

REMODELING TIPS

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Launch & Land ZONE

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Getting a GRIP

The Lead Carpenter System

Sometimes it's the little things that count. Homeowners typically focus their attention on selecting just the right cabinets, countertops and appliances to give them the fabulous kitchen or bath of their dreams. Decorative cabinet hardware choices may be made as an afterthought. However, those decorative knobs and pulls on your cabinets not only influence how you experience your home on a daily basis, but they also have a huge design impact.

At D & D Scarborough we perform our work using what is known as the "Lead Carpenter System." Under the Lead Carpenter System, all the work on a project from start to finish is produced and coordinated by a single Lead Carpenter. Each Lead Carpenter is an expert in all phases of home improvement and remodeling work from foundation to finish carpentry.

Every time you open a cabinet door or drawer, the way the decorative cabinet hardware feels to your hand makes an impression. Comfort and accessibility should be your first consideration. A silky-smooth finish may feel more comfortable to you than a texture. Make sure the decorative hardware projects out from the cabinet far enough to protect the cabinet finish from sharp fingernails or

oil from your fingers. For some people with limited hand mobility, a pull may be easier to grasp than a knob. In this case, test it out and make sure it is large enough to grip with the entire hand.

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We always hire subcontractors to do electrical, plumbing, and heating work, since these trades require a separate license. Occasionally on larger projects we will also hire subcontractors (who work under the supervision of our Lead Carpenter) to do roofing, drywall, and insulation work.

Homeowners benefit from having a single source of contact and responsibility for their projects, and a higher level of quality.

This system generates projects that are consistently higher in quality, since there is such close communication between the Lead Carpenter and each homeowner, and only one individual is responsible for the quality of ALL of the work.

We find that our Lead Carpenter becomes almost a member of the family during a project, and that homeowners feel more comfortable having someone they have gotten to know supervising the work in their home, rather than having different crews coming and going.

So, when you are ready to build that new home, addition, or other remodeling project, give **D & D Scarborough** a call and let us make one of our Lead Carpenters part of your family.

Montrose by Liberty Hardware emphasizes the classic look of hand-crafted scrolls.



Launch & Land **ZONE**

In the hustle and bustle of keeping up with a busy schedule, one problem never has been resolved: what to do about all the items brought in and out of your home each day. Items like jackets, shoes and backpacks either end up on the floor or migrate to your kitchen countertop. Then in the morning, as you rush out the door, everyone scrambles to locate these same items again. You can't seem to find your keys—or that Blackberry you left recharging somewhere in the house.

This would be a good time to have your home entrance remodeled into a well-organized zone for launching and landing. Depending on the layout of your home and how you use it, this zone might work best in your front foyer or at the back entrance. Either way, make sure it is not only functional, but attractive—since an entrance always sets the tone for the rest of the home.

You'll want to provide a variety of storage options—such as cabinets, drawers, baskets, cubbies, shelves, shoe racks and wall hooks—depending on your needs. Here is where you can hang up outerwear items, such

as scarves and gloves, as well as deposit keys, mail and wet umbrellas. Include a docking station for iPods and MP3 players, not to mention a Blackberry.

This zone needs to function well for all members of your family. For younger children, place wall hooks also at lower levels or consider providing a separate locker for each child.



Photos: Courtesy of Merillat (www.merillat.com)

A bench assists everyone in removing shoes and boots, while teens will appreciate a mirror for last minute checks on hair or makeup. Remember to incorporate adequate lighting.

Consider your usual activities. If you or your kids are involved in sports, you'll want to provide storage space for athletic equipment such as balls, gloves, bats, and cleats. A family that enjoys outdoor activities should have sunscreen and bug repellent close at hand. If you have pets, include space to store leashes, pet toys and other pet supplies. This will be a high-traffic zone, so choose floor, wall and cabinet finishes that are durable, water-resistant, and easy to maintain.

Once it is easy to find everything you need while exiting and entering your home, you'll notice your stress level diminishing. And you'll wonder why you waited so long.

Bountiful Bamboo

If you've been thinking about having bamboo flooring installed in your home because it's eco-friendly, now you have even more reasons. Teragren recently introduced its new Portfolio collection of strand bamboo wide plank flooring.

The collection features 10 designer colors in a variety of textures and patterns—including hand scraped options—to coordinate with today's traditional, rustic or contemporary interiors. Portfolio also includes coordinating stair parts and flooring trim for the finishing touch.

The bamboo fibers are fused with an environmentally safe adhesive under high pressure to form flooring planks that are 154% harder than red oak. The flooring receives a 7-coat German finish that is water-based and solvent-free, and offers a 25-year residential finish warranty.

Hewn Tauney – A handscraped and glossy golden brown.



Teragren® Portfolio Strand Bamboo Wide Plank Flooring - [Hewn Tauney]

Paris Black – A deep black highlighted with streaks of brown.



Teragren® Portfolio Strand Bamboo Wide Plank Flooring - [Paris Black]

Myths Misconceptions

What is the best way to clear the air in your home if it is stale and stuffy or musty and muggy? Jennifer Hammons, a certified indoor environmentalist with Lennox Industries, offers the following information to help debunk some common myths and misconceptions about the air you breathe at home.

Myth No. 1: The air inside a home is cleaner than the air outside.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, indoor levels of many pollutants may be 25 to even 100 times higher than outdoor levels. The increased level of pollutants is due in part to homes being constructed more tightly without adequate ventilation. To identify the levels of pollutants in a home, Hammons recommends having the air in your home tested for common pollutants, such as carbon dioxide, odors, chemical vapors and airborne particles.

Myth No. 2: Air fresheners and scented candles can help get rid of unwanted odors in the home.

Air fresheners and scented candles do not actually improve the quality of the air in a home. In fact, the EPA confirms that burning incense and candles with lead-core wicks can release contaminants and potentially harmful chemicals into the air. In addition, these products are often purchased to cover up an underlying indoor air quality issue, such as musty odors or tobacco smoke, which would be better addressed through the use of a whole-home air cleaner connected to the home's central air system.

Myth No. 3: Opening a window is a good way to air out a house and get rid of harmful indoor air pollutants.

When you open a window, outdoor allergens like pollen can enter the home and potentially aggravate the symptoms of allergy and asthma sufferers. The best way to enjoy the fresh-air feel of an open window is to install a heat- or energy-recovery ventilator that exchanges stale, re-circulated indoor air with fresh, filtered outside air, with virtually little or no heat or energy loss.

Myth No. 4: Because your central heating and cooling system already has an air filter, the air you breathe is clean.

Some filters are designed to trap and capture indoor air pollutants better than others. It's best to look for a filter with a MERV rating of 10 or higher for effective filtration and to protect your heating and cooling system. In addition, high-efficiency filtration products, such as media air cleaners and HEPA filters, go way beyond traditional fiberglass panel filters to capture the smallest particles and biological pollutants to create a healthier home environment.

Myth No. 5: Portable, stand-alone air cleaners are an effective way to improve the air you breathe.

Millions of portable room air cleaners are sold each year, but some of these products actually could be adding to the pollution in a home. In fact, a study funded by the National Science Foundation found that several ionic air purifiers can produce detectable levels of ozone, which is a known lung irritant. Hammons adds that purchasing a single, whole-home system instead of multiple room units is usually more effective and cost-efficient for homeowners.



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Myths and Misconceptions



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Getting a GRIP

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Your second consideration should be whether the decorative hardware enhances your cabinetry. It should be in proportion to the size of the cabinet door, and although you want the cabinet knob or pull to reflect your own personal style, it should never clamor for its own individual attention. Its measure of decorative appropriateness is that it intensifies the loveliness of the cabinetry and in this way influences the look of the entire room.

There is no need to limit yourself to the same styles you see everywhere else. Choose something out of the ordinary that adds a little fun and excitement to the room. Oversized shapes continue to be the trend, with a wide variety of materials being offered, such as stone, glass, metal, leather, wood, and porcelain. Coordinate your choices within one room, but don't match every piece throughout your home. For inspiration, take a look at some of the latest styles for 2010 featured here.



Photo: Courtesy of Top Knobs (www.TopKnobsUSA.com)

The Aspen collection from Top Knobs is hand cast from art-grade bronze ingots.



Photo: Courtesy of Atlas Homewares (www.atlashomewares.com)

The Zanzibar from Atlas is wrapped in leather, then stitched.



Photo: Courtesy of Top Knobs (www.TopKnobsUSA.com)

Top Knobs offers three jewel tones in seven new Crystal knobs.



Photo: Courtesy of Rocky Mountain Hardware (www.rockymountainhardware.com)

Emerald Knob by Rocky Mountain Hardware in silicon bronze with a light patina.

