



Charlotte Lehto Insurance Agency, Inc.

Serving The Oregon Coast For Over 20 Years



Charlotte Lehto

- **Homeowners Insurance**
- **Renters insurance**
- **Mortgage Insurance**
- **Tsunami Zone & Flood Insurance**
- **Best Rate Bundles**
- **Free Consultations**



If you have made changes to your home such as....

- **Remodeling Kitchens or Baths**
- **Adding Decks or Patios**
- **Remodeling Living Space**
- **Adding a Shop or RV Storage**
- **Adding Gazebos, Sheds or Garages**
- **Adding a Separate Living Space**

Call us today! We can provide a no-obligation quote based on the current replacement cost of your home and other structures. Don't wait...it's so important to assure you have the homeowner's coverage you need to replace your home in the event of a loss.

Medicare Supplement, Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans

Health Insurance On And Off The Federal Health Insurance Marketplace
Dental • Vision • Short Term Medical

4270 NE Highway 101 • Lincoln City, OR 97367
541-994-2884
charlotte@insurancestores.com

Secrets to making your home look like you hired a design pro

Photo spreads in home design magazines can be awe-inspiring. Quite often homeowners wish they could lift the looks right off the pages of magazines and transform their own homes into picture-perfect retreats.

It takes an eye for design to pull a room together — even with inspiration — and make it both functional and attractive. While hiring an interior designer is one way to go, homeowners can use some of the tricks and techniques the designers employ to do a remarkably good job of improving the interiors of their homes without such help.

Embrace texture

The colors used in a home can add impact, but designers often utilize various textures to create aesthetic appeal. A single color scheme can be enhanced by various fabrics. Consider a leather sofa made more cozy with chenille pillows next to a rustic side table. Figure out ways to incorporate a few different textures to add depth to the room.

Be careful with color

Many high-end homes showcase neutral shades that are enhanced by pops of color. If you like a rich, royal purple, leave room for other colors as well. Add touches of purple in vases, throw pillows and other accessories.

Also, many designers work in shades of three for room colors. There may be one main color for walls, another color for

larger accents, such as couches and chairs, and then a third color that pops in accessories such as flowers, pillows and collectibles. These can be any colors, but the most muted tends to be the more abundant shade.

Add a bit of bling

Glittery items and metallics can add a touch of luxury feel to any space. A shiny table lamp, mirrors, a sparkling chandelier, and the like are easy ways to produce a high-end feel. Reflective surfaces also will cast light around the room, giving the illusion of a larger space.

Choose a big statement piece

Many homeowners make the mistake of filling a room with several small pieces of furniture that only contribute to clutter. Instead, look for a statement piece, which can be a cabinet, armoire or chaise. Mix and match large and small elements for a sense of balance.

Accessorize

Finish the room with accessories and flowers. When placing and hanging knickknacks and wall art, odd-numbered groupings often look the most cohesive and interesting. Experiment with different scales and heights for even more dimension.

When inspiration hits, take some cues from interior design pros to make spaces look like they belong on the pages of your favorite magazines.

Fall Home Improvement Guide

Published by Country Media, Inc.
All rights reserved.

*For local advertising and business inquiries, please contact Katherine Mace at the Tillamook Headlight Herald, 503-842-7535 or Nicole Clark at the News Guard at 541-994-2178
headlightads@countrymedia.net
newsguardads@countrymedia.net*

Publisher Joe Warren
Graphic Design Stephania Baumgart, Joe Warren, Kimberly Hagner

View this section online at
www.tillamookheadlightherald.com
www.thenewsguard.com
www.northcoastcitizen.com
www.cannonbeachgazette.com

How home design trends are evolving for social distancing

COVID-19 has brought changes to everything, and home design is no exception. Experts are expecting to see lasting impacts on everything from the materials we use to the rooms we prioritize. Check out these and other noteworthy trends:

Houses over apartments: Many people who live in condos or apartments do so to be closer to the action — work, entertainment and shops — and never planned on spending much time at home. But the pandemic has changed that, and more people are going to want a home that offers plenty of room and outdoor space in case they need to self-isolate again.

Self-sufficiency: A hard lesson we've learned is that things and services we thought we could count on aren't necessarily a sure thing, so items that increase self-reliance will become very popular. Expect to see more homes with sources of energy like solar panels, sources of heat like fireplaces and stoves, and even urban and indoor gardens that allow you to grow your own produce.

Outdoor living: Between playgrounds closing and parks becoming overcrowded, many of us are turning to our balconies, patios and backyards for fresh air and nature. This means we're going to be investing more in our outdoor spaces, with functional kitchens, soothing water features, cozy firepits, and high-quality outdoor furniture to create a much-needed

escape.

Healthier spaces: Thanks to spending more time indoors and reprioritizing our health, we'll turn to design to help ensure our homes are safe and healthy for our families. We'll see a rise in products like water filtration systems as well as materials that improve indoor air quality. For new homes and additions, alternatives to wood-framing like insulated concrete forms from Nudura, which offer improved ventilation for healthier indoor air quality and an environment that's less susceptible to mold, will be key.

Home office space: Business experts are suggesting many companies will see that working from home is not only possible but offers tangible benefits, like saving money on office space rent. With working from home on the rise, creating a home office space that inspires productivity will be a major project many of us tackle. Luxury home office furniture that feels chic and blends into your décor as well as ergonomic chairs and desks will see a major boost.

Custom and quality: With the hit to the economy, people are going to be buying less, but what they do buy will be better quality, while at the same time making an effort to support American businesses. When it comes to design, trends will shift to locally made furniture, custom-built homes and pieces and materials that stand the test of time.



NEED A LOAN FOR YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT?

We finance up to 100% of your home's value, less what you owe. Plus, you pay little to no fees, and no closing costs except escrow and appraisal if needed.

CALL OR VISIT US TODAY!

www.tlcfcu.org
503-842-7523
1510 3rd St Tillamook

 **TLC**
A DIVISION OF **FibreFederal**
CREDIT UNION

**FIBRE
FAMILY**
Shantelle
Fibre Family Member
Since 2017



Safe and effective ways to clean up leaves

Removing leaves from the yard is a task that homeowners must perform each fall. Thousands upon thousands of leaves can drop from a single tree. Multiply that by the number of trees on a property, and it's no surprise the task of leaf cleanup can seem so daunting. Furthermore, not all leaves are shed at the same time, so several cleanup sessions may be necessary before the last leaf is banished from the yard.

Just like removing snow, leaf cleanup can be a taxing job if done by hand. For people unaccustomed to exercise, cleaning up leaves can turn into quite a workout. According to the Discovery Health Calorie Counter, raking leaves for one

hour can burn nearly 292 calories. Shoulders and arms will feel the burn. Raking leaves is considered moderate physical activity, similar to brisk walking. Those who find themselves straining or out of breath should take a break, and these tips also make the job safer and easier.

- Wear layers when cleaning up leaves. It may be cool at first, but it's easy to work up a sweat after raking for awhile. Layers can be peeled off so as not to get overheated or risk hypothermia from sweating in chilly temps.

- Pay attention to your posture while raking. James Weinstein, chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at Dartmouth Medical School, recommends forming a wide

base with the feet and holding the rake slightly toward the end of the handle with one hand three-quarters of the way down the handle from the other. Do not twist the spine; move your entire body. Avoid overuse of muscles on one side of the body by switching sides periodically.

- Do not try to rake or blow leaves on windy days. Wind will only make the task that much more difficult, which could lead to overworking oneself.

- Avoid overfilling bags. For those who plan to mulch and bag leaves, remember that compressed leaves can get heavy pretty quickly. Do not over-fill bags, as they can be hard to move or bring to a recycling center.



Using a leaf blower to push leaves into piles will reduce the strenuousness of the task, but leaf blowers can be heavy and

noisy and gas-powered blowers can produce a considerable amount of exhaust.

Raking leaves can be

quite a chore. It is important that homeowners take steps to prevent injury while cleaning up leaves in their yards.

ACE
The helpful place.

4910 SE Hwy 101
Lincoln City, OR
541-996-2131

2047 NE 22nd St.
Lincoln City, OR
541-996-3334

HunterDouglas
Window Coverings



Benjamin Moore®
Paint like no other.™

STIHL

SERVING LINCOLN CITY SINCE 1973



GARAGE DOORS & OPENERS FOR HOME & INDUSTRY

Sales, Service, Installation



541-994-3200



1603 SE East Devils Lake Rd.
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Owner - Rick Hatton

garagedoorsales@embarqmail.com

www.garagedoorsaleslc.com

Exterior renovations that improve home's curb appeal

Neglecting a home's exterior can be a disservice to homeowners, particularly those looking to increase the value of their homes. Curb appeal is important, as a home's appearance can greatly affect prospective buyers' perceptions.

Knowing which projects can offer the most bang for their remodeling buck can help homeowners make the right choices when improving the exterior of their homes. The following are some areas where homeowners can direct their focus if their end goal is a great-looking home with added value, as determined by the 2019 "Cost vs. Value Report" from Remodeling magazine. This report compares the average cost of 22 remodeling projects with the value those projects retain at resale across 136 markets.

- **Garage door replacement:** Homeowners can recoup 97.5 percent of their investment on a new garage door. This remodel tops the list for good looks and value. The average cost of \$3,611 is for replacing an existing two-car garage.

- **Manufactured stone veneer:** Replacing a portion of vinyl siding with stone veneer can greatly improve curb appeal, adding style that can set a home apart. Homeowners can expect to recoup a 94.9 percent

return on their investment.

- **Wood deck addition:** A wooden deck on the rear or side of a home enhances homeowners' ability to enjoy the outdoors year-round. A wood deck addition recoups 75.6 of the cost of homeowners' initial investment.

- **Siding replacement:** Not only does old or weathered siding look unsightly, it can impact the energy efficiency of a home. Even though a siding replacement project is costly — at roughly \$16,000 — it offers a 75 percent return and peace of mind that the home is being well-protected from the elements.

- **New entry door:** Replacing an existing door with a 20-gauge steel door complete with clear dual-pane half-glass panel, jambs and an aluminum threshold with composite stop gets homeowners 75 percent of their initial investment back at resale. Improving the door isn't all about good looks, either. A door that isn't well-insulated or secure can be problematic.

In addition to these improvements, homeowners would be wise to focus on some upgraded landscaping, an upgraded roof, new windows, and improved exterior lighting as surefire ways to add curb appeal and potential value to their homes.



RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTOR

jsholzgrafe@gmail.com

503-919-0764

NEW CONSTRUCTION
HOME REMODELS
SIDING/ROOFS
CUSTOM PROJECTS

GAGE LLC wishes you and your family good health and peace of mind always. We are here to answer any questions you may have. Please email us with your information and we will set up a time to talk or meet with you.

-Heidi & Jacob Holzgrafe

GAGE LLC

CCB#222261

We're here to help you

with all your construction and landscaping needs

- Custom Design & Installation
- Natural Rock Work
- Retaining Walls
- Tree Work
- Fences & Decks
- Paver & Flagstone Patios & Paths
- Night Lighting
- Water Features
- Pruning & Mowing
- Creekside Restoration
- Lot Clearing and more

We are now providing home remodel and new construction projects

Call for a free estimate

*Serving
The
Central
Coast*



503-398-5586

Commercial & Residential

P.O. Box 102, Pacific City, OR 97135

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

LCB#8710 • CCB#183477

H49079

Home improvement projects for your fall to-do list now

Homeowners know that maintaining a home can be a year-round job.

No home is immune to wear and tear, and homeowners who want to protect their real estate investments should try to stay two steps ahead to ensure their homes do not succumb to the elements or become outdated and unappealing to prospective buyers.

Fall has become a season that's synonymous with home improvement, but homeowners need not wait until the leaves begin changing colors to start planning their next projects. The following are a few items homeowners can add to their fall home improvement to-do lists.

Roof inspection

Less precipitation tends to fall during the warmer months than during the late fall and winter. As a result, homeowners may not be aware of leaky roofs until autumn has come and gone. But waiting until winter to inspect the roof can prove disastrous, as weather conditions will not be conducive to inspection and increased precipitation may result in potentially costly damage. Leaky roofs can be easily identified by looking for water stains on interior ceilings. Once you see a stain, you can climb onto the roof to identify the location of the leak and fix it before winter rains and snowfall turn the problem into something much larger. Inspect your ceilings for signs of leaking after a strong rainfall, and then address any leaks immediately.

Gutter cleaning

While some homeowners prefer to delay their gutter cleaning projects until late fall, those whose homes are surrounded by trees may need to schedule two such projects. Gutters clogged with leaves and other debris can cause serious roof damage, and that damage can extend all the way inside a home. In addition, clogged gutters make great nesting areas for insects or critters. Always stand on a ladder when cleaning gutters, wearing gloves to remove items by

hand and dropping leaves and debris into a trash can below. Standing on the roof and leaning over gutters greatly increases your risk of injury. If the gutters are clear when you first examine them in early fall, you can wait until later in the season to give them a complete and thorough cleaning. Once you have finished clearing the gutters, you can use a hose to run water through them and the downspouts to confirm everything is functioning properly.

Window and doorway inspection

Before temperatures start dropping once again, homeowners will want to inspect their windows and doorways for leaks.

Over time, cracks can develop around windows and doorways, and while such cracks are rarely noticeable when the weather outside is warm, they can be quite obvious and very costly if they remain unsealed come the start of winter. Cold air can enter a home through cracks around windows and doorways, and many homeowners who don't suspect leaks may respond by turning up the thermostats in their homes. That can prove quite expensive over a full winter. Choose a windy autumn day to place a hand by windows and external doorways in your home to see if you can feel drafts. If you can, seal these cracks as

soon as possible.

Patio cleanup

Patios are popular hangouts during spring and summer, and that can result in a lot of wear and tear. Once you store patio furniture for the winter, inspect your entire patio to determine if it needs any refurbishing. While certain patio projects may be best left for spring, you can still clean any stained areas around the grill and look for cracks in the sidewalk that need to be addressed.

Preparing for fall home improvement projects ahead of time can help homeowners complete projects in a timely manner and ensures they won't be forced to brave the winter elements when refurbishing their homes.



Types of home insulation and where to install them

When thinking about renovating their homes, homeowners may imagine changing wall colors, expanding room sizes or upgrading appliances and fixtures. However, unless people take inventory of the less glamorous components of the home, such as structure, plumbing, heating and cooling, and insulation, other improvements may be for naught.

A home insulation project certainly doesn't offer the wow factor of a kitchen remodel, but insulation serves a vital function in the house that helps keep people comfortable and reduces energy consumption. Insulation is typically placed in areas where air escapes, such as between the stud cavities inside the walls and in the attic, and serves to slow and reduce heat transfer.

The U.S. Department of Energy says between 50 and 70 percent of the energy used in homes is for heating and cooling. By improving home insulation,

homeowners can make their homes more comfortable, consistent and efficient. In fact, the ENERGY STAR program overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says homeowners stand to save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs by adding proper insulation. To do so, homeowners can take a crash course in home insulation and find the products that fit their needs.

Blanket batts and rolls

Blanket batts and rolls typically are constructed with fiberglass, so proper safety gear, such as a mask and gloves, is needed when handling them. Installing this type of insulation is relatively easy since the materials are designed to fit the standard width between studs, rafters and floor joists.

Loose fill

Loose fill is usually made

of fiberglass or cellulose (recycled paper fiber). It is blown or sprayed into place with pneumatic equipment, according to The Home Depot. Loose fill can be ideal for hard-to-reach areas in attics or inside wall cavities. It's good for adding insulation to irregularly shaped areas. Since it requires special equipment, this is a job best left to professionals.

Sprayed foam

Sprayed foam is just as the name implies, a foam made from polyurethane, polyisocyanurate, cementitious, or other materials that are applied by a spray container. DIYers who need only small applications can use canned products. Large quantities are pressure-sprayed by professionals.



Foam board/rigid foam panels

Ideal for unfinished walls, such as basement or foundation walls, floors and ceilings, these are boards of polyurethane or polystyrene. Foam boards tend to reduce energy consumption more

effectively than other types of insulation.

Homeowners considering upgrading their insulation or amending existing insulation should do their homework on the type of insulation that will be most effective for their homes.

every smile
comes from a place of safety and security that only a home can bring.

Habitat for Humanity
of Lincoln County

Everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better life.
Donate or volunteer at habitatlincoln.org.

Habitat for Humanity
of Lincoln County

ReStore®

LINCOLN CITY
2150 SW Hwy 101
(541) 614-1060

NEWPORT
134 E Olive St.
(541) 264-8585

www.habitatlincoln.org

CCB #217601

WE ARE HERE TO HELP WITH YOUR FALL HOME IMPROVEMENTS

New Construction • Repair Service
Drain Cleaning • Remodeling
Water Heater Sales & Service
Heat Pump Hybrid Water Heater Installation

CLARK'S PLUMBING, INC.
842-5105

CCB #169261 H44260

Your home is in good hands with Cottage Keeper

Rain storms, wind storms, water leaks, tree damage, rot, broken windows, blown open doors, broken pipes, alarms going off ... here in the Pacific Northwest we are no strangers to the storms that the fall and winter seasons bring in.

Many of our residents will leave for better

weather and this can bring about worries about how your home will stand up to the elements.

Relax. Your home is in good hands with Cottage Keeper. With weekly or bi-weekly Absentee House Checks we offer a professional solution to taking care of your property. House Check;

a visual inspection of the exterior and interior of your home, looking for issues that need attention. We provide a level of service that gives you the peace of mind that your home is secure in your absence and ready for your return. Don't let pesky maintenance issues keep you from your vacation time!

Cottage Keeper makes all aspects of home ownership easier, not just for absentee owners, but full-time residents as well.

We are owned and operated by professionals with extensive experience in construction and home management. Owner, Stephen Brien, has over 28 years of local construction experience we can expertly identify and tackle all your construction needs. Handyman services, decks, rot repair,



windows, doors, roofs, fences, remodels...we can do it all!

Preventative maintenance can save you thousands of dollars and put your mind at ease about the shape your home is in.

We are certified in Softwashing, the only recommended process for

cleaning cedar and utilize an eco-friendly cleaners.

We are community minded and source our materials and team members locally. Having a trusted team of sub-contractors; plumbing, electrical, HVAC, housekeeping, landscaping, drywall, gutter crews

and more, allows us to service you as efficiently as possible.

Maintaining homes in Cannon Beach for over 20 years, Cottage Keeper is your local and trusted choice for all of your maintenance and repair needs.



COTTAGE KEEPER

MAINTAINING CANNON BEACH SINCE 2000

We do Absentee Owner Watching Services;

keeping a watchful eye on your home while you are away and providing you with peace of mind by being your eyes and ears.

We also do all aspects of construction:

Handyman Services
Decks, Siding, Windows, Doors,
Roof Repairs, Rot Repair, etc

We are certified in Softwashing for Cedar, Siding, Roofs and Decks.

Licensed Residential General Contractor -
CCB#155691

Email us at cottagekeeper@gmail.com
or 503-861-8340.

What to do to prepare your garden for winter

Gardens provide an idyllic escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. In fact, many gardening enthusiasts typically cannot wait for the spring thaw so they can spend the next several months tending to their plants under the warm sun. But a gardener's work is never truly done, and the work to make gardens stun in the spring actually begins during the preceding fall.

Preparing gardens for winter is an important step that can help homeowners ensure their gardens return to full strength in the spring. The tasks necessary to prepare gardens for winter may depend on what homeowners are planting, but the following are some general maintenance suggestions that

can keep gardens safe this winter.

- Remove weeds and debris. Weeds and debris are unsightly and detrimental to plant life in spring, but they also can be harmful in the winter. Weeds and debris left to linger in gardens through the winter provide overwintering spots for insects and can contribute to disease. So it's imperative that weeds and debris are removed before the ground hardens in winter. Don't wait until the ground hardens, as that can make it hard to remove the roots of weeds, adversely affecting the garden as a result.

- Prepare the soil. The Farmer's Almanac advises homeowners to gently till the soil in their gardens so they can expose any

insects before they settle in for the winter. Once garden soil is exposed, add a layer of compost, leaves, aged manure, and, if necessary, lime, gently tilling it into the soil. According to the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, the only accurate way to determine if lawn or garden soil needs lime is to test it. Lime makes soil less acidic and reduces soil pH. Low soil pH makes it hard for certain plants to grow, but acidic soil is ideal when growing blueberries. Test the soil for lime and amend it depending on what you hope to grow in the spring so it's ready to thrive when winter ends.

- Remove dead or diseased plants. Dead or diseased plants should not be left in the garden

through the winter. These plants can attract insects and are vulnerable to disease, which can make it hard for the garden to thrive in the spring.

- Protect fruit trees. If you have fruit trees, install mouse guards around the base to prevent mice and voles from killing the trees over the winter. If left to their own devices over the winter, mice and voles may eat the bark of fruit trees, killing the trees as a result. The Farmer's Almanac notes that mouse guards made of fine mesh hardware cloth can effectively protect fruit trees from hungry mice and voles over the winter.

A gardener's work is never done, and the work to create beautiful spring gardens begins in the fall.



SHOP. DONATE. VOLUNTEER.



Habitat for Humanity®
ReStore®

4192 HWY 101, Tillamook, OR
ACROSS FROM THE TILLAMOOK CREAMERY

9,000
SQ FT OF
SHOPPING
ADA
FRIENDLY
OPEN TO
THE
PUBLIC

Don't forget to
**DONATE YOUR FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD
GOODS & SURPLUS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS**
to Tillamook Habitat for Humanity Restore
Visit us online
at tillamookhabitat.org



We are here
to provide the
equipment to get
your fall projects
completed

Rentals & Repairs

Serving the
public and
businesses.

100's of items
including:
EXCAVATORS
TRACTORS
SKID LOADERS
MAN LIFTS
FORK LIFTS
COMPACTORS
JACK HAMMERS
SAWS
CHAIRS & TABLES
FOR PARTIES



RENTAL CENTER

502 Main • Tillamook, OR
Open Monday - Saturday 8am - 5:30pm
CALL TO SET UP YOUR RESERVATION
(503) 842-5596 • FAX: (503) 842-3056
tillamookrentalcenter.com



Stockton's NEHALEM LUMBER

Your one-stop building
headquarters...

• Building Materials • Plumbing
• Paint • Hardware • Electrical

We're open Mon. - Fri. 7:30 - 5:00
& Sat. 8:00 - 5:00

(503) 368-5619

12895 H St., Hwy. 101,
Nehalem

MASKS REQUIRED



Get your home fall- and winter-ready with 5 simple projects

If boots, a warm hat and a tuned-up leaf blower are the only items on your winter preparation list, your home maintenance plan may need a makeover. These simple home maintenance projects can help lower your energy bills, prevent more costly repairs and/or increase the lifespan of your home.

1. Heating & Ventilation — Examine your fireplace and chimney system to ensure that no soot or creosote has collected. Any cracks or voids could potentially cause a fire. Before you turn the furnace or boiler on, replace the air filter and hire a professional to inspect the unit more thoroughly. These steps will improve the efficiency and life of your furnace and will ensure stable indoor air quality.

2. Seal Windows and Doors — If not properly

sealed, windows and doors can be a major culprit for heat loss. To keep the warm air inside, inspect the weather-stripping around your home's windows and doors for leaks, rot or decay. Repair or replace structural framing, and caulk inside and out, if necessary.

3. Insulate well — One of the easiest and most effective defenses against heat loss is proper insulation. Prevent cold drafts from entering and the loss of heated air through basement headers, which, when left exposed, can make your furnace work harder. Look for a moisture-resistant product offering high thermal performance. This type of mineral wool insulation makes installation simple. All that's needed is a serrated blade or bread knife. Cut the batt to fit the cavity and press into place.

The insulation will help improve energy efficiency as soon as it's in place and provide savings over the lifetime of your home. It can also be used to top or replace old attic insulation. Aim for an R-50 or a depth of 16 inches.

4. Backyard Care — Save your property from potential damage by trimming overgrown trees and shrubs to prevent ice-laden branches from thrashing against electrical wires and your home's exterior. Drain/shut off any exterior faucets and sprinkler systems to prevent freezing. Ensure rain or snow drains away from the house to avoid foundation problems.

5. Roof and Gutters — Inspect your roof for shingles that are warped, damaged or even missing to prevent a future leak. Use roofing cement and a



caulking gun to seal joints where water could penetrate, such as around the chimney, skylights or vent pipes. Make sure that your gutters and downspouts are

securely fastened. Downspouts should extend at least five feet away from the home to prevent flooding.

When it comes to

preventative maintenance, a little time and effort can save thousands in energy costs and repair bills over the lifetime of your home.

Prevent growth of mold/mildew in colder months

Mold and mildew are not only unsightly, but unhealthy. These fungi grow readily in damp areas and are found in the air breathed both indoors and outside. If left unaddressed, mold and mildew can threaten the health of a home's inhabitants.

Mildew is a type of mold that remains relatively flush with the surface it grows on. Other molds can grow puffy in appearance. Molds serve the purpose of destroy-

ing organic materials, but in high amounts, these microorganisms can cause respiratory problems, sinus congestion, throat irritation, headaches, and other issues, particularly when mold grows unchecked indoors, says Better Homes and Gardens. As a result, it is essential to address mold before it becomes problematic.

According to Polygon, a drying technology and temporary climate solutions company, the wet season in winter is when

molds often grow and expand. Mold can break down the integrity and strength of the surfaces where it grows.

Homeowners can employ the following strategies to prevent mold growth.

- Keep all surfaces clean, using proper cleaning products. Diluted bleach solutions are highly effective at killing microscopic fungi, viruses and bacteria.

- Reduce moisture and humidity by ensuring sufficient air circulation in rooms,

particularly bathrooms and kitchens. An exhaust fan will help remove moisture quickly.

- Fabrics covered in mildew that can be laundered should be carefully removed and washed in chlorine bleach and hot water. An oxygen bleach product also can be effective.

■ See **MOLD**, Page 11



AVERILL
LANDSCAPING
MATERIALS

Bark Dust (Fir & Hemlock)
Compost • Red Rock • Decorative Rock

Pickup Or Delivery Available

503-457-6023 or 503-801-1214

H80023

NEHALEM BAY READY MIX • MOHLER SAND & GRAVEL, LLC

- Hot Water
- Prompt Delivery
- Crushed Rock
- Fill Material
- Drain Rock
- Rip Rap
- Decorative Boulders
- Bark



Call in advance for Saturday delivery. 20890 Foss Road, Nehalem
CCB #160326 **503-368-5157**

H70164

Signs your gutters are in desperate need of repair

Fall is a great time to tackle projects around the house. The weather each fall allows homeowners to make improvements to their homes' exteriors without worrying about extreme heat or cold, while interior projects like painting are made easier because homeowners can open the windows to allow for proper ventilation.

Fall also marks a great time to prepare for upcoming projects that can make winter work that much easier. For example, fall is a great time to take stock of your gutters so you can address any issues before leaves begin to fall or the first snowstorm touches down. Compromised gutters can contribute to water issues in basements and adversely affect a home's foundation if not

addressed immediately, so it behooves homeowners to learn the signs that gutters are in need of repair or replacement.

- Gutter hanging off the home: Gutters were once installed predominantly with spikes. However, many industry professionals now install gutters with hanger brackets. Why the change? Spikes loosen over time, leading to the gutters hanging off the home. That can contribute to serious issues if left untreated. Gutters hanging off the home need not necessarily be replaced, but rather secured to the home, ideally with hanger brackets instead of spikes. Brackets hook into the front of the gutter and are then screwed into the fascia of a home. A professional who specializes in gutter repair can perform

this task relatively quickly, and it's an inexpensive yet highly effective solution.

- Gutter separation: Gutters that are no longer fastened together can leak and contribute to issues that affect the home's foundation, siding and appearance. Clogs and the accumulation of debris can cause gutters to separate because they are not designed to hold too much weight. Replacement of separated gutters may or may not be necessary depending on how big the problem is and the condition of the existing gutters. If replacement is not necessary, separated gutters may be remedied by securing the joints, another relatively simple and inexpensive fix.

- Peeling exterior paint: Paint that appears to be peeling off of your home

may indicate that water is seeping over the edge of the gutter closest to your home. When that happens, water is coming down the side of the house, causing the paint to peel. In such instances, replacing the gutters is often necessary.

- Basement flooding: Not all signs of deteriorating gutters are outside a home. Many a homeowner has been flummoxed by flooding in their basements, and such flooding can be caused by aging, ineffective gutters. That's because deteriorating gutters sometimes allow water to leak near the foundation of a home, contributing to basement flooding. Fall is an ideal time to inspect gutters and have any issues fixed before leaves begin to fall or harsh winter weather arrives.



Mold

Continued from Page 10

- Invest in a dehumidifier that can reduce moisture in the home in problem areas, such as damp basements or garages.
- Fix plumbing leaks as soon as possible.
- Remove damp leaves and snow from areas around the foundation of the home. Ensure that gutters and downspouts are clear of debris and can shuttle water away from the house effectively.

- Replace cracked or defective mortar in basements.

- Make sure all seals on windows and doors are not compromised and are in good working condition.

- Be sure an HVAC in-line humidifier is adjusted to the right setting and isn't pumping too much moisture into the heated air; otherwise, the added humidity can contribute to mold.

- If there is a flood or water infiltrates a home in other ways, hire a professional service to help clean and dry the home effectively.

Mold and mildew are problematic, but with diligence they can be kept at bay.



ENERGY
REIMAGINED

More Comfort, Less Impact

Natural Gas offers reliable heat, more control for precise cooking, and lower energy bills with high-efficiency appliances.

Plus with Renewable Natural Gas, we can help the environment by turning waste into low-carbon, reliable energy. Soon to be delivered through the existing pipeline system, so you can make a difference without changing a thing.

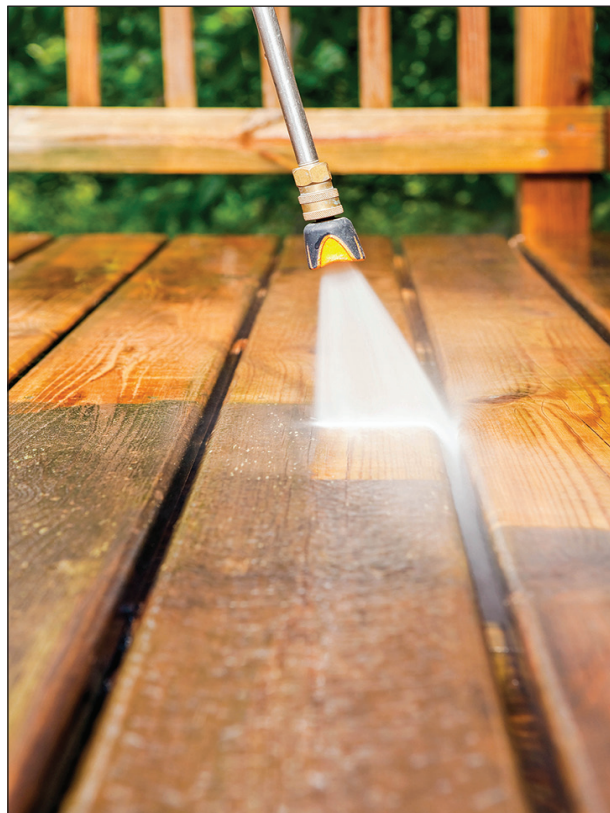
It's your energy, reimagined.



Learn more at [LESSWECAN.com](https://www.LESSWECAN.com)



House powerwashing tips: Know these before you start



Powerwashing, also known as pressure-washing, utilizes a high-velocity water spray to remove dirt and residue from the exterior surfaces of a home. It is frequently used on vinyl siding, concrete and sometimes wood decks to treat mildew and other growth that accumulates over time.

Powerwashing can be a great way to remove grime without having to scrub by hand. But it requires a delicate touch to get it right. Sometimes it is best to leave the job to professionals. But homeowners willing to give it a go can try powerwashing themselves, as various stores rent power washers.

The home improvement website ImproveNet says that, until very recently, pressure washers were almost exclusively

commercial machines sold to professionals or rented to do-it-yourselfers. Lately manufacturers have targeted homeowners looking to buy with lightweight options. For those who see powerwashing as a routine venture, purchasing a unit may be worth the investment.

It is important to exercise caution when operating a powerwashing machine. The high-velocity spray can tear through skin. It is key to get a feel for the washer, and try less pressure first to get a handle on the magnitude of the tool.

Don safety gear prior to using a pressure washer. Gloves, eye protection and ear protection can be handy. Most units will connect to a standard garden hose. Choose old

clothing and expect to get wet. Never point a powerwasher hose at anyone and do not attempt to rinse feet or hands in the spray.

The renovation resource The Family Handyman suggests starting with a wide-degree nozzle to test out the spray on the surface that needs to be cleaned. A 15- or 25-degree nozzle is usually the wand for general cleaning and paint stripping without damaging the surface of the home. Experiment with an optimal distance of the washer wand to get the desired cleaning effects without causing any damage. Work using a horizontal and slightly downward angle to avoid driving water up under the siding of a home.

Avoid spraying any electric wires or compo-

nents on the home. Also, try not to spray upward, and angle the spray away from doors, windows and vents.

Some washers have reservoirs that will hold a detergent solution. Choose the right detergent for the job. Keep in mind that cleansers containing bleach can damage surrounding plants, so they may need to be covered while the washing takes place.

Avoid the use of ladders when operating a powerwasher. The push-back from the wand can cause falls. Instead, opt for an extension wand to address the upper reaches of a home.

Powerwashing a home is an effective way to remove stubborn grime and refresh the look of a home's exterior.



THE FUTURE IS ALWAYS CHANGING



SO ARE WE
COME SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER.



Open Monday-Saturday 8am-5pm
2 Main Ave N, Tillamook, Oregon 97141
(503) 842-4434 www.rbslumber.com We Deliver!

CCB#171850

The causes of curled shingles

No homeowner wants to look at the exterior of his or her home and see roof damage. Such damage may lead homeowners to think they need a new roof, a potentially costly expense that can quickly throw household budgets into a state of disarray.

According to the HomeAdvisor, the average homeowner spends a little more than \$7,600 installing a new roof. Various factors, including the size of a home and the type of roof homeowners prefer, will affect the cost of a roof replacement. In addition, homeowners who see roof damage can rest assured that not all roof problems will necessarily require a replacement roof to be installed.

Curled shingles are a problem many homeowners have encountered. This particular problem is not always indicative that a roof is on its way out. In fact, the home improvement resource This Old House notes that, as asphalt shingles age, their corners often begin to curl downward or upward. Homeowners who notice this early enough can glue down the curled section of each shingle that's beginning to curl.

Some shingles may be curling because they're defective. Fortified Roofing, a New Jersey-based roofing company that specializes in the repairing and replacing of various roofing configurations, advises homeown-

ers to contact a local roofing professional to diagnose the cause of the curling. Doing so quickly can prevent curled shingles from contributing to more widespread damage.

Moisture and poor ventilation may be contributing to curled shingles as well. Homeowners with attics in their home may see curled shingles on their roofs because moisture is building up in their poorly ventilated attics. In addition to causing damage such as curled shingles, a poorly ventilated attic allows moisture to build up, potentially contributing to mold growth. Mold presents a host of additional problems, including some that can adversely affect the health of a home's inhabitants.

Improper roof installation also may be the culprit behind curled shingles. When a roof is not installed correctly, shingles may not be aligned or nailed down in the right way. This might be what's causing shingles to curl on recently installed roofs.

Curled shingles are unsightly and can pose a significant threat to a home if not addressed promptly. Homeowners can protect themselves and their roofs by working with skilled roofing professionals, who can diagnose issues like curled shingles and offer the right solutions.

How to protect wood floors from inclement weather

Wood floors are a worthwhile investment that can improve the beauty and function of just about any room in a home. Even though wood floors are durable, and new protective treatments help seal out many of the things that may have damaged floors in the past, homeowners still need to prioritize protecting their hardwood floors.

Certain seasons of the year can be more harsh on wood floors than others. For example, seasons characterized by moisture and precipitation, particularly the early spring, winter and fall, can be hard on wood floors. The experts at ServiceMaster Clean say that cold, snowy days can damage wood floors, and Lumber Liquidators agrees that winter weather can be harsh on flooring.

Homeowners need not give up on hardwood if they live in an area that sees all four seasons. They just need to take a few steps to keep floors looking beautiful.

- Clean up the salt. Salt that keeps sidewalks and streets clear of snow

and ice inadvertently gets tracked inside a home. Hard chunks of salt can scratch wood floors, and, if left to sit, that salt can eventually cause white marks and other stains. Routinely vacuuming and sweeping up salt is necessary to protect wood floors.

- Invest in shoe storage. Wet or snowy boots can create puddles around the house. Have a special mat or tray by the front door where wet shoes can be kept. A nice bench in the entryway makes it easy for residents and guests to remove their shoes until it's time to go back outside.

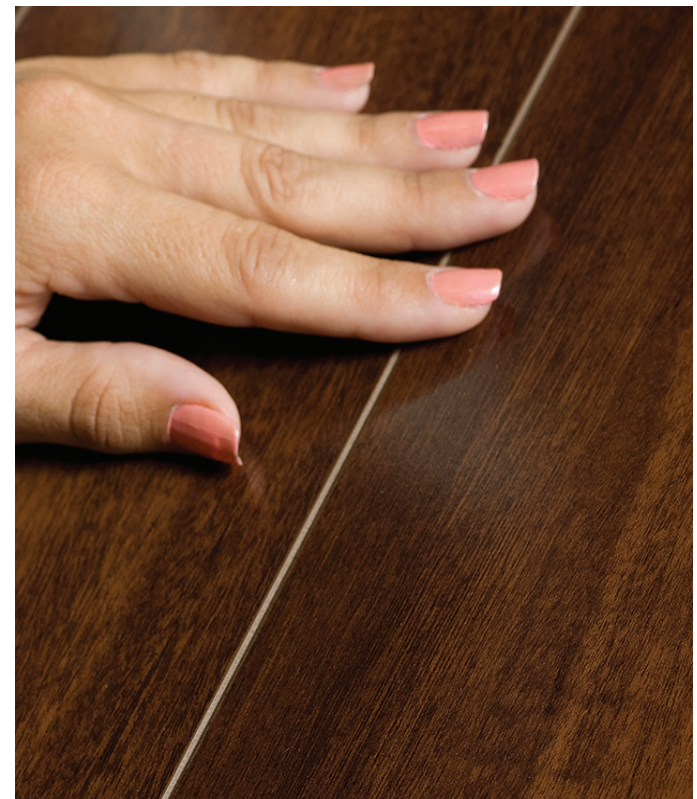
- Use water-wicking mats. Homeowners will probably need a few extra mats around to tame errant drips and wipe shoes. Any entrance that might be used by people or pets should be protected. Try to avoid petroleum-based, rubber-backed mats, as they could discolor the wood floor.

- Control humidity indoors. Cold, dry air in a home can be problematic

because the moisture in the wood can eventually evaporate into the air. The heat will suck that moisture from the flooring, causing it to shrink, creak and splinter and become more brittle. Think about investing in an in-line humidifier for the home's HVAC system that can keep a moderate amount of humidity in the home. Hardwood floorboards are installed to accommodate minor temperature and humidity fluctuations. This is typically a range of between 60 and 80 degrees F with a relative humidity range of 35 to 55 percent, advises ServiceMaster.

- Use the right cleaning products. Avoid excessive water to clean wood floors, and select soaps that are specially designed for wood flooring. Consult with the flooring manufacturer for a list of detergents that are safe to use.

With proper care, hardwood flooring can survive rain, snow and cold weather.



Keep your furnace maintained for optimal heating and efficiency

How would you like to reduce your heating bill? As the days grow shorter and the nights get cooler, we begin to turn our thoughts to winterizing our homes. We put up the storm windows, get out the down comforters and brace ourselves for those enormous heating bills. But with proper furnace maintenance, those bills can be kept in check.

When a furnace works properly, heat is distributed efficiently and safely. Faulty furnaces, on the other hand, have to work harder to heat your home, which is where most homeowners lose money. With regular maintenance, you can save in energy costs.

Although most of us think to change our furnace filters occasionally, there is more to properly maintaining a furnace than just that. Several other areas of the furnace also tend to collect soot residue that minimizes furnace efficiency. With a yearly furnace tune-up, home heating experts can identify potential problem areas before they become serious. Here's what the experts do:

- Clean the blower blades.
- Set the flow of gas by adjusting the

flame size.

- Clean soot out of the burner and heat exchanger.
- Check bearings for proper seal.
- Clean heat pump coils.
- Check that the compressor and fans work properly.
- Lubricate fan motors and blades, and replace belts if necessary.
- Inspect heating ducts for air leaks.
- Check for carbon monoxide leakage.
- Clear chimney and flue of any hazardous debris.
- Check precision of thermostat controls.

If you are prone to sinus infections or asthma, you may benefit from having the ductwork cleaned. A periodic cleaning will prevent dust and other allergens from blowing around the house. Not all heating specialists clean ductwork, so be sure to ask when making an appointment if you desire this service.

There is more that you can do to help

■ See **FURNACE**, Page 14

**Serving Lincoln
& Tillamook
Counties**

**20+ Years
of Excavation
Experience**



Thomas Excavation

**We are ready to help you
with your next project!**

We specialize in Septic installations, updating your current system
& repairs with our Advanced treatment technology system.

*Thomas Excavation offers guaranteed, quality work for all your
Excavation needs, site prep, debris removal and so much more!*

Jason Thomas, Owner (541) 921-7328
Email: J.ThomasExcavating@gmail.com
CCB # 231616

How to store firewood so it's ready when the cold weather hits



A fireplace is a cozy and warm spot around which a family can gather. The home and real estate resource HomeGuides.com indicates that 60 percent of new homes have a fireplace, which is up from 36 percent in the 1970s.

Naturally, fueling a fireplace for the season may require homeowners with wood-burning units to keep an ample supply of wood at the ready. How that wood is stored is important, as properly stored firewood can prevent waste and other issues around the house.

Wood that is freshly cut has a water content of 60 percent or more. Yet, for best burning ability, wood should be near 20 percent in water content. Green wood is hard to ignite and will not burn nearly as well or efficiently as seasoned wood. Another concern associated with green wood is that it can contribute more to creosote accumulation in the flue of a fireplace. Creosote is a combustible material that may lead to fires if left unchecked.

According to BioAdvanced®, a science-based lawn, garden and home

improvement innovator, seasoning wood typically takes six months to a year. Homeowners may opt to purchase seasoned wood that already has sat and dried.

‘How wood is stored is important, as properly stored firewood can prevent waste and other issues around the house.’

Homeowners who have an abundance of firewood have to store it somewhere. Log Splitters Direct suggests choosing a dry, breezy area of the property that is about 20 feet from the nearest door to the house. This helps avoid hitchhiker pests from coming inside with the wood, such as termites, ants, spiders, and mice. Do not stack the wood flush against a structure. It should be at least a few inches away to allow airflow behind the stack.

Stick to organized rows of wood no more than four feet high. Log racks and pallets and posts will keep the wood up and off of the ground where moisture and rotting can develop. Placing the logs in an unorganized pile will impede air flow and cause the wood to rot rather than continue to dry and season even more.

Homeowners also should use a cover to protect seasoned firewood from the elements. Position a tarp or plastic sheeting so it blankets the top of the stack and extends a few inches down the sides. Keep the sides mostly exposed to air. Others prefer to stack it in a barn or shed or under an overhang.

Green wood is less expensive than seasoned wood. Those who prefer this method should do so in the early spring and let it season over the next several months.

Bankrate says that the cost of a cord of wood varies across the country, but in general one can expect to pay between \$120 and \$180 for a cord of hardwood that is split and seasoned. This price may be higher in mid-winter when demand increases.

Furnace

Continued from Page 13

maintain your heating system. Look inside your owner's manual for the manufacturer's recommended maintenance practices. Generally speaking, professionals say that most of us don't change our filters often enough. They recommend installing a new filter once every four weeks during the heating season for maximum benefit. You can also keep the area surrounding the furnace free of dust

and debris by vacuuming regularly near the burner compartment. Check all air registers throughout the house to make sure they are unobstructed by furniture or rugs and are free of dirt and dust. If you follow all recommendations and still experience unusually high heating bills, it may be time to turn in your old furnace for one of the newer, more energy-efficient models.

By sticking to a regular maintenance program, you can get peak performance from your furnace and avoid equipment repairs or replacement. More importantly, you can keep your heating costs in check.



Options abound when shopping for home siding

Home improvement projects run the gamut from minor repairs to complete overhauls. Replacing exterior siding is one of the most significant home improvement projects homeowners can undertake. Such a project can give homes a completely new look, which is why choice of siding is such an important decision.

Homeowners have many siding options to choose from, and the following guide can help them make the best choice for their homes.

Vinyl siding

Vinyl siding is easily maintained and among the more budget-friendly siding options. According to the home improvement resource HomeAdvisor, vinyl siding is made from a PVC plastic that does not rot or flake. Siding professionals note that the technology used to create vinyl siding has changed considerably

in recent years, making this option more diverse than traditional vinyl siding. So homeowners turned off by the potentially plastic look of vinyl siding might be surprised at how different modern vinyl siding looks compared to the vinyl siding of yesteryear.

Fiber-cement siding

The home improvement television network HGTV notes that fiber-cement siding has grown in popularity among homeowners in recent years. This material does not require much maintenance and it's non-flammable and resistant to termites. HomeAdvisor notes that fiber-cement siding can create the look of wood, stucco or masonry, making it a versatile option capable of creating various looks. In addition, fiber-cement siding is known for its durability, with some products coming with warranties lasting as long as 50 years.

Wood siding

Homeowners have many choices if they prefer wood siding on their homes. Cedar, cypress, fir, pine, and spruce are just a handful of the many wood siding options homeowners can choose from. HomeAdvisor notes that cedar shingle siding offers a natural look that blends well in wooded and waterfront landscapes. Wood clapboard siding is another popular option, though it tends to require more maintenance than cedar shingle siding. Homeowners who want wood siding should discuss their options with an experienced siding professional, as many factors, including the choice of wood, must be considered before making a final decision.

Stone and stone-veneer siding

Many homeowners fall in love with the natural

appeal of stone, but the price tag, which tends to be costly, may not be as awe-inspiring. HGTV notes that stone can be difficult to add to an existing home, and doing so may drive the price up even further. Stone siding is durable, and there are many options, including solid stone and natural stone cladding, that make this an option capable of providing an array of looks. Stone-veneer siding is less expensive than natural stone and also comes in an array of styles. As is the case with wood, stone siding options are so extensive that homeowners are urged to discuss each one with a siding professional before making their decisions.

These are just a handful of the many siding options homeowners can choose from. Siding can give homes a completely new look, making choice of siding a significant decision worthy of careful consideration.



Your guide to proper tree pruning

Trees may require pruning for a variety of reasons. Storms may have damaged branches, necessitating a pruning. In other instances, trees may have outgrown their yards, overpowering the landscape.

Autumn and winter, when trees largely go dormant and fallen leaves make it easier to see the branches beneath, may be prime times to prune. Pruning during the dormant period also minimizes sap loss and stress to the tree, and can help cut down on the growth of fungi. In addition, insects are less likely to be problematic during the colder months of the year.

Trimming and pruning can be handled by do-it-yourselfers if the branches are smaller and more manageable. Practice on thinner branches before moving on to thicker ones, which may require extra help. Branches may be heavy, and it takes a guided hand to ensure the branches fall in a safe manner so they do not

cause damage or injury.

Branches also need to be trimmed properly to facilitate good healing. Trees will form a callus bark covering over cuts to keep out disease and decay, much as a scab forms over a person's wound. Damaging the bark on a tree while pruning may interfere with that process, so do-it-yourselfers need to take the time to prune correctly.

According to Danny Lipford, home improvement expert and host of the radio program "Today's Homeowner," larger limbs may require three cuts instead of one. The first cut is a small notch in the bottom of the limb, around two to three feet from the trunk and about one-quarter of the way through. This helps prevent the bark from splitting. A relief cut is then made a few inches away from the notch cut, and goes all the way through. This removes the weight of the branch so that the final cut can be made without the branch splitting

and falling. The final cut is made right where the limb extrudes from the branch collar, or the swollen bump that then forms into the tree limb. Follow the slant of the branch collar when making the cut. Smaller or thinner branches may not require the same three steps, but every effort should be made to reduce injury to the tree.

When deciding how much to prune, less is usually more. All pruning can put some level of stress on the tree and increase its vulnerability to disease and insect infestation. A good rule of thumb is to never prune more than 25 percent of the crown. According to experts at TreeHelp.com, living branches should comprise at least two-thirds the height of the tree. In some instances, the rules may need to be bent if trees are interfering with utility lines or to meet community laws. However, always prune minimally to avoid damaging the tree.

Dennis Widmer Construction Inc.

*Where Quality and Creativity go hand in hand:
Building in Tillamook County since 1986*

- Remodels/Additions, including
- Kitchens
- Baths
- Windows
- Siding
- Decks
- All phases of construction!

"I truly enjoy being in the design process, perfecting it, building it, and making it a reality. If you are considering a building project of any kind, I would love the opportunity to talk to you."



Contact us today! **Phone:** 503-812-0288
www.denniswidmerconstruction.com
Email: 19dwc86@gmail.com



FALL

in love with saving energy!



Electric Vehicle Charges

Tillamook PUD offers a rebate to customers that purchase and install a Level 2 electric vehicle chargers at their service location.



Ductless Heat Pumps

Enjoy the comfort and ease of a ductless heat pump while you save money and energy every month!

A heat pump takes cold air and makes it warm and takes warm air and makes it cold, helping you find the perfect temperature inside, no matter what the weather is outside.

Contact us today to check out our new rebate options available for ductless heat pump installations.

Consider updating your space this fall with energy efficiency improvements!

Tillamook PUD offers rebates for...

- 🍁 Window Replacements
- 🍁 Heat Pump Installations
- 🍁 Insulation Upgrades
- 🍁 Smart Thermostats
- 🍁 Electric Vehicle Chargers

For more information on energy efficiency and program rebates, contact the Energy Experts at Tillamook PUD!

TILLAMOOK PUD

P.O. Box 433 🍁 1115 Pacific Ave.

Tillamook, OR 97141

503.842.2535 🍁 www.tpud.org



Smart Thermostats

A smart thermostat allows you to control your home temperature anytime, anywhere, with your mobile or internet connected device.

Tillamook PUD offers a \$150 rebate on qualifying smart thermostats.