Nell Hill’s designers have found inspiration in our refreshed space and have pulled together some stunning fabric pairings that enhance this perfect taupe. Our first designer, Jenna, envisioned a light and airy living area that shows her love of using classic elements to create timeless living spaces.

What I adore most about this simple color palette is her gorgeous use of texture. From the oversized weave of the natural fiber rug and the ridged shine of the Schumacher accent wallpaper to the smallest finishing touch of embroidered trim perfect for a sofa skirt that flows effortlessly into her pearl-on-white window covering textile, each detail brings interest and energy to her room. The fern coloring of her chosen velvet fabric is perfect for a show-stopping ottoman and showcases one of my favorite new Nell Hill’s stock floral fabrics at the same time.

This crisp look is perfect for a room with lots of natural light peeking in through the curtains.

For our second featured look, our team member Dallas was inspired to create a nursery palette in honor of her dear friend who is currently a mommy-to-be. More and more baby and kid rooms are turning to neutral wall colors that allow children to grow into their own style easily and without yearly fuss over a new favorite color of the week.

Since Dallas loves to incorporate color into her designs, she decided on a look that was bright, energetic and most of all fun. A playful rug is the perfect starting point to introduce pastel shades of yellow, blue and pink into this room. Atchison is a wonderful color to pair with soft shades as it truly lets them shine on their own. By mixing in a balance of plush velvets and linens with boldly textured embroidery and tweed accents, this pairing achieves the difficult task of being both subtle and bold.

Our final favorite look from Ellen incorporates one of our go-to color pairings for taupe, which is a complementary shade of blue. Since our Atchison color has warm undertones, blue is the perfect balancing color and truly pops against this marvelous taupe. In fact, looking at this pattern mix has me thinking about redoing my bedroom here and now!

One of Ellen’s talents is her ability to marry the old with the new as well as excelling in pairing trendy neutrals with muted colors, so this pretty pairing comes as little surprise to me. Mixing traditional floral prints and simple embroidery with both youthful over-sized polka dots and modern irregular velvet dots is a risk well worth taking.

The muted blue and matching tones of her chosen color allow for more room to play with a variety of textures and patterns without overwhelming the or downplaying the chosen paint color. This mix creates countless ways to arrange a soothing and relaxing bedroom interior.

I am so in love with our new entryway! I know I won’t be able to stop bringing these new colors into the shop this year. The only question is what will be next?

Perhaps a grey-toned pink like Prairie Rose, or a vibrant statement like our Ward Parkway Brick? Check out our line of colors online and let me know what you would like to see featured next in the comments!

Until next time – happy decorating!

Adapted from nellhills.com. Katie Laughridge is the owner of Kansas City interior design destination Nell Hill’s. For more information, contact Katie at info@nellhills.com.
Newly Listed Directory
Saturday, March 12th, 2022

6801 Morningside Ave., Sioux City • $1,250,000
4 BR  2.5 BA
You will not find a more unique property to call your own that includes 5.26 acres of land, a beautiful residential home, a thriving business and a building and one that is zoned Agricultural Estates for farm animals. (currently housing 5 horses, 4 goats and chickens with multiple barns/coops) all within city limits!
Mallori Hoffert • 712-251-4359

1530 S Lakeport St, Sioux City • $225,000
3 BR  2 BA Property details and photos can be found at c21prolink.com
Austin Fuller • 605-321-0267

2710 S Coral, Sioux City • $239,500
4 BR  2 BA Property details and photos can be found at c21prolink.com
Jesse Derrick • 712-899-6813

Lots 3, 6, 7 Country Club Estates 2nd Addn.
Remsen, IA • $15,000 Each
- BR    - BA
Huge Price Reduction! Love to play golf? Here is your chance to build a custom home right by the Remsen Golf Course!
Jim Gergeni • 712-253-2007

6726 Timberline Cir, Sioux City • $274,500
2 BR  2 BA Property details and photos can be found at c21prolink.com
Nancy Sweeney • 712-251-7088

503 Baywood Court Sgt. Bluff, IA • $330,000
3 BR  3 BA Great home in Sergeant Bluff. Custom built one owner home Nicely maintained and updated.
Lisa Sissel • 712-253-6313

333 Sweetwater, Ct., Merrill, Iowa • $995,000
3+ BR  3 BA Life is sweet on Sweetwater! Private oasis living on the edge of Merrill. Spacious gourmet kitchen; entertainment delight in lower level; Just in time to enjoy the pool & garden area.
Lisa Croston • 712-251-5214

511 Stonegate Circle, Sgt. Bluff, IA • $289,950
3 BR  2.5 BA Great Location within walking distance to all Sergeant Bluff Schools! Enjoy the two fireplaces and the 3 Season Room that walks out to large deck and above ground pool! Level fenced yard. Nicely maintained and updated.
Kristi Armstrong • 712-259-4663

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**DEAR MONTY**

**New startup companies to help make moving easy**

**Dear Monty:** We are nearing retirement age and thinking of changing our housing situation. We see people we know or hear about making choices that surprise us. There seem to be many more living options today. There also appear to be more paths to get there. Selling a home, ownership choices, renting and where to live are examples of subjects that seem to have become more complex. It feels like something has changed, but I can’t put my finger on it. Real estate didn’t seem this complicated when we bought this house. What is causing this change?

**Monty’s Answer:** Two significant changes in our society may explain what you feel as you near retirement. The first event was the introduction of the internet to the world. There is a good reason it is called the “information age.” There are countless examples of things you can do today that were likely not possible when you bought your house. The worldwide web (that’s what the “www” in www.dearmonty.com stands for) has shrunk the world. The proliferation of information gives a person new knowledge, opportunities and choices.

Innovation has been happening for eons (the wheel, electricity, gunpowder), but the internet has exploded innovation. According to wpforms.com, there are nearly two billion websites on the worldwide web today.

Creating startup companies on the internet has become an industry in itself. Venture capital, accelerators and incubators provide locations where these creatives build things people need or something they don’t even know they need until they discover it. There is a sector that has arisen called PropTech. The name suggests property technology, so PropTech is the business of real estate innovators.

Here are some examples of reasonably new PropTech companies and what problem they aim to solve. The list is just a tiny sample. I have not personally used any of these companies, so this is not a recommendation. It will be interesting to see if they all survive. Many startups do not make it.

- Pacaso offers co-ownership. You buy an interest in the home you want. They manage it.
- Knock’s guaranteed sale plan sets you up to buy a new home before you sell your old one. Orchard also uses this model.
- Accept is a lender that makes you a cash buyer.
- Opendoor lets you sell your home for cash.
- Divvy Homes lets you pick the home you want. They buy it, and you rent to own.
- HomeFundit — Need money for a down payment? They can help.
- Unison — Need money for anything? They buy an interest in your home.
- Landis — They buy the home you want; you rent it back while saving the down payment.
- Home Partners of America — Choose a home and rent it; buy it if you like it.
- Landed is a mortgage lender specializing in certain occupations.
- Loftium — You rent their house, rent out a room and save money.

According to CrunchBase, PropTech startups have raised over $80 billion since 2016. Some homebuyers have raised a down payment on fundraising sites or crowdfunding websites. Here is a website that helps some first-time home buyers find down payment grants. https://themortgagereports.com/33553/complete-guide-to-down-payment-assistance-in-the-usa. Here is a grab bag of other sites. I did not view them. Emberhome, Sharetiny, Point, June Homes, Noah and finally, Hometap. We live in exciting times.

Richard Montgomery is the author of “House Money: An Insider’s Secrets to Saving Thousands When You Buy or Sell a Home.” He advocates industry reform and offers readers unbiased real estate advice. Follow him on Twitter at @dearmonty, or at DearMonty.com

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**PLUMBER**

**High-efficiency shower power**

**Question:** As our children grow up, our water bills are also growing. To lower water usage, I plan to change the showerheads in both bathrooms to new high-efficiency models. What performance options do you recommend for water-saving heads? — Jack, Ohio

**Answer:** High-efficiency showerheads are a good idea for any bathroom and can save even more water than standard showerheads.

Some areas may require only installing high-efficiency showerheads. So check your local water usage requirements to make sure the new showerheads meet or beat local guidelines and/or codes.

This question brings up a good point as far as high-efficiency showerhead performance. Since these showerheads can have a lower gallon per minute (GPM) flow rate, it’s important to get the most you can out of every drop of water.

For performance features I like showerheads that include the following:

- A wide nozzle pattern for better body coverage
- Easy-to-clean flexible water jets to cut down on water deposits
- Built-in “air-induction” technology
- Infusing air into the water flow can blow you away with a nice water-saving sensory experience!

Master Contractor/Plumber Ed Del Grande is known internationally as the author of the book “Ed Del Grande’s House Call,” the host of TV and Internet shows, and a LEED green associate. Visit eddelgrande.com or write eadelg@cs.com. Always consult local contractors and codes.

High-efficiency showerheads are a good idea for any bathroom and can save even more water than standard showerheads.
In all our efforts to prepare our homes for spring—clearing the gutters, inspecting the roof and trimming the trees—it’s easy to overlook the fact that our pets can use a little preparation too, especially where spring storms are concerned.

As you gear up your house for the season, consider these tips to ensure that your furry friends can weather any stress that comes their way.

**Create a pleasant place for your pet**

You can’t control the forecast, but you can control the environment inside your home. Draw your curtains and act calm when rain starts lashing the windows. If sound frightens your pet, consider windows or window treatments that help prevent noise. Severe weather is also less likely to damage thicker windows.

Inside the home, play calming sounds or music to relax your pet, but don’t turn up the volume too loud, as this can raise the anxiety in the room. Keep your dog from becoming destructive by placing him in a comfortable crate. It’s also possible to convert any space you have—whether it’s under your stairs or in your mudroom—into a safe place for your animal during storm. Fill these areas with comfort items like bedding, blankets and toys.

**Get a microchip**

If thunderclaps and lightning strikes send your dog or cat scrambling for an escape, a microchip is a worthy investment. Think of a microchip as a type of identification your pet can’t lose; tiny and inexpensive, microchips are surgically placed under the skin to help vet offices, animal control and shelters reunite the two of you if Fido breaks through the screen door. Additionally, there are several brands of smart collars on the market that can help you track and locate your pet if you become separated.

**Provide a distraction**

If it’s possible, keep your pet’s mind off what’s going on around them through a fun game, grooming or other positive activities. There are several benefits to this: You can help him burn off that nervous energy, calm him down in the moment and also create positive memories and feelings associated with storms. Talk to your vet if these measures don’t work, or if you become worried about your animal’s safety.

**Be prepared for an emergency**

Depending on where you live, you may need to have a plan for an evacuation or shelter-in-place. FEMA recommends you have your pet’s food, water, medical records and identification in a safe place. Also, make sure you have a place for your pet to go to the bathroom, and access to familiar items, like favorite stuffed chew toys. If you live in an area where you might have to go to a shelter, make sure you have a safe place to put your pet ahead of any upcoming storms. FEMA notes that many shelters don’t allow pets, so it’s vital you figure out ahead of time where you’ll take your pet in case of an emergency.

Diana Crandall is a reporter for Angie’s List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers. Visit AngiesList.com.
Dear Helaine and Joe:

I recently acquired this large tureen in the shape of a goose. I believe it is a piece of armorial porcelain marked with the seal of the Chinese Emperor Qianlong. My question is whether or not you have seen a representation of the great seal of the United States with the eagle facing away from the olive branches? — Thank you, M. D.

Dear M. D.: We are both more than a bit surprised that this inquiry is centered around the placement of the eagle on this goose-shaped tureen. Unfortunately, this a minor side issue when it comes to a discussion about this particular object.

Several other significant issues might include: How old is this piece? Was it really made in the mid- to late 18th century? Is the seal mark authentic? Was it actually made in China or somewhere else such as Italy, Portugal or even Japan?

On its face, this is supposed to be a piece of Chinese porcelain designed to be exported to the West — specifically, to the United States — and made during the reign of the Emperor Qianlong (1735-1796). Interestingly, the great seal of the U.S. with its depiction of an eagle with spread wings and its talon clutching an olive branch in one and a sheath of arrows in the other was not adopted until 1782, just 14 years or so before Qianlong's death.

It is thought that the first tureen appeared in France during the reign of the French King Louis XVI (1638-1715), aka the Sun King or Louis the Great. Originally, it was a large, round lidded serving dish used to serve the first course at dinner. There were two ways that formal dinner might be served: “service à la Françoise,” in which all the dishes were on the table at the beginning of the meal, or “service à la Russe,” in which dishes were carried in from the kitchen one course at a time.

Over time, the simple round earthenware serving dishes became more elaborate in design and shape and many were made from porcelain or silver. Shapes went from round to square, then to fanciful forms such as cabbages, tomatoes, pumpkins, rabbits, swans, boars' heads, shells, nesting chickens and geese, among others.

Unfortunately, the mark is misleading and this tureen was not made in China or manufactured during Qianlong's reign. It is in the style of Chinese export wares but was made elsewhere and at a much later date. Most commonly, these goose tureens were made in Italy, but we cannot rule out an origin in Japan.

These goose-shaped tureens turn up for sale on occasion, and everyone we have seen has a different scheme, but they all tend to be very attractive and appealing to the eye. We can imagine their turning up in giftware catalogs of specialty shops featuring table wares and settings. But the bottom line is they were meant to deceive the unwary.

When we see these goose tureens being offered for sale online, they are in $70 range. We suspect they are being offered at $125 or so at retail.

Helaine Fendelman and Joe Rosson have written a number of books on antiques. Do you have an item you'd like to know more about? Contact them at Joe Rosson, 2504 Seymour Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917, or email them at treasures@knology.net. If you'd like your question to be considered for their column, please include a high-resolution photo of the subject, which must be in focus, with your inquiry.
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$239,500

NEW LISTING
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LOTS 3, 6, 7 COUNTRY CLUB
REMSSEN, IA
$15,000 EACH

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LISA SISSEL
503 BAYWOOD CT
SERGEANT BLUFF, IA
$330,000

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LISA CROSTON
333 SWEETWATER
MERRILL, IA
$995,000

NEW LISTING
KRISTI ARMSTRONG
511 STONEGATE CIR
SERGEANT BLUFF, IA
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