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HOMEOWNER'S UPDATE

Choosing Exterior Paint for Your Home

Selecting a paint color for the exterior of your home can be challenging, but the following tips can help you make the right choice.

Coordinate with existing stone, brick or wood accents. If your home has natural elements that will not be painted, choose a color that complements the undertones of those elements.

Use an online color visualizer. Once you've narrowed your paint choices, use a color visualizer to see how different colors will look on your house. Some paint manufacturers allow you to upload photos of your home to their websites to test various color schemes.

Try several samples before committing to a color. The best way to compare colors is by painting on poster boards rather than directly on your house. Move painted poster boards around various areas on your home's exterior. Make sure to test colors in sunny and shady areas. Also, be certain to put them directly next to any stone, brick or wood to ensure the color complements existing natural elements.

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Also in this issue...

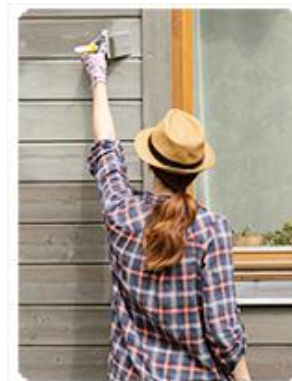
Upgrade Your Laundry Room

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Upgrade Your Laundry Room

A luxurious laundry room may seem a bit extravagant, but consider these options if you'd like to transform a dreary, utilitarian room into an attractive, functional space.

Add a Sink

A sink is a handy addition to any laundry room. You'll have a dedicated place to scrub stained clothing, wash paint

brushes, rinse muddy shoes, and clean dirty messes you don't want in your kitchen or bathroom sinks.

Create Storage

Cabinets, shelves, drying racks, and storage baskets will help organize and declutter the room.

Make Space for Hampers

Free up space by adding built-in storage for hampers underneath the countertop. Use the counter when sorting laundry to keep your floor clutter-free.

Hang Wallpaper

Because they're typically small, laundry rooms can be great areas for a bold design. Consider adding stylish wallpaper to spruce things up.

Build a Dog-Wash Station

If you have the space, a dog-wash station offers a convenient way to bathe your pets and contain their furry messes.

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Hardy Trees for Spring Planting

Early spring is a great time to think about planting new trees. If you worry that your thumb isn't "green enough" to plant and grow a tree, start with something hardy. Listed by USDA Plant Hardiness Zones, HGTV recommends these 13 trees that you "can't kill."

Zones 2 to 9

Common Hackberry
Bur Oak

Zones 3 to 7

First Editions Snowdance Japanese Tree Lilac
Littleleaf Linden (Zone 8 with afternoon shade)

Zones 3 to 9

American Hornbeam

Zones 4 to 8

Northern Catalpa
Allegheny Serviceberry

Zones 4 to 7

Crusader Hawthorn
Rejoice Crabapple
Three Flowered Maple

Zones 4 to 9

Black Tupelo

Zones 5 to 8

Seven-Son Flower

Zones 9B to 10

Buttonwood

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Prepare Your Home and Family for Natural Disasters

You may not be able to predict some emergencies, but you can be prepared when they strike. *Houzz.com* suggests these basics for a family emergency plan.

Assemble disaster kits for your home and vehicles. Gather supplies you'll need if you lose power or have to shelter in place. Include flashlights and batteries, nonperishable food for people and pets, bottled water, a battery-operated radio, and medical supplies. Prepare go-packs you can grab quickly in case of evacuation. These can include items like your emergency contact list, blankets, cash, maps, chargers, and extra keys.

Practice evacuation drills. Make sure everyone knows how to get out of the house quickly. If you need to exit through windows, make sure they open properly and keep the ground below clear of hazards. Play audio samples of emergency signals or sirens so everyone knows what to expect.

Create and share a pre-evacuation communication checklist. Be sure to include a contact person outside your area whom everyone can call or text in an emergency. Print and laminate the checklist, and keep your friends, neighbors and family contact sheet updated. This list should include information for each family member's school or workplace. Decide on a family meeting place away from your house in case of separation.

Prepare your home for shelter in place orders. Decide where your safe places will be and make sure everybody knows. Each family member should know where to find first-aid kits and emergency supplies. Keep materials on hand for boarding up windows in case of a severe storm. Make sure your utility shutoffs are clearly marked, and stock your safe area with supplies.

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Orange & Fennel Side Salad

Ingredients

2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed orange juice
1 Tbsp. whole grain mustard
1 Tbsp. honey
1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
2 handfuls baby arugula
1 fennel bulb, thinly sliced
1 orange, peeled, sectioned and halved
½ cup chopped walnuts

Directions

In a medium bowl, whisk orange juice, mustard, honey, and olive oil. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add remaining ingredients to bowl, and toss to combine.

Serves 4-6



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