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HOME
IMPROVEMENT GUIDE
2021



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2014: Executive Award

2015-2016: Platinum Award

2017: Hall of Fame Award

2017-2020: Chairman's Award

2019 Real Trends #6 State of Oregon

2020 Diamond Club Award

2020 #1 RE/MAX Broker State of Oregon

2021 Real Trends Transactions #1

All Agencies - State of OR



Real estate agent honored

About Me - Jude Hodge

I have been a Brookings Harbor Resident for 30 years and I am an accomplished Internet Network Marketer and have been marketing online for nearly 30 years. I have been published in Networking Times, Cutting Edge Media, Home Business Connection, Youngevity's Magazine, Money Makers Monthly, Networker's Advantage and is a contributing author in "Build it Big," a book published by Dearborn Publishing for Direct Selling Women's Alliance. Platinum Power seller on eBay for 6 years and an eBay Education Specialist.

Here is a list of some of my awards

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judehodge@gmail.com

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LISTING YOUR HOME IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!

My background is marketing and I am very serious about marketing your home to get it SOLD! Sit down with me for a few minutes and let's evaluate the value of your home. Let's look at the current market price through comparables and see if now is the right time for you to list your home.

Our selling season does not end in this area. The majority of my clients have been over the age of 51 and retiring. Many were here for the busy season and went home without buying anything!! Our market has been so lean with listings that several of my clients check in with me weekly to see if there is anything new on the market. Everyday is a good day to get your home listed. Call me for a no obligation valuation of your home. It will be quick and painless I promise!!

SELLING?

I offer cutting edge technology and marketing for every listing, it doesn't matter if it's a mobile or a mansion I appreciate every listing and go above and beyond for my sellers. "Not advertising is like winking in the dark, nobody knows".

BUYING?

Let me take you on a no obligation buyers tour of our area. It's important you know all you can about the area you're buying in. Let's find the area you love and then a move in ready home, a fixer, or the perfect spot to build on.

Jude Hodge of RE/MAX Coast & Country was recently named one of America's most productive sales associates as a part of REAL Trends + Tom Ferry America's Best Real Estate Professionals, a ranking report produced by REAL Trends and Tom Ferry International. She is now a member of the "America's Best Real Estate Agents," and ranked number #1 by individual transaction sales and #1 individual by sales volume for ReMax of Oregon.

REAL Trends America's Best Real Estate Professionals ranks over 14,500 residential real estate professionals solely based on their excellence in real estate sales during calendar year 2021. All production numbers are independently verified by a third party to ensure accuracy and report integrity. This group of highly successful real estate sales agents represents the top 1 percent of all real estate practitioners in the United States.

"Congratulations to Jude Hodge who made the America's Best list," says Tom Ferry, owner and founder of Tom Ferry International. "I have the pleasure of working with successful real estate professionals day in and day out, and I know all the hard work, late nights, and huge effort that goes into achieving such incredible results," says Ferry. "There are multiple ways to become successful in real estate. Yet, despite the differences, the real estate professionals on this list have one thing in common—they are simply the best. Congratulations to all recipients of this prestigious recognition."

"We are so proud of Jude," said Marie Curtis with RE/MAX Coast & Country, "to achieve these results while serving primarily in Curry County is simply remarkable. And for Jude, we know this type of recognition is only the beginning."

DA-TONE ROCK PRODUCTS COMPANY PROFILE

Da-Tone Rock Products has been an operating rock quarry located 1.5 miles up the North Bank of the Chetco River since 1957. Casey McLennan has been the sole owner since 2011.

Da-Tone Rock has crushed quarry rock products ranging from ¾ inch to 8 foot Rip Rap. We also have sands, screened topsoil, pea gravel and river rock. We can meet your rock needs of any size. We serve businesses, contractors, government agencies, homeowners and all individuals needing our rock products. We

also provide contract crushing, custom order production runs, professional gravel road rehabilitation & maintenance.

We have grown to a company with 6 to 10 employees, and we have employees that have been with us for 25 + years. We provide living wage jobs to employees and contribute to many aspects of our coastal community. Our goal is to grow and change with our community, neighbors, and friends.

Our company never loses sight of our customers

and treats them as our top priority. We are here for you. Call the office to discuss your project and your goals and we will help you find the best product for your needs.

98109 North Bank Chetco River Road, Brookings, Oregon 541-469-2612.



McLENNAN EXCAVATION COMPANY PROFILE

McLennan Excavation began in 2002 as a dream of Casey and Erin McLennan. They wanted to establish a great construction and excavation company that could serve the needs of our coastal community.

We started as a small single man crew and have grown to a company with 15 to

20 employees. Our team is a mix of professionals several with over 20 years' experience. We have 3 to 4 crews running projects that are diverse enough to meet all the needs of the customer at each job.

We do small to large projects for residential, commercial and municipal jobs, serving the needs of businesses, government agencies and homeowners in both Curry County and Del Norte County. We provide excavation, pipe laying, underground utilities, water & sewer connections, building pads, deep trenches, hillside stabilization, subdivisions, concrete work for commercial and residential projects, roads,

trucking, asphalt paving and storm drainage repair for commercial and residential projects.

We have built a great company that treats all customers as a top priority. Our goal is to grow and change with our community, to provide our employees with a living wage, and to contribute to our growing and wonderful coastal cities.

We provide free estimates. Our Construction Office is located at 98109 North Bank Chetco River Road, Brookings, Oregon

We can be reached at 541-412-0106

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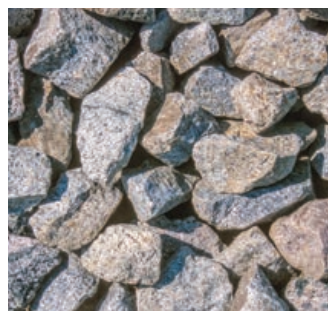
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Casey McLennan: **541-412-0106**

Signs your HVAC unit could be fading

A day outdoors soaking up the sun's rays is many people's idea of the perfect way to spend a summer afternoon. On such days, a periodic retreat indoors into an air conditioned home can offer some much-needed relief from the heat.

HVAC systems are worth their weight in gold during the dog days of summer. Of course, such systems must be replaced from time to time. Learning to recognize the signs of a fading HVAC system can help homeowners replace their units before they cease working, saving everyone the uncomfortable ordeal of being stuck at home without cool air on hot summer days.

WEAK AIR FLOW

An HVAC unit operating at peak capacity produces a strong flow of air through the vents of a home. The experts at Select Home Warranty note that when the air flow from the vent is weak, this could be a

warning sign of a damaged AC compressor or blocked or damaged vents. Damaged vents might be replaceable, but issues with the AC unit might require a replacement. That's especially so if the unit is old. Repairs might be possible, but it might be more cost-effective to replace an aging unit rather than commit to costly repairs.

EXCESSIVE MOISTURE AROUND THE UNIT

Excessive moisture around the unit may indicate that its refrigerant is leaking. In addition, Home Select Warranty notes that large pools of water around the unit could contribute to mold growth and floor damage. Homeowners are urged to contact a qualified HVAC technician immediately if they notice any leakage or moisture issues around their units.

INTERIOR TEMPERATURE

If your home is not quite the respite from summer heat that it once was, despite the

AC being on and running, then this could be indicative of a fading system that may need to be replaced. However, the home warranty firm American Home Shield® notes that hot interior temperatures also may be indicative of clogged ductwork. Qualified HVAC technicians may be able to fix clogged ductwork without replacing the AC unit. If the issue persists even after ducts have been cleaned and unclogged, then a new unit might be homeowners' best bet.

FOUL ODOR

Sometimes the nose knows best when an AC unit needs to be replaced. Unusual odors emanating from the vents when the AC is on suggest that the unit is distributing mold or mildew throughout the home. The Florida-based heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical experts at Cool Today note that a moldy or mildew-like smell coming from the vents could indicate a host of issues, including a dirty evaporator coil, a

clogged drain line or leaky air ducts. Each of these issues can be fixed, but homeowners must weigh the cost of fixing them versus the cost of replacing an aging unit.

Come the dog days of summer, homeowners want a reliable AC unit to cool their homes. Recognizing signs of a malfunctioning AC unit is a good first step toward ensuring homes remain cool, relaxing respites from the heat this summer.



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Energize South Coast is an opportunity for Coos County residents to purchase a ductless heating system at a discounted rate through the local installer Pacific Air Comfort Inc., and reduce energy use by 25-50% over traditional heating and cooling systems.

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heat pumps, and utility incentives and rebates. Attendance at a workshop is required to qualify for the Energize South Coast discount of \$450-900.

In addition to a discounted purchase price, you may qualify for incentives and rebates through your local utility. For example, Pacific Power customers may qualify for \$500-\$2,500 in cash incentives

through the Energy Trust of Oregon, if upgrading from another electric heat source; incentives are available for single-family homes, income-qualified customers, single-family rentals, multi-family homes and manufactured homes.

For more info and to register: <http://energizesouthcoast.org/>



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Energize South Coast is an equal opportunity provider

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.



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Create an efficient, inviting outdoor living environment

Be ready to enjoy the warm days of spring and summer with an “updated” outdoor dining/living/garden area that is welcoming and efficient. Woodcraft has the tools and supplies you will need, along with helpful advice at your local store and free how-to articles on Woodcraft.com.

PROJECTS

Take stock of your outdoor furniture — do you need more? Would colorful new Adirondack chairs, a new picnic table and maybe a garden bench and planters be more inviting? Or perhaps a cleanup and new paint would bring your existing furniture to life for another season? Does your porch/patio/deck area need to be resurfaced or enlarged?

Streamline your dining by building mobile carts to transport food for prep and for serving. Add a butcher block top to the food prep cart and storage drawers to both, and improve the efficiency and pleasure of your dining experience.

Gardeners may want to build a potting bench and wooden flatbed wagon to haul plants and supplies.

TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND HOW-TOS

“Make anywhere your workspace with the Kreg Mobile Project Center,” Woodcraft senior product manager Peter Collins said. “It’s a portable workbench, sawhorse, assembly table, and clamping station all in one that

provides a versatile work space for DIY, repair, and woodworking projects.”

The large 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ ” x 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ ” polypropylene work surface supports a 350-lb. load capacity, and two centers can be connected to double the work area. Collins also suggested adding the new Kreg In-line Bench Clamp and Bench Clamp System for Dog Holes to make almost every clamping task possible.

Visit Woodcraft.com to see Building Plans for Outdoor Furniture, as well as Adirondack chair templates. Woodcraft.com also offers a large number of how-to articles such as “Laid Back in a Classic Adirondack” that shows how to build with Adirondack chair templates, while “WoodSense: Spotlight on Outdoor Projects,” describes woods that work well outdoors. For building projects, the Freeman 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ ” 18-Gauge Brad Nailer is a professional quality, innovative home improvement tool that is great for furniture. Its oil-free operation requires no regular maintenance and eliminates the risk of stains on project surfaces. If your joinery choice requires screws, the Groz Insta Drive Screwdriver features a patented retractable, rotating bit cartridge that makes it easy to find, store and change driver bits.

For hauling lumber or other large items to your project site, use the Xstrap Heavy Duty Ratchet Tie Down to hold up to 1,000 pounds in place on a truck bed.

To finish new furniture or recolor existing pieces — and brighten your outdoor landscape — choose one of the 28 premixed General Finishes Milk Paint colors that can be mixed, lightened, glazed, layered, antiqued, or distressed. Other good choices for outdoor surfaces include General Finishes Outdoor Oil Finish (use over exterior oil stain or exterior clear oil finishes for additional protection) and General Finishes 450 Varnish (minimizes fading, retards mold and fungus growth). For painting guidance, watch “Hand Applied Milk Paint from General Finishes at Woodcraft” and read “Create a Milk Paint Masterpiece” on Woodcraft.com.

HOMERIGHT’s Finish Max HVLP Sprayer will spray most solvent (except lacquer and conversion varnish) or water-based products — latex paint, milk paint, chalk paint, furniture paint, stains, and finishes. It’s easy to set up, use and clean. When painting furniture, consider using the HOMERIGHT Large Spray Shelter. When painting small accessories, opt for the Small Spray Shelter.

For furniture that needs some TLC, read “Restoring Outdoor Projects” on Woodcraft.com to learn how to determine what needs to be deep cleaned, repaired, rebuilt and repainted. Handy helpers for the TLC process include Blue Bear Paint and Urethane Stripper, Krud Kutter No-Rinse Prepaint Cleaner, Titebond III Ultimate Wood Glue, SculptWood Putty, and Briwax ChairRX.

CUSTOM GARDEN & GAME PROJECTS

Turn a unique transplanter, cultivator and weeder with the three-piece WoodRiver Garden Tool Turning Kit constructed of durable, cast aluminum. Turning blanks for the handle, sold separately, may be made from wood, acrylic or another man-made material. Build a wooden croquet set with help from “Picnic Perfect Croquet Set” in Issue 65 of Woodcraft Magazine. Subscribers can download the article free, or the issue can be purchased at Woodcraft.com.

To learn more about these and other products, visit your local Woodcraft store, call (800) 535-4482 or visit www.Woodcraft.com.



3 HOME TRENDS TO CONSIDER

Pro-Tip: This list breaks down some of the trends that have made a splash and figure to be around for some time.

Open concept spaces. Many modern, newly built homes have a large multi-purpose area that blurs the borders of the kitchen, dining area and family room. These homes make it easy to entertain and keep an eye on youngsters.

Patterned fabrics and upholstery. Solids will always have their place in home decor, but patterned furnishings are making a name for themselves as well. Today’s homeowners are not afraid to experiment with geometric and floral patterns alongside neutral colors to showcase their personalities, advises the real estate industry resource The Lighter Side of Real Estate.

Farmhouse chic. Many people want the ambiance of a rustic, antique farmhouse even if they live miles away from the country. Reclaimed wood on the walls, exposed beams, eclectic accessories, and a big wood table in the dining room are hallmarks of farmhouse style. This is a fun design trend that can be personalized for cozy appeal.

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Owner/Principal Broker

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DIY projects that can conserve energy around the house

Home renovation projects can pay numerous dividends. Renovations can have a positive effect on resale value, make homes more livable for residents and, in some ways, make homes more affordable.

Renovation projects that aim to conserve energy can save homeowners substantial amounts of money. Such projects don't often require considerable effort or even sizable financial investments, which can make homeowners skeptical as to just how much they can save after completing the project. But the scale of a project may have little to do with how much homeowners will save. For example, the U.S. Department of Energy notes that a relatively effortless task like turning back a thermostat between 7° and 10° F for eight hours per day can save homeowners as much as \$83 per year. A more labor-intensive task like planting shade trees saves homeowners an average of between \$35 and \$119 per year.

When looking for ways to conserve energy around the house and save money, homeowners need not necessarily commit to expensive projects. The DOE notes that the following are some energy-saving projects and details what homeowners can expect to save after completing them. While each individual project may not result in jaw-dropping savings, homeowners

who follow many of these recommendations may end up saving more than \$1,000 per year.

PROJECT: INSTALL EXTERIOR LOW-E STORM WINDOWS.

What is it? Low-e windows reflect infrared heat back into a home. Such windows are coated with an ultra-thin layer of metal that improves the window's insulation ability. How much can I save? Homeowners who install low-e windows can save between 12 and 33 percent on their annual heating and cooling costs.

PROJECT: SEAL UNCONTROLLED AIR LEAKS.

What is it? Air leaks let cool air in during winter and warm air in during summer. Caulking, sealing and weather stripping all cracks and large openings can cut back on air leaks that are costing you money. The DOE recommends hiring a contractor to seal any leaks on heating and cooling ducts. How much can I save? Homeowners who seal uncontrolled air leaks can save between 10 and 20 percent on their annual heating and cooling bills.

Project: Plant shade trees.

What is it? If you plant a deciduous tree between six and eight feet tall near your home, it will begin to shade your windows

within a year of being planted. Depending on the species of the tree and the home, the shade tree will begin shading the roof within five to 10 years. The DOE notes that shading is the most cost-effective way to reduce air conditioning costs. How much can I save? Properly planted shade trees can reduce air conditioning costs by anywhere from 15 to 50 percent.

PROJECT: INSULATE THE WATER HEATER TANK

What is it? New water tanks are likely already insulated. But homeowners with older hot water tanks can insulate their tanks with a water heater insulating blanket kit.

How much can I save? Insulating a water heater tank can save homeowners as much as 16 percent on their annual water heating bills.

Even the smallest DIY projects can produce big savings. More information about energy-saving home improvement projects can be found at www.energy.gov.



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Pro-Tip:

Staging a home does need to be difficult. Homeowners can employ several simple and inexpensive staging strategies to entice buyers to make offers on their

SIMPLE, INEXPENSIVE STAGING STRATEGIES

It makes sense for sellers to make their homes as appealing as possible. Researchers at Old Dominion University and Johns Hopkins University found that staging did not have a significant effect on the actual revealed market value of a property. However, homeowners should not interpret that as a reason to skip staging. In fact, the study's authors note that staging gave buyers more favorable impressions of a property, which might accelerate the selling process.

Clear out the clutter. Note that it's not just bedrooms and living rooms that should be made to look open, spacious and clutter-free. A luxurious, hotel-quality bathroom that's open and airy can impress buyers, as can organized closets that are not jam packed with clothing, shoes and other wardrobe items that have a tendency to take over closets the longer someone lives in a home.

Let the sun shine in. A home that's bright and airy tends to appear more spacious and livable than one in which the windows and blinds are closed. Before hosting an open house, open the blinds and crack some windows if weather permits.

Take care of the yard. Landscaping is important, and a well-maintained yard suggests to buyers that owners have taken pride in their homes, and that may extend inside the home. Make sure the grass is freshly cut, shrubs and trees have been trimmed, bald spots in the lawn have been addressed, and exterior living spaces have been cleaned and cleared of clutter.



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Is Your Roof Ready for Winter?

Dave McMurray, Jr.

Preparing your home or business for winter should entail an evaluation of your roof. A leaky roof can cause expensive damage to the interior of your home. Between wind, pouring rain and the ever-changing weather conditions we have here on the North Coast, your roof endures a lot, now is the time to get an inspection. Based on current forecasts it's sounding as though we could have an especially wet and stormy season this year! If your roof is in need of repair, please call a roofer now, don't wait until the rains begin.

Who should install your new roof? Make sure the company you choose is licensed, bonded and insured. This is for your protection. Your roofing company should provide quality materials with well-trained and experienced employees. These are vital components of a top-quality roof that will protect your home for many years. Ask your roofer about their warranty. Do they back up their work with a guarantee in addition to the manufacturer's guarantee? They should.

At McMurray and Sons Roofing, all of our installers go through extensive training before they start installing

roofs. We utilize quality GAF shingles on many of our jobs. GAF is the leading roofing manufacturer in North America. Our designation as a Master Elite Contractor means that their confidence in the quality of our work allows us to offer you GAF Gold and Silver Pledge warranties in addition to our own workmanship guarantees.

What's the best type of material for your new roof? You have options. The most popular choice for most homeowners is asphalt shingles which are competitively priced and available in a wide range of colors. Have a flat roof? Single-ply membrane roofing is probably your best option. This very durable PVC material is also resistant to damage from sunlight. Metal and tile roofing are additional roofing materials you can evaluate for possible use on your roofing project.

Is it time to add solar? Solar is more affordable than ever. With the rising costs of electricity, you may want to integrate solar into your new roof. At McMurray and Sons, we utilize the GAF DecoTech® Solar System which typically pays for itself in 7-9 years. Their solar system is covered under the same outstanding "Golden Pledge" warranty as the roofing system.

GAF's solar roof-integrated product is direct-to-deck and installed just like a skylight, providing excellent water-shedding and saving time, materials and unnecessary roof penetrations. Instead of being mounted on brackets on top of the roof, this system is installed during re-roofing. These newer systems are more efficient and produce more savings on your power bill than the typical, old, roof-mounted systems.

McMurray and Sons was established in 1919 and has offices in Brookings and Bend, OR and Eureka, CA. For more information visit our website: mcmurrayandsons.com or call 541-469-3300.



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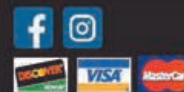


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Welcome Fall

As we welcome a new season, I'm always reminded of how everchanging life truly is. From the weather to family matters, friendships, jobs and yes, housing needs, life is a box of chocolates and that's what makes the journey even more interesting!

I'm still amazed by the steadfast growth and resilience of our coastal community. Brookings, Harbor, Gold Beach and beyond, are tenacious in their own amazing ways and for that, I'm proud to be a part of their centers.

Often the change of seasons, both literally and figuratively, aren't as welcome depending on the reasons. They say that everything is easier when you have the right tools, no matter what task you're taking on. The same applies to real estate and it's such a privilege to offer seasoned and professional services to families, investors and retirees when it comes to making big life changes.

Here's what CNBC has to say about the current market, even through a continuing global pandemic. "The sales recovery is

strong, as buyers were eager to purchase homes and properties that they had been eyeing during the shutdown," Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist, said at the time. "This revitalization looks to be sustainable for many months ahead as long as mortgage rates remain low and job gains continue. "Yun was right – but his prediction still turned out to be too conservative. Home sales were not only sustainable, but they were also robust.

Whatever season you find yourself in, know that we are here to serve you no matter what brings you to one of the most beautiful places on the planet – the Oregon Coast.

Our team boasts some of the most unique and luxurious properties in the Brookings, Gold Beach and Harbor, Oregon areas. From sprawling acreage, luxurious square footage and amenities, to quaint, cottage vibes, we're here to help you find the forever or getaway home of your dreams. Reach out! We're looking forward to serving you with all of your buying or selling needs.

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Safety first with DIY electrical work

Home improvement projects can help homeowners transform their homes. Such projects are costly, but many homeowners save money by doing some, if not all, of the work themselves.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety, recommends that homeowners leave electrical work to the professionals. Licensed electricians are well-trained, whereas homeowners may not be skilled enough to avoid accidents or injuries, which can prove fatal when working with electricity.

Homeowners who take the do-it-yourself route with electrical work should consider these safety tips, courtesy of the ESFI, before beginning a home electrical project.

- Learn your home electrical system. Home electrical systems may include power lines, electric meters, service panels, subpanels, wiring, and more. These systems are complex, and homeowners who intend to do some DIY electrical work should familiarize themselves with their home electrical systems prior to beginning any work. The ESFI notes that knowledge of their home electrical systems can help homeowners more safely navigate them and make maintenance easier.
- Honestly assess your skills. An honest assessment of skills is absolutely necessary prior to working on an electrical system. According to the National Safety Council, injuries relating to electrical incidents typically fall into one of four categories: electrical shock, electrocution, falls, and burns. Each of these injuries is significant. For example, electric shock, which

occurs when electrical current passes over or through a person's body, involves burns, abnormal heart rhythm and unconsciousness. Given the potential for serious injury, the ESFI urges homeowners to make an honest assessment of their skills before they begin working on their home's electrical systems. Little or no experience working with electrical systems should be considered a significant hurdle to any DIY project.

- Turn the power off. It's essential that the power to the circuit that will be worked on be turned off prior to starting any work. This can be accomplished by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel. Similarly, when working on appliances or lamps, make sure the products are unplugged prior to working on them.
- Do not touch plumbing or gas pipes when doing electrical work. The experts at the Indiana Electric Cooperative note that the risk for electrocution is significant when water comes in contact with electricity. It's imperative that homeowners do not touch plumbing and gas pipes when performing a DIY electrical project. Professionals know how to work around such pipes while minimizing their risk for electric shock or worse, and homeowners must familiarize themselves with the techniques professionals rely on to stay safe if they intend to begin DIY electrical projects.

Homeowners are best served by leaving electrical work to the professionals. However, those who insist on doing such work themselves should do their homework and get to know their systems and safety protocols prior to beginning a project.



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Should I DIY?: 3 questions to determine if it's best to renovate on your own

A do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew.

Home improvement videos and television shows have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects,



potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it's best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeowners are the same, but the following three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.

1. CAN I AFFORD TO DIY?

Professional home improvement projects are costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes. Projects that are minor in scope and don't require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

2. DO I HAVE THE TIME?

Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

3. CAN I PULL THIS OFF?

DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it's imperative that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment of their skills. A lack of renovation experience does not

necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to the professionals.

Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they're ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.



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3 common DIY mistakes to avoid

Pride tends to swell when homeowners successfully complete do-it-yourself projects on their homes. In addition to saving homeowners money, DIY projects provide a unique way for men and women to personally connect with their homes. The ability to look at a finished project and say it's a result of your own handiwork can make a home feel more your own.

As fun and fulfilling as DIY projects can be, they also can be nerve-wracking and induce anxiety. When DIY projects falter, fixing them can prove costly, as homeowners typically must call in contractors to correct their mistakes and get a project back on track. That results in additional labor and material costs that might have been avoidable, especially for homeowners who make an effort to avoid some common DIY mistakes.

1. FAILURE TO SECURE PERMITS

Even though homeowners own their homes, that does not mean they have carte blanche to do what they want with them. Many renovation projects require homeowners to secure permits before projects can commence. Some may even require additional permits as the projects advance. If proper permits are not secured, homeowners may be fined and projects may be nixed, regardless of how much money homeowners have spent up to that point. Before beginning a home renovation project, homeowners should always contact their local permit office to determine if any permits are required. Bankrate.com notes that permits are often required for any project larger than painting or wallpapering.

2. OVERESTIMATING YOUR ABILITIES

DIY television shows make home renovation projects look easy, but reality

suggests otherwise. Homeowners with little or no experience renovating a home may want to take classes before they think about starting a project on their own. Even online tutorials tend to make jobs appear easier than they are. Roofing and plumbing projects tend to be best left to the professionals, as these projects can be either dangerous or vulnerable to disaster if not addressed by trained professionals.

3. INCORRECT MATERIALS

Whether it's to save money or a byproduct of inexperience, DIYers do not always choose the correct materials for a job. Experienced contractors have ample experience working with all sorts of materials and are therefore in a unique

position to recommend the best materials for any given job. That resource is not available for DIYers, who must perform ample research before beginning a job so the project involves the most appropriate materials. Incorrect materials can be a sunken cost that derails a project, but even jobs completed using incorrect materials may need to be redone a lot more quickly than those that employed the right materials the first time.

Many home renovation projects can be completed without the help of professional contractors, especially when homeowners take steps to avoid some of the more common mistakes made by DIYers.



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Our backyards are some of the best places to spend the summer months, especially if you're practicing social distancing and are tired of being cooped up indoors. Fortunately, it's possible to transform your outdoor living space into a secluded, open-air retreat.

Bring the indoors out. We often hear about bringing the outdoors inside, but the reverse is also true when designing a luxurious extension of your home. Homey, lived-in touches can take your outdoor space from sterile and unfinished to cozy and inviting. Think patterned throw pillows, fluffy blankets for chilly evenings, outdoor rugs, colorful lanterns, and decorative accessories like painted terracotta pots or metal tins. Invest in comfy furniture. What's the best part of your living or family room?

Chances are it's your comfortable couch or recliner. To recreate the same feeling,

splurge on some soft furniture that will make you want to stay outside for hours reading a book or working remotely. It doesn't have to break the bank either — you can DIY a cozy lounging bench with reclaimed wood and hand-sewn cushions with outdoor stuffing and fabric.

Add a relaxing pool or spa. Water has a calming effect and is often linked to our favorite memories at the cottage or on vacation. A pool or spa can help transport you somewhere far away without leaving your home. A pool can help you and the kids get some exercise while swimming laps, while a spa can soothe tired muscles after a long day hunched over your laptop. To reduce energy costs and increase longevity, consider using Nudura insulated concrete forms, which provide superior insulation. ICF pools also can be custom-made to accommodate any design, making them a very versatile and efficient way to build pools.

Go wild with greenery. Live plants can help you feel connected with nature, and tending to them can help you feel relaxed yet productive during isolation. A vertical garden can add visual interest, while trees and shrubs can provide shade and character. Aromatic herbs

like lavender or rosemary offer pleasant scents and can spice up your cooking. And don't be afraid to cut some flowers from your garden to place in vases or pots for beautiful finishing touches.

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Congratulations Adam Kell on the newest edition to your family. Adam and his fiancé Taylor welcomed baby Lucy Jo into the world on July 27th, 2021. Adam has been with Advanced Security Systems a little over eight months as one of our skilled technicians. His aspiration is to become a Journeyman Electrician and is currently attending Lane Community College to reach his goals. Adam is a proud native to Crescent City and enjoys being able to help the community while doing something a little different each day. So far, Adam loves being a new dad despite being 'very tired'. With the little spare time he has, Adam enjoys spending time with his fiancé, watching sports, and playing video games.

Established in 1971, Advanced Security Systems has served its local community for 50 years. It isn't often you find a family-owned and operated professional security and alarm monitoring company located in your back yard and with employees who might be your neighbors. That's why we find it paramount to reinvest our profits back into the community.

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THANK YOU, Northern California, for choosing Advanced Security Systems for 50 years as your partner in security. And, many thanks to our valued employees and clients for making it possible to "Delivering Peace of Mind" for the last half century. We couldn't do it without you.



Zach Smith has recently been promoted to our General Manager of the Northern California, Southern Oregon region and is well known throughout our entire service area. We have been lucky to have Zach's compassionate and genuine desire to help his community over the past three and a half years. Zach is a Eureka native who enjoys baseball, golf, coaching, and waterfowl hunting. He shares his life with his lovely wife Casie of 11 years, and three sons, Brylon, Blake, and Baylor. His favorite moments spent with family include playing at the lake and on the baseball field. If you ask Zach what his favorite part of his job was, he'd say "helping our community sleep better at night knowing that their loved ones, businesses, and homes are safe."

David Mead has been with Advanced Security Systems for close to six years. Recently David has successfully completed the test to become an Oregon-certified, Class A, Limited Energy Journeyman. He is now fully accredited to service and install life safety, security, HVAC, communications, and audio/video systems in both commercial and residential establishments in the state of Oregon. Congratulations on another monumental accomplishment!



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