Central Jersey

HOUSE & HOME

Volume 22, Issue 4

Spring PLANNING GUIDE



Legends Home Improvements

Delivering high-quality work both inside and outside the home since 1975 *page 25*

Spring Planning Guide 2022 Sponsors:

COLONIAL MARBLE & GRANITE — inside front cover

SWIM-MOR POOLS & SPAS — pg. 4

EXPERT ROOFING — pg. 8

Always in Season

Kitchen and bath remodeling is a year-round opportunity

Ready to Bloom

Prepping your landscape for spring

Central Jersey

HOUSE & HOME

Volume 22, Issue 4

Spring PLANNING GUIDE



Deck Guardian

Ready to build your beautiful deck for this summer *page 11*

Spring Planning Guide 2022 Sponsors:

COLONIAL MARBLE & GRANITE inside front cover

SWIM-MOR POOLS & SPAS pg. 4

EXPERT ROOFING pg. 8

Always in Season

Kitchen and bath remodeling is a year-round opportunity

Ready to Bloom

Prepping your landscape for spring

Central Jersey

HOUSE & HOME

Volume 22, Issue 4

Spring PLANNING GUIDE



Granite Surfaces

Matching in-depth knowledge with clients' visions to find the perfect stone for any project *page 13*

Spring Planning Guide 2022 Sponsors:

COLONIAL MARBLE & GRANITE — inside front cover

SWIM-MOR POOLS & SPAS — pg. 4

EXPERT ROOFING — pg. 8

Always in Season

Kitchen and bath remodeling is a year-round opportunity

Ready to Bloom

Prepping your landscape for spring

Central Jersey

HOUSE & HOME

Volume 22, Issue 4

Spring PLANNING GUIDE



Total Access Elevator

Residential elevators offer the ultimate in luxury and convenience *page 27*

Spring Planning Guide 2022 Sponsors:

COLONIAL MARBLE & GRANITE — inside front cover

SWIM-MOR POOLS & SPAS — pg. 4

EXPERT ROOFING — pg. 8

Always in Season

Kitchen and bath remodeling is a year-round opportunity

Ready to Bloom

Prepping your landscape for spring



ColonialMarble.net

Stone is **always in season.**

NOW SERVING **CENTRAL** AND **NORTHERN NEW JERSEY**

$1,999 Granite Countertop Special.

FULLY INSTALLED UP TO 50 SQ FT, on any promotional granite.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE to schedule an appointment.

$0 DOWN AND 0% MONTHLY INTEREST for 18 months**

HOME OF THE **$1999** GRANITE COUNTERTOP SPECIAL*

COLONIAL MARBLE & GRANITE

COLONIAL MARBLE & GRANITE SHOWROOMS

EDISON, NJ | NEW CASTLE, DE | PHILADELPHIA, PA | HARRISBURG, PA | KING OF PRUSSIA, PA | **OPEN 7 DAYS**

*Fully installed up to 50 sq ft, on any promotional granite.
**On purchases of $1999 or more. $29 account activation fee will apply. Visit ColonialMarble.net for details.

LIC# PA 040713 | LIC# NJ 13VH06363500 | LIC# DE 2011604522 | LIC# MD 115930

MY DECK® .COM

DO IT ONCE
DO IT RIGHT



TrexPRO® PLATINUM

NJHIC# 13VH00371800

VISIT OUR DESIGN CENTER 8 Route 31, Flemington, NJ

908-713-1000 www.mydeck.com

America's finest handcrafted
frameless tub and shower enclosures
give your bathroom a look of elegance.

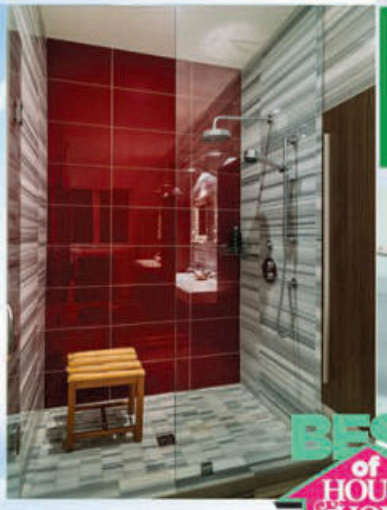


"They were extremely helpful assisting me in choosing the perfect custom shower door for my bathroom renovation. The installers were neat and professional. ***I couldn't be happier with the results!*** *The quality of the glass plus the beautiful brushed nickel hardware truly gives my bathroom a High-End, Luxurious feeling!"*
Gina P. from Colonia



Custom Glass Shower Enclosures Home Gym and Dance Mirrors





- **Expedited Design & Ordering**
- **Installed by Certified Shower Installers**

Other Services: Shower Doors & Custom Table Tops



BEST of HOUSE & HOME 2021

GLASS Tech INC.

GLASSTECHNJ.COM

908-617-0097 Dial Ext. 213

SCAN HERE TO SEE MORE

"Showing You The Difference" since 1999!
Fast and Free Quotes!
Over 30 Years of Experience!

Call Today for a Free Estimate! 855.624.6655









Magnolia™
HOME REMODELING GROUP

ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS
KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BASEMENTS
MASONRY | DECKS | PORCHES

Payment Plans

WINDOWS $209	BASEMENTS $395
KITCHENS $389	BATHROOMS $199
ROOFING $249	DECKS/PATIOS $189
SIDING $289	PORCHES/STEPS $185

0% Plans Available!
Estimated monthly payments. Rates & payments based on credit approval.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS ALSO AVAILABLE

Interior & Exterior Remodeling | Family Owned & Operated

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE | 30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

NJDCA 13VH07755300

MagnoliaHomeRemodeling.com

Pool Party!

Swim-Mor makes them happen.

BEST of HOUSE & HOME 2021

Plan Your Pool Design Today!



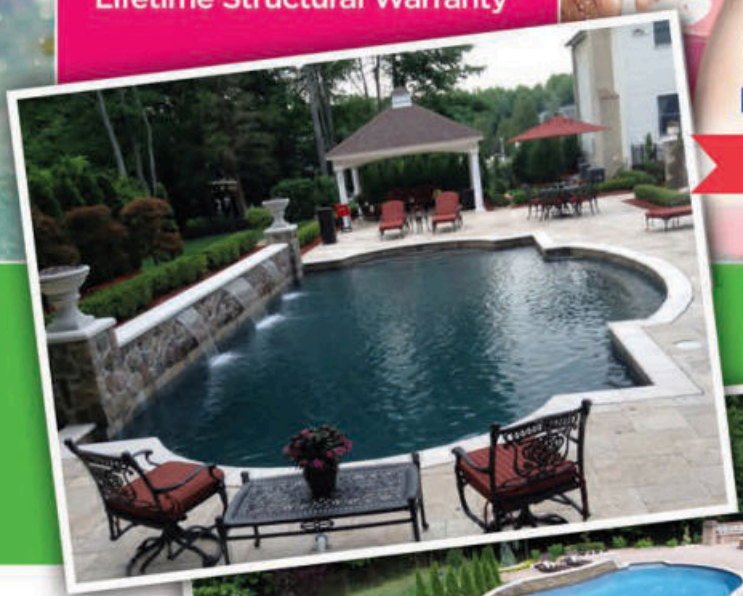
In-House New Pool Design, Construction and Service.

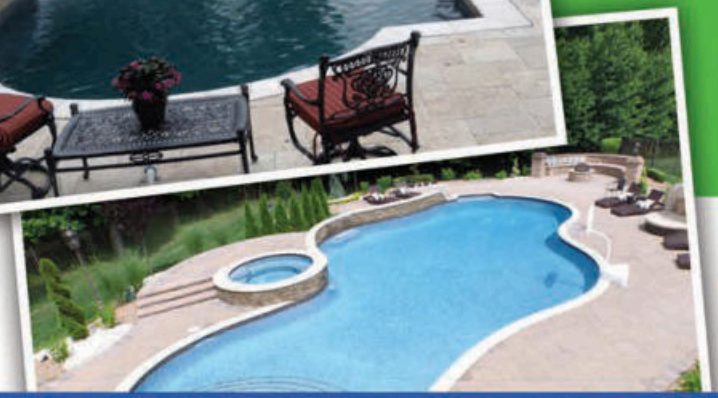
Complete Pool Renovations and Modernizations.

Lifetime Structural Warranty*

SWIM-MOR POOLS & SPAS

Family owned & operated for over 50 years.





There's No Time to Waste, Start Planning Your Pool Party TODAY!

Call (856) 456- 3332

so you can party all summer long

Dozens of amazing pool designs at www.swimmor.com

SINCE 1967 :NJ HIC REG# 13VH0015000 : SWIM-MOR POOLS & SPAS IS THE LEGAL TRADE NAME OF BONETTI ENTERPRISES, INC: *SEE POOL CONTRACT FOR DETAILS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS 1967 2017 FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

Mt. Ephraim, NJ | Northfield, NJ | Millstone Twp, NJ | www.swimmor.com



LEGENDS
HOME IMPROVEMENTS, LLC.

732.955.6321

www.LegendsBuilt.com

NJ HIC 13VH07609600

Building Custom Decks for Over 40 Years

- Outdoor Kitchens & Fireplaces
- Screen Rooms & Porches
- Patio Roofing

9 NADRA NATIONAL DECK AWARDS

NADRA



CUSTOM CABINETRY FOR DISCRIMINATING HOMEOWNERS



Crafting Exceptional Kitchens and Baths
Throughout the Delaware Valley and New Jersey
Since 1956

Beco INC.

Medallion CABINETRY

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

BEST of HOUSE & HOME 2020

Unmatched 5-year warranty on our carpentry
222 E. Bridge Street • Morrisville, PA
(215) 295-7123
www.beco-designs.com
Lic #PA024082 | NJ Lic #13VH01312200

BEST of HOUSE & HOME 2021



contents

11 **In Stock for Summer**
While other builders wait for materials, Deck Guardian has successfully prepared for these unprecedented times

13 **Under the Surface**
Rocco La Vecchia and the team at Granite Surfaces us in-depth knowledge to match clients' visions with the perfect stone for any project

14 **Always in Demand**
While some industries ebb and flow with the seasons, kitchen and bathroom remodels remain a leading area of home improvement all year long

19 **Spring Showcase Special Advertising Section**

20 **Outdoor Lighting Perspectives**
Improve your home's beauty and security with outdoor lighting

21 **New Jersey Home Show Guide**

25 **A One-Stop Shop for Two Generations**
Legends Home Improvements has delivered high-quality work both inside and outside the home since 1975

27 **Moving on Up**
Residential elevators from Total Access provide the solution to mobility challenges with added luxury and convenience

28 **Preparing for Spring**
Landscaping isn't just for the warm-weather months, and area experts have plenty of advice to ensure that the outdoor oasis of your dreams comes to life once spring has sprung



EXPERT ROOFING

Need A New Roof?



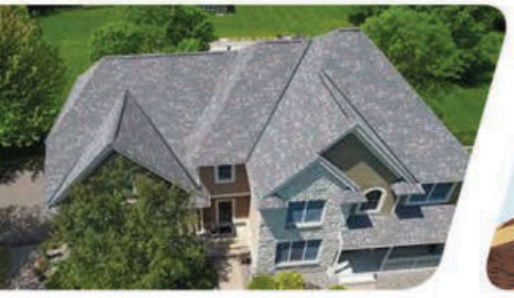
PRE-SEASON SPECIAL

$500 OFF

ANY RE-ROOF OVER **$10,000**

NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. ONE PER CUSTOMER.

GUARANTEE BEST PRICE GUARANTEE







We Do It All

· New Roofs · Flat Roofs · Asphalt Shingle Roofing · Tile Roofs
· Storm, Wind, Hail Damage · Structural Repair
· Tear off and Roof Replacement · Commercial Roofing

GAF CERTIFIED ROOFER

FREE QUOTE: 833-329-0912

ExpertRoofingCompany.com | ExpertRoofing15@gmail.com

NJ License#: 13VH11402500 | PA License#: PA163248

HOUSE & HOME
YOUR #1 RESOURCE AND DESIGN MAGAZINE SINCE 1999
housemagazine.com

PUBLISHER
Edward P. McCartney

EDITOR
Peter Proko

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Liz Hunter

ASSISTANT EDITORS
Matt Cosentino, Madeleine Maccar

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Leigh Stuart, Erica Young

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Hank Alspach

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Brian Mikulski

DESIGNERS
Abby Lurty, Dori Shields, Lisa Zollinger

ACCOUNTING DIRECTOR
Darlene Versak

SALES DIRECTOR
Lindsay Gonzalez

SALES MANAGER
Jim Romano

NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPER
Chuck McKane

MARKETING CONSULTANTS
Kristine Di Nardo, Rochelle Dodge, Frank Liantonio,
Bonnie Remmey, Lori Vorgang, Amy B. Weiss

ACCOUNTANT
Max Haggerty

DIGITAL MEDIA DIRECTOR
Leigh Stuart

PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Bob Doran

EXECUTIVE PARTNERS
Gerry Haggerty, Edward P. McCartney

HOUSE & HOME

HOUSE & HOME Magazine, LLC, dba *HOUSE & HOME ("H&H"). H&H* reserves the right to determine the suitability of all materials submitted for publication and to edit all submitted materials for clarity and space. *H&H* is not responsible for loss, damage or any other injury to unsolicited manuscripts, unsolicited artwork or any other unsolicited materials. Furthermore, *H&H* will assume that unsolicited photographs, as well as ad photographs, are being submitted for possible publication and should they be published, no fee is due the photographer or model unless otherwise agreed upon in advance in writing.

HOUSE & HOME is a news magazine with emphasis on home repair and remodeling. *H&H* does not knowingly accept false or misleading advertising or editorial content, nor does *H&H* or its staff, editors or writers assume responsibility should such advertising or editorial content appear in any publications. Readers are encouraged to notify H&H if they suspect false or misleading advertising.

Before attempting any renovation or repair project mentioned in *H&H,* readers are advised to consult with professional home repair and renovation specialists for assistance, and to take any and all appropriate safety precautions.

HOUSE & HOME has not independently tested any products or services advertised herein and has verified no claims made by its advertisers regarding those services or products. *HOUSE & HOME.* makes no warranties or representations and assumes no liability for any claims regarding those services or products or claims made by advertisers regarding such products or services. Readers are advised to consult with the advertiser and/or other home repair and renovation professionals regarding any such claims and regarding the suitability of an advertiser's products.

No reproduction of printed materials is permitted without the consent of the publisher of *HOUSE & HOME.* Copyright 2012 by *HOUSE & HOME.* Magazine, LLC, all rights reserved. Subscription available for home delivery at our website, www.HouseMagazine.com, at a cost of $19.95 per year.

National Sales Office:
HOUSE & HOME Magazine, LLC
700 E. Main St.
Norristown, PA 19401
Phone: 610-272-3120 Fax: 610-272-2805
Email: info@housemagazine.com

Regional Editions:
Bucks County *HOUSE & HOME* – **PA**
Central Jersey *HOUSE & HOME* – **NJ**
Delaware *HOUSE & HOME* – **DE**
DelChester/Main Line West *HOUSE & HOME* – **PA**
Montco/Main Line East *HOUSE & HOME* – **PA**
Northern Jersey *HOUSE & HOME* – **NJ**
South Jersey *HOUSE & HOME* – **NJ**

Visit www.HouseMagazine.com to view digital versions of each of the above editions.

Find us on Facebook
www.snipr.com/househome

Follow us on twitter
www.twitter.com/housemagazine

NKBA The Kitchen & Bath Professionals

HBA

ASID American Society of Interior Designers INDUSTRY PARTNER

NARI MEMBER

AAF

Get the free mobile app at
http://gettag.mobi





Home Trimwork™

Making Your Home "A Model Home"

BEST of HOUSE & HOME 2021

You Deserve The Best

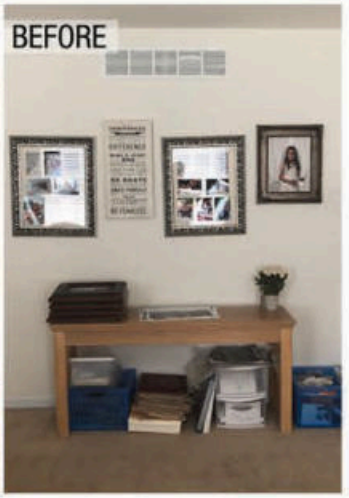


Limited time offer!
5% Discount coupon for any project.
18 Months 0% financing available.

Crown Molding • Wainscot • Archways
Window Molding • Picture Frames
Raised Panels • Fireplace Mantels
Bookcases • Stairs • Iron Balusters
Wood Floors • Interior Painting
And More!







FREE DESIGN CONSULTATION!

Home Trimwork™

Making Your Home "A Model Home"

609.206.8621

www.hometrimwork.com

Financing Available.
No Interest For 18 Months!

#NJ:13VH05107600 PA: 003315 DE: 2006203461

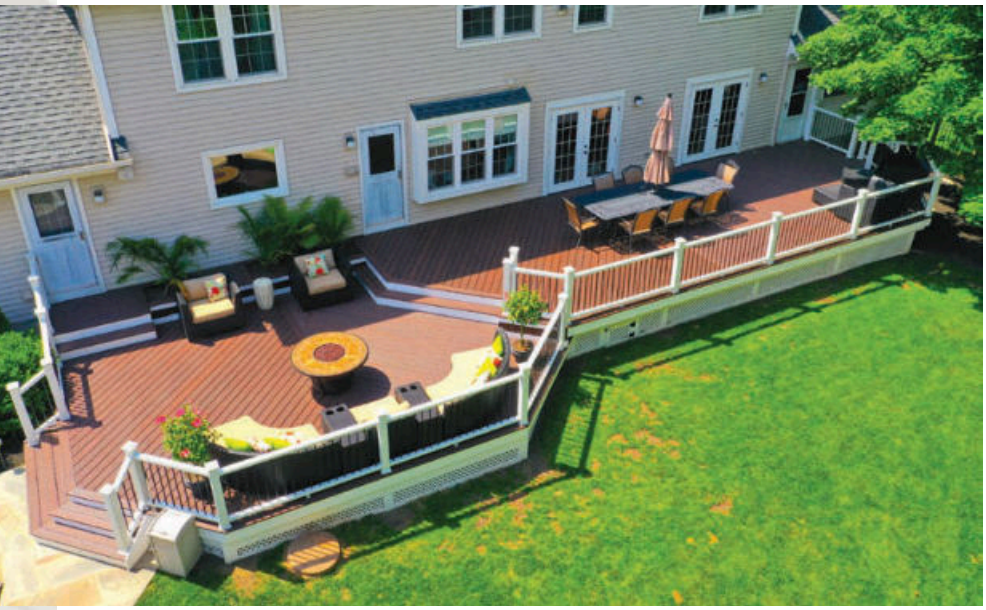
DECK GUARDIAN
Somerset, N.J. | (908) 332-8616 | DeckGuardian.com

WHILE OTHER DECK BUILDERS WAIT FOR MATERIALS, **Deck Guardian** HAS SUCCESSFULLY PREPARED FOR THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES.

In Stock for Summer

by Liz Hunter





Three years ago, decking materials could be delivered within two weeks of the order, but the past two years have created unprecedented challenges in the supply chain for everyone. Deck contractors have been overwhelmed with requests and some were even booked out for a full year due to material shortages.

Deck Guardian, however, has bucked this trend and adjusted to these new market normals with proper preparation and planning. This sort of innovative thinking has been a hallmark of Deck Guardian's operations, founded by Ion Colbasiuc in 2008.

When Colbasiuc started in the industry, he was primarily performing maintenance on decks until he saw the need for a construction company that could bridge the gap between high-end deck builders and those who wanted a more simple deck design. "The market only contained companies doing projects of $200,000 or more, versus companies with a small crew that were notorious for taking your deposit and disappearing," he says. "There was no one in between who could build a high-quality deck with good products at a good price, but with or without all of the bells and whistles."

All too many times Colbasiuc has been called in to replace a deck that homeowners already spent good money on. "People will hire companies based on the materials they are offering, but just because they are offering Trex doesn't mean they know how to install it properly. Not everyone with a saw and hammer can build a deck. Installation is half of the project, and unless it's correct, it doesn't matter the brand, but homeowners think they are saving money and end up realizing that the contractor cut corners," he says. "It's so important to check the reputation of the deck company and talk to other customers about their experience. You're not only buying the material, but the service too. This kind of project is something you only want to pay for one time."

Customers who are looking for a deck this summer must start planning and hiring now, he continues. "Although other deck companies may be booked out for six months to a year, we don't expect to have more than two or three months' wait once the spring rush starts."

Deck Guardian has worked with suppliers to make this possible, pre-ordering the most popular colors on decking and railing products. "Clients tend to stick in the same family of natural wood tones for their decks, so we've invested in those colors and as long as customers select from our stock materials, we will be able to build right away without waiting," Colbasiuc says. "We do still have the ability to order outside of these colors, but that would be a longer turnaround. … If you're ready to enjoy your deck in the spring, we can make it happen."

Not only is Deck Guardian stocked with supplies, but Colbasiuc has also increased staff to put more crews in the field. "We added to our staff to keep us prepared for the demand while other companies are short staffed."

Colbasiuc encourages homeowners not to hesitate on planning. "Do some research about what you want, how much space you need so when you call for estimates you have an idea to present. You don't want to get one estimate then add a feature then have to wait for that second estimate, which just increases the lead time," he says.

With Deck Guardian on the project, homeowners can feel confident in their decision, and will soon be enjoying sunsets and dinner on their new deck. H&H

Crafted with Ultrex® Fiberglass - the PERFECT window material

GLOBAL HOME IMPROVEMENT

INFINITY from MARVIN
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
Built for life



DISCOVER INFINITY FIBERGLASS WINDOWS & DOORS FROM MARVIN



ULTREX® MITERED CORNERS



VINYL WELDED CORNERS

- 8X Stronger Than Vinyl
- Narrow Frame is Ideal for Replacement Windows
- Low Expansion Contraction Prevents Seal Failure
- Non-porous and 100% Moisture Resistant
- LIFETIME MATERIAL & LABOR GUARANTEE
- Expert Installation with the option for Replacement Style or Full Frame Window Installation Methods

10% OFF + 24 MONTHS OF 0% INTEREST FINANCING

ON ALL INFINITY FIBERGLASS WINDOWS & DOORS FROM MARVIN!

Subject to Credit Approval & Terms & Conditions. Cannot be combined with other offers, existing orders or special financing.

Call 866-735-1121 • NO-HASSLE ESTIMATES • Globalhomeinc.com

UNDER THE SURFACE

Rocco La Vecchia and the team at **Granite Surfaces** use in-depth knowledge to match clients' visions with the perfect stone surface for any project and price point. *by* **Leigh Stuart**



In the world of stone fabrication and design, there is no shortage of choices. From an ever-growing selection of materials, both natural and man-made, to the vast array of applications in residential and commercial spaces, this area of home improvement marries the best of classic style and cutting-edge design—if a client knows who to call, that is.

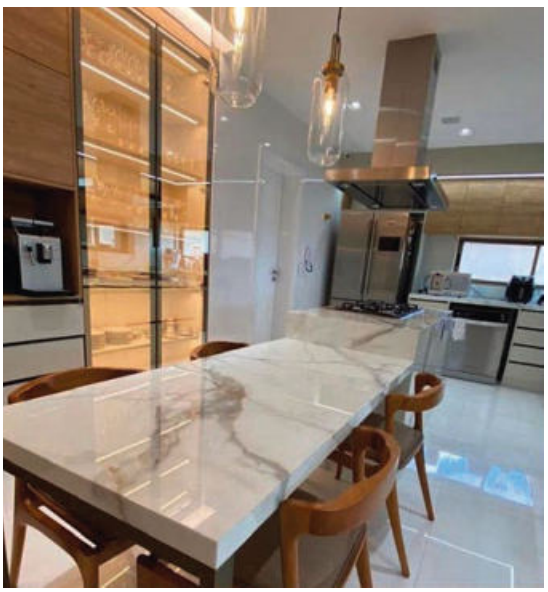
For those in the know, Granite Surfaces in Middlesex can provide the utmost in selection as well as a skilled team comprising everyone from design consultants to top-notch contracting pros, all led by seasoned home improvement pro Rocco La Vecchia.

Choosing a pattern and stone best suited for a certain space in the home can appear a simple task on the surface, but in reality, materials such as porcelain, marble, onyx, quartz, quartzite, limestone, soapstone, granite—all of which Granite Surfaces carries—have unique properties all their own.

For example, granite has long been an industry-leading choice for sturdy countertops that can stand the test of time. But, as technology evolves, so does the variety of man-made materials growing in popularity for a range of uses.

"Quartz is one of the man-made products," La Vecchia explains. "It's really easy to care for, doesn't require sealer, and comes with so many choices in the lighter gray and white colors that are in style right now. But, for uniqueness, the natural stone quartzite is excellent.

"The movement of the stone is very clean," he continues. "It's almost like marble, but it's much harder than granite. It's one of the much rarer stones and is going to be one-of-a-kind conversation pieces. I call them nature-made art."



Advances in porcelain have also boosted the popularity of this particular material. In fact, digital printing technology has advanced so much that man-made porcelain slabs can now mimic the look of real stone flawlessly.

"Quartz can't copy that," La Vecchia says. "This material also doesn't require sealer, and you can put hot pots directly on the surface. This makes it great for kitchens inside and outside."

Soapstone, which has a similar rigidity to marble, is another excellent choice because of its ease of cleaning and care. It doesn't require sealant and like porcelain, can stand up to hot pans. It's so heat-resistant that many people choose this stone for their fireplaces, too.

Onyx, a rare natural treasure found in limestone caves, has features some might never think possible for a stone. Its translucence makes it an excellent carrier for light, including backlit bar countertops, for example, and its elusiveness makes this amongst the most opulent stone choices around.

It's no wonder that from kitchens to baths, commercial spa spaces to residential countertops, stone surfaces have become and are poised to remain a home improvement favorite. All a client needs is the desire to transform a space and, regardless of personal style or price point, La Vecchia and the team at Granite Surfaces can help find the perfect stone to suit the task. **H&H**



GRANITE SURFACES
368 Lincoln Blvd. | Middlesex, N.J.
(732) 627-9200
Granite-Surfaces.com | SurfacesNJ.com

ALWAYS IN

While some industries ebb and flow with the seasons, **kitchen and bathroom remodels** remain a leading area of home improvement all year long.



DEMAND

BY MATT COSENTINO



Photo courtesy of Amiano & Son Design-Build

When the ground is frozen and snow is in the forecast every other week, it makes it difficult for contractors to be building an outdoor living space or working on a pool installation. Conversely, the middle of summer isn't an ideal time to be replacing a roof given the extreme temperatures. Certain industries inevitably have their down times throughout the year, but there are two particular home improvement projects that never seem to come to a halt: kitchen and bathroom renovations.

"We dip down a little bit during the holiday season, typically mid-December to mid-January, but this year that dip was just around Christmas—it picked right back up in the new year," says Linda Fennessy of Kitchen Magic. "We've been seeing it continuously. We have a lot of work and our backlog is as big as it's ever been. The orders are there and we're working to get them installed as quickly as possible."

Increased time at home as a result of the pandemic has led to even more remodeling than normal, and kitchens and baths have lived up to their reputation as the most popular rooms to refresh.

"Now more than ever, kitchens and bathrooms … are a large part of our business," says Vic Fiore of Magnolia Home Remodeling Group. "It's a 12-month, steady flow of people looking to get prices, ideas and consultations."

The planning phase remains crucial to the process, and an experienced firm can assist greatly in setting the budget and expectations. *House & Home* spoke to several local professionals to get their tips and find out what trends to look for in 2022.

DEVISING A PLAN

Homeowners taking the leap to renovate a kitchen or bathroom have plenty of options, but finding a company that provides both design and construction services can make life a lot easier. That is especially true when it comes to a complete makeover of the space.

"A major kitchen remodel is not a straight A to B path," says David Cerami of HomeTech Renovations. "You need a plan and someone who can integrate everything into a fluid design and help you personalize it."

Sophia Amiano of Amiano & Son Design-Build believes education is an important part of the initial meeting with a customer. The average homeowner is not aware, for example, of the expenses involved when compiling a wish list for their new kitchen or master bathroom.

"Everybody goes into a project already having an amount in mind," she says. "We show them what we can do for the project and the work scope within that investment amount. We simply inform them on the market, on certain product costs, maybe how we can help keep costs down, just so that they're getting more realistic information. Sometimes Google can be very inaccurate and that will be a homeowner's first go-to when looking for information."

Fiore's first priority when meeting with a client is establishing a framework for pricing, which of course will ultimately be dependent upon their material selections. He also gets to know the customer's vision for the space.

"We always ask people what their needs and wants are, if they have any inspiration, pictures or examples of things they know they want or don't want," he says. "We put together a plan taking into account their feedback but also really what we think will work best. Then we work with the homeowner to fine-tune the plan, make sure it's their own and what they want."

"[The first appointment is] basically a fact-finding meeting," Fennessy adds. "We ask how they use the kitchen, are there multiple cooks, how big is their family, do they find it functional, what are the challenges, do they like the color, how long have they been in the home and how long do they plan on staying. Then we make our solutions

based on their budget. We have them pick colors and styles and give them a price quote."

Amiano wonders how any project could get accomplished without detailed planning in place. Her family's company follows long-held procedures for every job, to help prevent hidden costs or anticipate issues that may arise.

"The reason we've built our process to the way we have over the years is for that exact reason, because if you don't properly plan and put a project together from the get-go before jumping into construction, hiccups are bound to happen," she says. "Construction is already a process as it is and it's never 100% perfect, no matter how much upfront legwork you do, especially in today's day and age when you have delays. If we didn't do all that work in the beginning, I don't even know how you would get a project together.

"We pick out all the materials up front, we design the space as close to the measurements as we can get, we even do an onsite visit prior to signing the contract just to verify those measurements and that the layout is going to work properly. … We take pride as a company that we do those steps and we really limit those hidden costs that can happen in construction."

BUILDING THE DREAM KITCHEN

One of the most important decisions in a kitchen remodel centers on cabinetry. White kitchens have been popular for years and although color has been introduced more lately, Fennessy does not anticipate white going away.

"I opened up a Houzz 2022 report [recently] and it definitely mimicked what we're seeing: People are still choosing our whites—antique white, frosty white and satin white—and those are our most popular colors," she says. "While I hear the woods are coming back, I don't see it yet, only in our older demographics. Flat color is popular; we do sell a lot of colonial blue. Gray is second and we've just added a moss green to our offering, and that is by customer demand. Our in-house designer said we absolutely had to add it to our offering because it's everywhere and it's going to be very popular. But whites are still king."

Amiano saw a great push for colored cabinetry in 2021, particularly in the blue family. But the trend has not lasted long, at least with her clients.

"In this new year with all of the jobs we have coming in, we have a lot of people who want natural elements," she says. "I've done some research on it and that's where they're predicting everything to go. In the last couple of years more people have been working from home and they've been in the house more, so people want that natural and organic feel. I have people who want wood tones and soft gray cabinets, and natural or sage colors for the wall. I see it falling more in that direction than going too bold with color."

Color can be used in a way where it does not dominate the entire room, however.

"We're doing color for islands," Fiore says. "Some people will do the perimeter in one color and the island in another, or they'll do different colors for the upper and lower [cabinets], which is becoming more popular. … We're also doing a lot of open shelving. Is it here to stay? I don't know, but you can incorporate open shelving into a traditional design and it works nicely. It breaks up a wall of all cabinets."

Amiano suggests that stacked cabinetry can have the same effect. "Maybe you have a 36-inch cabinet on the bottom with a 12-inch cabinet on top. It looks super elegant," she says. "A lot of people will make the top cabinet glass for a decorative design feature; I've had quite a few kitchens where we've done that."

For those looking to keep costs down, Cerami and Fennessy agree there are many benefits to cabinet refacing. "We've really seen an uptick in that," Fennessy says. "They'll reface it because they're sick of looking at their outdated kitchen, and refacing offers a cost savings as well as quick transformation in color and style."

Five to 10 years ago, granite was the hot word when it came to kitchen countertops, but quartz has replaced it as the go-to material. "It's mostly all quartz [because of] maintenance and consistency," Fiore says. "If you have veining, it's a consistent look, whereas granite has a lot more variation. You can get the look of a natural stone and it's amazing. The options out there are incredible."

Another kitchen trend is to create a statement with the backsplash, compared to the past when it was used more to complement other elements in the room.

"We used to sell subway tile all day long in the ceramic, but people are asking for more elaborate styles and patterns," Fennessy says. "So we're adding lantern and octagon and geometric shapes. People are getting the lighter quartz countertops, the whites, so they're not as busy and it's the backsplash that is the star of the remodel. … You can introduce color, you can do busy patterns. It's eye-level and people want to make it the showstopper."

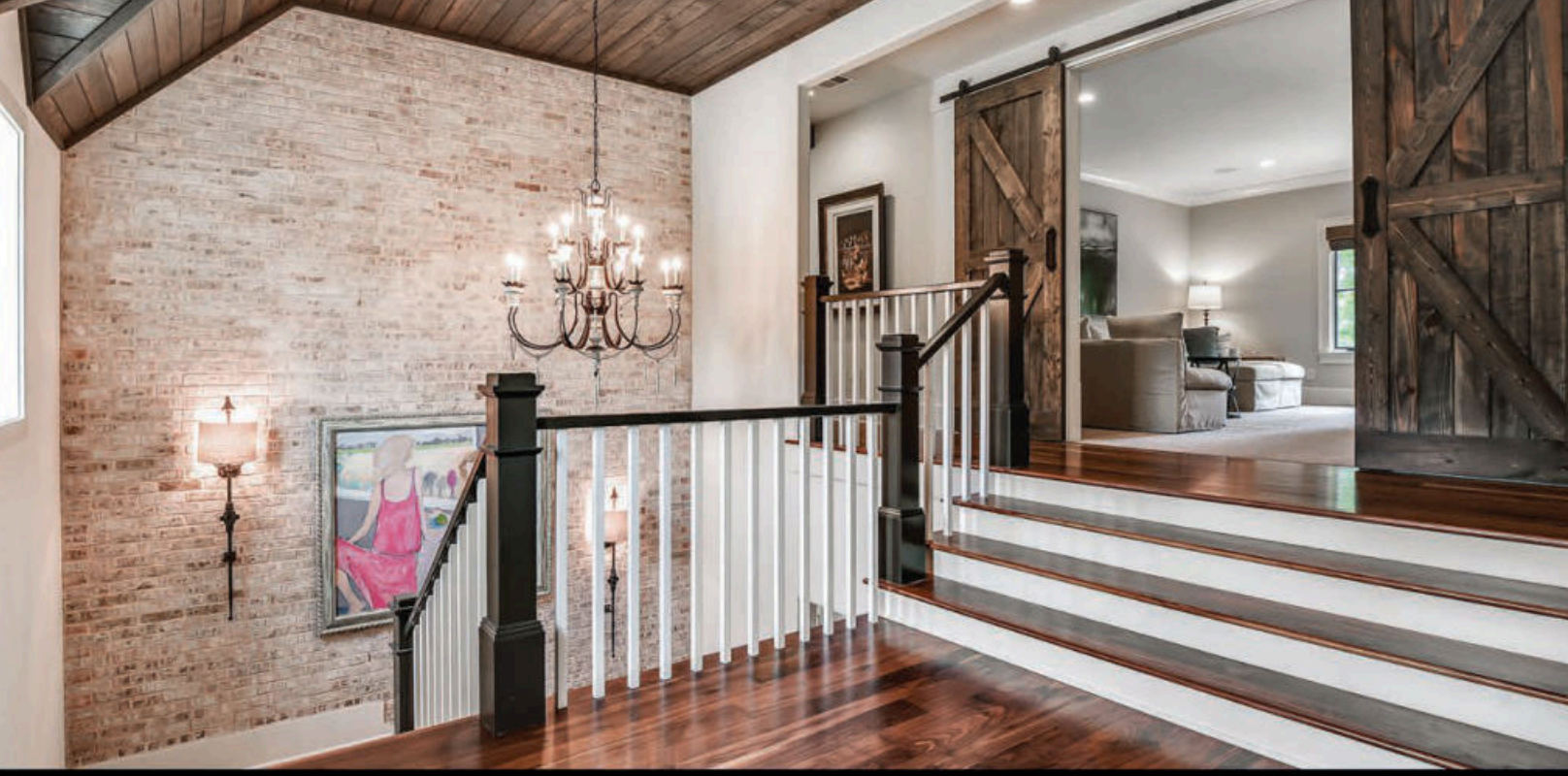


Photo courtesy of Kitchen Magic

A SPA-LIKE RETREAT

For some time now, many homeowners have looked to recreate the feel of a spa or luxury hotel in their master bathroom. For Cerami, that usually starts with removing the large, builder's-grade tub that is rarely utilized and using that space for the shower instead.

"The No. 1 request we get is to increase the size of the shower and the functionality of the shower," he says. "Why wouldn't you want a shower that is more like a spa experience? It can have a rain showerhead, a handheld showerhead, body sprays or room to sit down. People want more of that human car wash experience with beautiful tile surrounds, a space that is



ASK ABOUT OUR

THIN TEC SYSTEM

FOR EASY INSTALL OF THIN BRICK

- GENUINE THIN BRICK
- FULL SIZE BRICK
- HANDMADE BRICK
- MANUFACTURED STONE VENEER
- THIN NATURAL STONE VENEER

BEFORE YOU PAINT OR WALLPAPER THAT WALL — CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES WITH ...

GENUINE THIN BRICK







AIA ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Riverside Supply Company

Welcome masons, general contractors, architects, home builders, landscapers and homeowners.

CALL:
732-257-3434

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM:
6 Washington Rd., Sayreville, NJ 08872

VISIT:
rsc-nj.com





well-lit and modern amenities."

Fiore is getting the same request from his customers, along with oversized vanities and heated floors. Cerami adds that those who still want a tub can opt for a freestanding one that is almost like a piece of art and has visual appeal. To that end, Amiano recently designed a master bath that certainly stands out.

"We just did a project where we actually incorporated the tub into the shower, so it's a drop-in tub in the shower," she says. "We did granite at the top to coordinate with the granite on the vanity top, and it looks really neat. I also do a lot of the freestanding tubs. Most people if they can fit it still want a tub, but the idea is to make a bigger shower so it's like a hotel or luxury feel to it."

She adds that no-entry showers are also in demand, especially for older homeowners who want to ensure safety without having to step over a curb. Linen cabinets within the bathroom are popular as well, so that towels can be accessible without walking down the hall.

THE FINAL WORD

Renovating a kitchen or bathroom is a major project and homeowners should know what to expect when beginning one. But with the right plan and team of professionals in their corner, the end result can be life changing.

"Understand that they are probably the two more costly projects to get involved with, especially if you're going to go all in, meaning you're going to strip the room and upgrade the plumbing, electrical, insulation, drywall and then start your finishes," Fiore advises. "But if it's done right, there is a return on your investment, not only in terms of house value but enjoyment and day-to-day use. The mistake that some people make is not setting a sufficient budget and not being 100% satisfied with the finished product. You really need to have a budget that is realistic in terms of the space and what needs to be done.

"You might want to wait until you can properly budget for a whole room renovation. You can minimize your cost and just do a little facelift until your budget allows for the full gut. You don't want to spend too much and you don't want to spend too little. We try to find a good balance of budget and scope, and you also have to take into account how many years you plan on living in the house and what your long-term goals are. Not everybody needs a custom gourmet kitchen with $50,000 appliances. Everyone has to make sure they're comfortable with the entire scope, budget and material selection." H&H

RESOURCES

Amiano & Son Design-Build
Tabernacle, N.J.
(609) 268-5923
AmianoAndSon.com

HomeTech Renovations
Lower Gwynedd, Pa.
(215) 646-7477
HTRenovations.com

Kitchen Magic
Serving N.J., Pa. and Del.
(800) 510-4710
KitchenMagic.com

Magnolia Home Remodeling Group
Union, N.J.
(855) 624-6655
MagnoliaHomeRemodeling.com



New Pools

Give your old pool a new look with the latest features, functions and materials. Add the hydrotherapy spa that you always wanted or simply replace the worn plaster, tile and coping, a full range of options is available.

Put some tropical escape back into your suburban sprawl. This perfect oasis is no mirage but the ideal transformation of your yard to the spot where everyone gathers to enjoy.

Stun your neighbors and attain a level of sophistication that you have always dreamed of. Your yard is now ready for everything from cocktail parties to barbecues and birthdays.



Renovations



Stylish

Swim-Mor Pools & Spas is a family-owned and -operated business started in 1967 that proudly carries on a tradition of quality in our products. We have an experienced staff that utilizes some of the latest technology to bring to you. Visit or contact one of our three convenient locations for a consultation about building your ideal pool.

SWIM-MOR POOLS & SPAS

Swim-Mor Pools & Spas

Mount Ephraim | (856) 456-3332
Northfield | (609) 645-7171
Millstone Twp. | (732) 446-2211
SwimMor.com

H&H profile

Outdoor Lighting Perspectives

Improve your home's beauty and security with outdoor lighting.

Does your house fade into the night after the sun goes down? Professional outdoor lighting can not only improve your home's curb appeal at night, but it can also add safety and security for your family and guests.

Here are some recommended lighting design elements to consider for your home:

Pathway Lighting

Pathlights direct light downward to showcase pathways and highlight landscaping in low flower beds. Properly illuminating pathways in your front and back yard provides peace of mind that the areas will be safe and beautiful.

Expert tip: Avoid placing the fixtures in a straight line or in grass.



Uplighting

Create that welcoming feeling in the evening hours by uplighting the façade of your home. With uplighting you can highlight those special architectural details that set your home apart from the rest. A lighting expert will ensure that your home's lighting is distributed consistently by selecting the right fixtures, bulbs, location and angles. This attention to detail is the hallmark of a professional lighting design, and often the difference between basic and spectacular lighting.

Lighting for Outdoor Living Spaces

A well-designed lighting plan will help extend your outdoor living all year long. To enjoy your outdoor spaces you need the right lighting that allows you to entertain without creating a harsh glare for your guests, thereby increasing both the usability and functionality of the areas. Additionally, you can choose to highlight certain backyard features, such as perimeter trees to create some depth. With professionally designed landscape lighting the evening hours will soon be your most cherished.

Festive Lighting

What a great way to dress up your patio or pergola to create the perfect entertaining space! String lighting is one way you can provide warm light for your guests during outdoor events and extend the party long into the evening. With a quality dimmer installed by a lighting professional, your string lights can be at full power for a party atmosphere, or soft and casual for a quiet night with the family. Our durable, commercial grade products subtly integrated into your home are designed to stand up to the elements throughout all four seasons.

Specialty Lighting

There are some great options for customizing your outdoor space. Adding our distinctive copper fixtures or custom bollards can lend a unique touch to your lighting design that no one else will have. Under mount deck or hardscape lights blend inconspicuously by day, but give off a soft glow in the evening hours. Step or strip lighting can be used to both increase safety and add architectural highlights. Moonlighting an area can provide downlight through trees to create a beautiful dappled design with a warm, natural effect. These are just a few of the fixtures and techniques we can use to customize your outdoor space.

Choosing a Professional Lighting Expert

Expertly designed outdoor lighting can truly transform your home into a work of art and allow you to enjoy the outdoors long after the sun goes down. In addition to the initial installation you will need a reliable partner to support continued maintenance services. When looking for professional outdoor lighting, there are several items to consider:

- Reputable company
- Extensive design knowledge and expertise
- A custom lighting plan
- High quality products
- Impeccable installation standards
- All-inclusive warranties
- Ongoing service and maintenance support H&H





With over 125,000 installations, **Outdoor Lighting Perspectives** is America's most trusted full-service professional outdoor lighting company. For a complimentary design consultation, **call Ron and Kelly Hoffmann** at **(732) 554-0778** or **visit CentralNJ.OutdoorLights.com.**

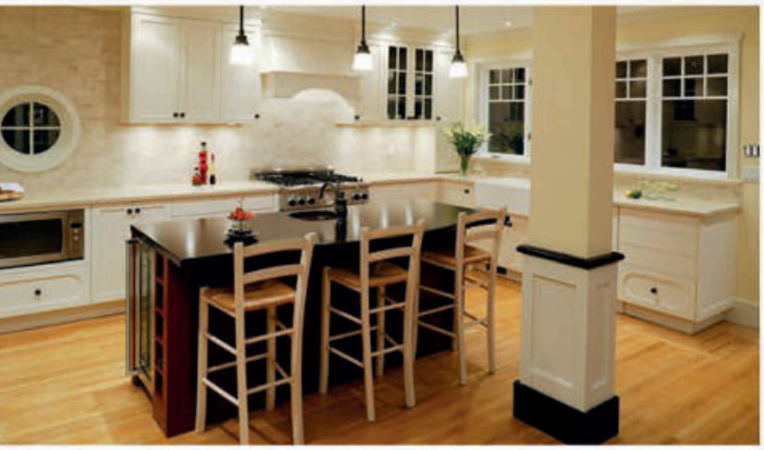
NEW JERSEY HOME & GARDEN SHOW™

Get Inspired For Spring

FEBRUARY 25–27

New Jersey Convention & Expo Center

Friday 3pm–8pm • Saturday 10am–7pm • Sunday 10am–5pm





100+ Exhibitors

Everything for Inside & Outside Your Home

Marketplace Shopping

Kids Activities



Meet
Doreen Stovenour
from
Did You Know DIY

Sponsored by:

PSE&G

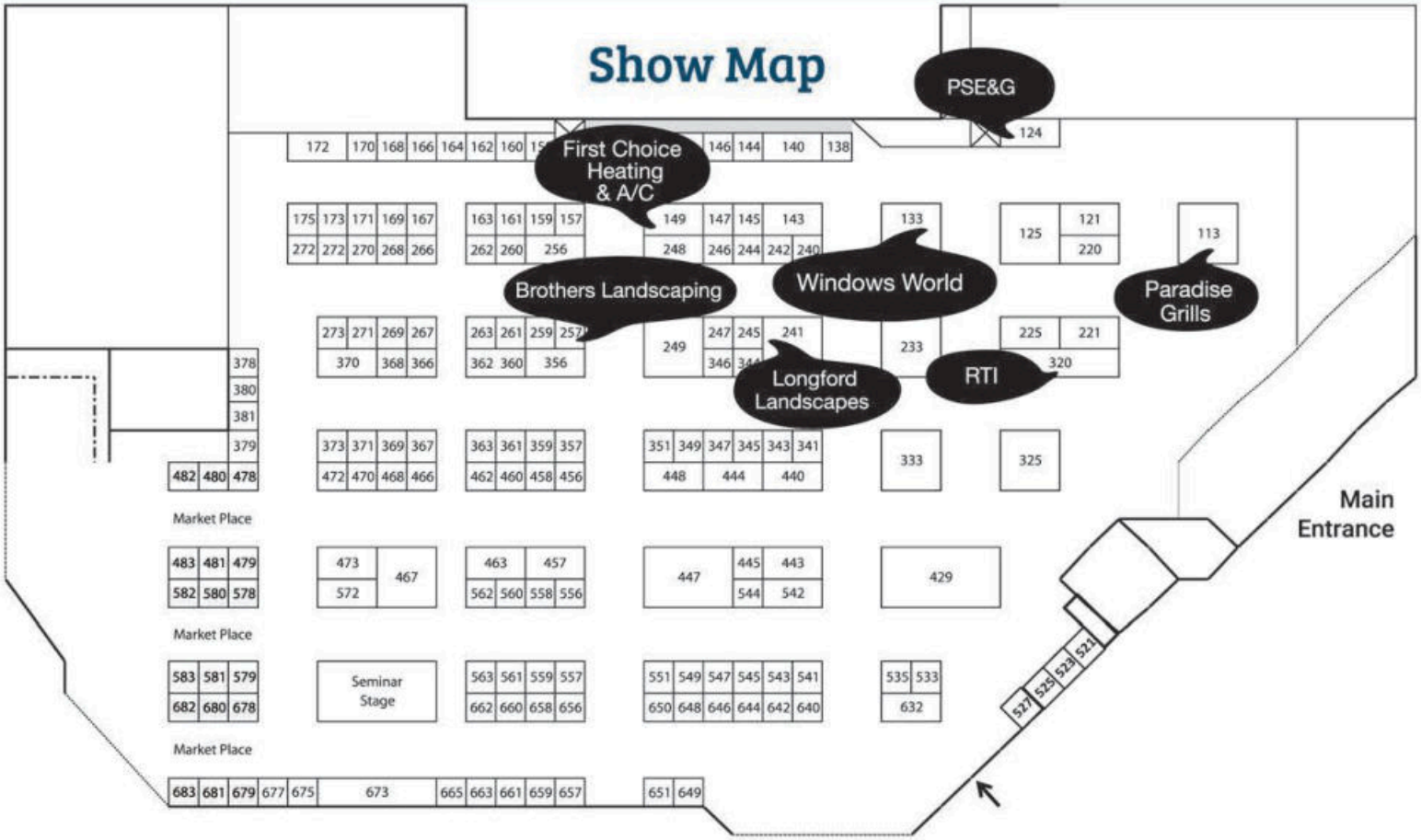
Central Jersey's FIRST CHOICE HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

BUY TICKETS ONLINE WITH CODE SPRING & SAVE $3 ON TICKETS

Buy tickets online at NewJerseyHomeShow.com. Offer only valid online. Not accepted at box office.
Discount only available when buying tickets online at NewJerseyHomeShow.com.

NEW JERSEY HOME & GARDEN SHOW™

Show Map





Doreen Stovenour – Did You Know DIY

Moms need a creative outlet and this one loves to make up songs and tell people what to do and how to do it. Come learn tidbits for reuse/recycling of common household products and generally make life easier.

Show Times

Friday	5 PM
Saturday	11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM and 5 PM
Sunday	11 AM, 1 PM and 3 PM

For more show information, visit www.NewJerseyHomeShow.com

Exhibitor List

NEW JERSEY HOME & GARDEN SHOW™

Company	Booth #
A&M Merchandising, Inc.	268
ACRE Windows & Doors	175
ADT Security	TBA
AGL DBA ULTRA PURE	440
All American Gutter Protection	TBA
ALLSTATE Wolff Family Agency	247
American Home Remodeling Inc.	557
American Quality Remodeling	356
Andrew Bevington State Farm Agency	163
Architecturally Organized	138
Awning Design	157
Balic Winery	248
Bamboo Life	549
Beverly Hills Innovation	540
Brothers Landscaping	257
Butch's Hot Stuff Hot Sauce	Market
Castle Windows	161
Christmas Decor	221
Conserva Irrigation	TBA
Corbin Electrical Services, Inc	341
Cruise Planners - LetsGlobetrot	361
Cutco Cutlery	472
De' Vora	Market
Debbie's Doggie Delights LLC	Market
Decorating Dreams LLC	TBA
Deer Solution	462
Double D's Doggie Delights	473
Empire BBQ Cleaning	343
First Choice Heating & A/C	149
Functionised	140
Garden State Brickface & Siding	263
GoSunfire	TBA
Got-Stuff.net	220
Grapevine Pro	225
Green Power Energy	273
Gutter Helmet by Harry Helmet	TBA
Hawaiian Moon	TBA
Hillsborough Edison Overhead Doors	TBA
HOME AND GARDEN NJ	445
Home Improvement Guide	346
Home Improvement Seminar Stage	567
Home Protection of America	357
Homestar Remodeling	121
House & Home Magazine	TBA
Humble Warrior	Market
Innate Living	TBA
J. Miller Designs	Market
J.W. Shuster & Son, Inc.	272
Kepo Siding & Windows	467
Land Sculpture, LLC	TBA
Laura's Raw Honey	Market
Leaf Guard	TBA
LeafFilter North, Inc.	244
Liberty Safes of New Jersey	148
LOK DESIGNS LLC	333
Longford Landscapes & Excavation	241
Luci's Pet Pantry	Market
Luxury Bath njpa	233
Mattress Firm	447
Medusa's Statues	Market
Momentum Solar	533
National Fence Systems	141
Natural Stone Kitchen And Bath LLC	TBD
Nectar of the Vine	480
New Jersey Deer Control®, LLC	259
Nicholas Gakos, ASLA	146
NJHMFA	363
NOMPI Gardening Gloves	678
O'Gorman Brothers Bath Fitter	172
Orbit Energy & Power	444
ORGANIX	370
Out of the Woods	478
Paradise Grills	113
Paul Davis Restoration	TBA
Pleasant Valley Promotions	667
Popcorn For The People- Let's Work For Good	Market
PosiGen Solar | Energy Efficiency | Roofing	457
Power Home Remodeling	632
Precision Tech Home Services	441
Pro-Fit Outdoor Living	429
PSE&G	124
Renewal by Andersen	325
Richmond Tile	256
Rollin Thunder Home Accents	584
RTI Builders LLC	320
Savvy Fit Soaps by TASCOFit	583
Scentsy	578
Shen Yun Promotion International	371
Solar Energy World	TBA
Soldier Solutions LLC	TBA
Speedy Storm Door	351
Sundance Vacations	TBA
Superior Sleep Experience	125
the Bag Shop	Market
The Hungry Puppy	378
The Scent Garden LLC	485
The Tile Store	TBA
Tri-State Windows & Doors	456
True Honey Teas	Market
Vendor Palooza	Hall D
Venture Solar	373
Victory Home Remodeling	541
Window World of Jersey Coast	133
Word of Mouth	Market
Working Dogs K9 Academy	TBA
Zuzu Confections	579
Zwilling J. A. Henckels	158

*Exhibitor List as of February 1st, 2022

For more show information, visit www.NewJerseyHomeShow.com

NEW JERSEY HOME & GARDEN SHOW™

Furnace Giveaway

CALL CAPTAIN COMFORT!
Central Jersey's
FIRST CHOICE
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
848-200-7600

Enter to win a Trane Gas Furnace valued at over $7,000.

Enter at www.newjerseyhomeshow.com.

Free installation is included if the system is installed in Middlesex, Somerset, Monmouth, Hunterdon and Union County.
No purchase necessary.



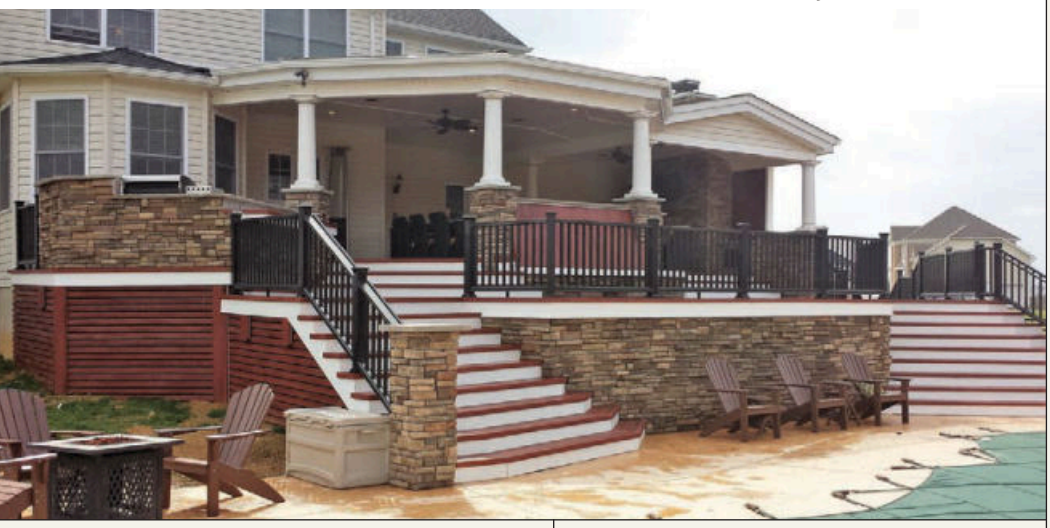
For more show information, visit www.NewJerseyHomeShow.com



Founded in 1975, Legends Home Improvements has made a name for itself by delivering high-quality work both inside and outside the home—and it's a reputation that Bill Lecorchick Jr. is happy to uphold.

A One-Stop Shop for Two Generations

by **Madeleine Maccar**



Legends Home Improvements has earned its reputation as a reliable builder driven by high standards since 1975 when Bill Sr. started the company. Bill Sr. always looked for the next innovation to set himself apart from the rest and his passion inspired his son, Bill Lecorchick Jr., to join him in the workforce.

Learning from his father and growing up around home improvement weren't just assets in shaping Lecorchick's high professional standards.

"I've been full-time out here for 26 years, and before that I was working for my father on holidays and summers since I was 11. I've seen just about everything," the younger Lecorchick says.

That adolescent experience was the training ground he needed to turn those inevitable beginner's missteps into a trial-and-error education that provided the foundation of the expertise and experience he brings to every job.

"It was lots and lots of practice," he says. "It's not easy. It was literally decades of practice working under my father, both at home and at work, because it was no different at home or at work: Do it right and do it once. And if you don't do it right the first time then you go back and do it until you get it right."

These days, he relishes the personal rewards of improving someone's home.

"We build decks, we do outdoor kitchens, roofs, fireplaces, fire pits. We're doing or remodeling kitchens, basements and bathrooms, including the tile work. We have people who take care of all the trades so my customers only have to talk to me. I schedule and set up everything," says Lecorchick. "This type of work is not just 'If you read a book, you know the answers.' You might be able to learn the basics that way, but it really is all about having the patience, experience and vision for the entire project before you begin."

Having reliable vendors and tradesmen keeps the Legends showroom well-stocked, as well as ensures that the builder remains a year-round, one-stop shop.

"When we go to contract is when I start making phone calls prepping our vendors and subcontractors for what we need and when we'll need it—whereas if you hire multiple people, you can't manage all the stages of the project because you're waiting on everyone's different schedules and their material orders," Lecorchick explains.

Being able to offer both indoor and outdoor project options means that Legends is ready to help homeowners get started on any vision they have for their home at any time.

"I've had appointments with customers in October and when I tell them we can probably start in February, they're surprised we work in the winter," says Lecorchick.

No matter what part of a house the Legends team is working on, managing homeowners' expectations, delivering updates and fostering open communication is all part of making sure the entire client experience is handled just as expertly and with as much personalized attention as their home itself. Getting to know each client helps the Legends team understand how a family will use its updated spaces and what features will best serve their unique needs.

"Say we're working on an outdoor kitchen: I'll talk to them about how they're going to use it," he begins, adding that everything from how frequently a household entertains company to the position of the sun throughout the day can affect that kind of a project. "There's a lot of thought that goes into it, as opposed to just throwing it down and calling it a day: You don't want to put the grill somewhere and find out that you're staring at your neighbors when you're grilling or that you have your back to your party."

"When I take a pile of materials and turn it into the homeowner's vision, it's something I'm proud of," he says. "People enjoy what we do and, for me, that's what it's all about—but my favorite part is when they call us for another project."

After all, the clients themselves are a big reason why two generations of Lecorchicks have been serving New Jersey for almost 50 years. H&H

Legends Home Improvements 43 Brunswick Woods Dr., East Brunswick | (732) 607-4130 | LegendsBuilt.com

Get A New Shower Installed In **1 DAY**

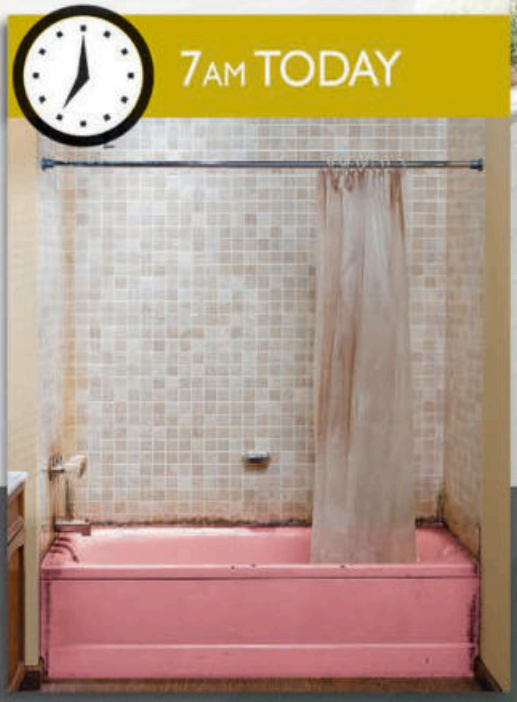
Jacuzzi SHOWER SYSTEMS

50% OFF Installation*

PLUS

NO Down Payment
NO Interest
NO Payments
for 12 months**

4PM TONIGHT





Have your dream Jacuzzi® Shower installed at a price you can afford.

- Fits Your Existing Tub Space
- No Mess Installation
- Amazing Style Selection
- Exclusively from PJ Fitzpatrick



PJ Fitzpatrick
WINDOWS • ROOFING • GUTTERS • DOORS • BATHS

You Can Get a NEW BATH In As Little As ONE DAY!

866-832-7204 • TrustPJ.com

*Off installation portion only. Restrictions apply, see your Home Improvement Consultant for more details. Expires 03/31/22. ** No interest if Paid in full in 12 Months. Subject to qualifying credit approval. No payments and no interest during promotional period. Interest accrues during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid in full before the end of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer credit programs is provided by federally insured, equal opportunity lender banks. NMLS #1416362. Photo for illustrative purposes only, actual products may vary. MD #105494 PA #PA211323 DE #2009603020 NJ #13VH10727200

Moving on Up

Residential elevators from **Total Access** provide the solution to mobility challenges with added luxury and convenience.

by **Liz Hunter**



We take for granted the fact that many appliances around the home were not always standard. Automatic washers and dryers were considered a luxury in the 1930s and microwaves didn't even become mainstream until the late '60s—yet we can't imagine life without them. And if you ask Curt Lampe, co-owner of Total Access Elevators & Lifts, residential elevators are poised to become the next must-have appliance in the home.

Lampe incorporated the company in 1991 with his partner Ted O'Neill. The market for residential elevators was still new, but over the past 30 years, Lampe says the demand has grown tremendously.

"In a lot of new construction, especially at the Shore for the multi-level properties, elevators are being put in automatically," he says. "We're also seeing people who want to age in place investing in an elevator instead of moving out of the home where they raised a family. They can install an elevator without the hassles of selling, packing and moving, and they can stay in their home comfortably."

Elevators appeal to people for a wide range of reasons, whether they want added luxury to their property or have mobility challenges. They can also be used to transport groceries, laundry and other bulky items as well, taking the physical burden off of people and encouraging more independent living.

There is a product to fit any lifestyle and budget, says Lampe. One of the most popular styles right now is the pneumatic vacuum elevator (PVE). Using only air, PVEs require less space and less energy than the traditional in-home elevator with a shaft.

"The PVE uses the same technology as when you go to the bank and send your money through the cylinder. One of the best features of this product is that construction is minimal. It doesn't need to be in a shaft, and we don't need to dig a pit in the basement," O'Neill says. "Technology has come a long way."

These units are also eco-friendly, only using power when going up. Coming down is all gravity. Lampe says some models can connect to your smart home setup as well.





In areas where water might be a concern, the elevators have float switches and homing devices included. "If the unit comes down and hits water, it automatically shuts off. Also, after you take the unit down to the lower level, a homing device brings the unit back up to the highest level after five minutes in the event water could become an issue. It's safest up at the top," Lampe says.

Additional safety measures include light curtains, which can sense if something is operating incorrectly and stop the unit automatically. Doors must also be fully shut for it to run, and if a unit loses power, it can still lower itself to the lowest level so a passenger could exit.

If the design of a home does not allow for a clear passage for the elevator on the interior, an exterior installation will soon be available, says O'Neill. Currently, the company has its first beta test exterior elevator attached to the side of its building, and it's expected to be available for residential installs by October.

Lampe says the time from when the product is ordered until installation is approximately two months, and if it's new construction, the elevator is one of the last things installed.

Throughout the process, homeowners can expect to have any question answered by a knowledgeable team of professionals. "We pride ourselves on the longevity of our employees and sales consultants. Most have at least 14 years' experience each, and both myself and Ted are actively involved in the business every day," Lampe says.

Total Access services all of New Jersey and Delaware; Eastern Pennsylvania (out to State College) and Maryland (down to Baltimore). **H&H**

Total Access Elevators & Lifts (877) 333-LIFT | TotalAccessCo.com

H&H
LANDSCAPING

LANDSCAPING ISN'T JUST FOR THE WARM-WEATHER MONTHS, and area experts have plenty of advice for all the ways you can use the rest of winter to plan, prune and prepare to ensure that the outdoor oasis of your dreams comes to life once spring has sprung.



Preparing for *Spring*

by **Madeleine Maccar**

It's tempting to regard the winter as a temporary reprieve from outdoor projects, especially when the cozy indoors become more and more appealing with every cold snap and snow storm.

But being too lax with your property in the dormant season can come back to haunt you in the spring. By sitting out the winter, you lose out on valuable designing time, an optimal place on professionals' client schedules and staying on top of necessary yard maintenance, to say nothing of the extra work winter neglect can make for you in the spring.

Even just using this time to plan ahead can be a proactive approach to kickstarting your property's yearly transition from cold-weather dormancy to spring's reawakening. "Winter is probably the most ideal time of the year to plan these projects," says Mike Pasquarello of Elite Landscaping. "There is much more added time and attention that can be given to the design phase, with actual installation construction slower due to weather constraints."

As more and more people are bringing the comfort and personal flourishes of their home's interiors outside, they're casting a keen eye on its landscaping and hardscaping potential. Whether your upcoming outdoor projects are major overhauls, more about simple updates or anywhere in between, the region's landscaping professionals have plenty of advice about how you can embrace the winter months to get started, maximize the lifespan of your yard's features and boost your home's overall curb appeal.

Your Property's Plant Life

With the pandemic entering its third year and people still spending more time at home than ever before, they've been able to focus on truly personalizing their living spaces. Some already tackled their major landscaping goals a season or two ago and are focusing on maintenance and upkeep, while others are just now getting around to their outdoor overhaul.

"Homeowners spending more time at home has given us more opportunities to create healthy, beautiful, pest-free living spaces to beautify their property more," confirms Madison Malik of Joshua Tree Experts. "Winter is very important as the beginning of a project's planning stage. We arborists have more time in the winter to really nurture our clients' property and create a great maintenance plan with them moving forward."

Winterizing a living yard actually begins in the fall. That's when it's crucial to lay down a protective layer of "compost or high-end mulch that doesn't introduce new weeds to your garden" to protect plants' root systems from the cold and prevent their soil from drying out in the harsh weather, says Ronni Hock of Ronni Hock Garden & Landscape.

"Snow is actually great for your garden: A blanket of snow on the ground is marvelous because it acts as an extra blanket protecting it from the winter winds, and those winds are what's most damaging to your plant life and soil," she notes.

Unsurprisingly, your yard's soil is a crucial component in determining how exactly your landscaping goals will come to life, as its composition will indicate what kind of foliage will thrive there. Hock points out that


ONE STEP AHEAD.
curved & roofed decks
outdoor fireplaces & kitchens
pergolas & screened porches
Amazing Decks
DECK BUILDERS
Book early and enjoy your deck all summer!
215.654.1886 | anotheramazingdeck.com

winter is a great time to get your soil tested, and says that all kinds of resources offer testing kits, like the bigger tree companies, any county office of Rutgers University's New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension or a local gardening center.

"It's all in the soil: If your soil's not right, nothing is going to grow no matter what you plant in it," she says. "Once you test your soil and send out your sample, you'll get your results back and an explanation of what they mean and what you should be planting."

Ryan Panetta of D. Panetta Contracting says the winter can be a great time to study your property's relationship to the elements.

"Do some research to see how the sun travels across your property," he suggests, adding that websites like SunCalc.org can help in determining things like daylight duration, shadow lengths, average solar paths and more to ensure you're designing natural elements that are harmonious with your unique geographic location and its features.

Take Advantage of the Dormant Season

With winter's bare branches and dormant plant life making parts of your yard more accessible in the cold months, it's also an opportune time to get hands-on and reshape some of your more unwieldy overgrown landscaping elements.

"Winter pruning is great to do during the late winter months, as you really can easily see and evaluate branching habits of a deciduous shrub or tree," says Pasquarello.

"Some tree pruning is optimal to perform in the winter, despite the common misconception that springtime is best," Malik adds. "This includes pruning fruit trees because they become dormant or pruning diseased trees. When it comes to accessing hard-to-reach trees, winter is an optimal time to perform that service—plus, the soil conditions often create a more compact ground, which supports heavy equipment without damaging the lawn."

She also suggests removing dead or dangerous trees, as well as any unsightly stumps. "You'll want to look at mature trees with hazardous deadwood, as well as hazardous oak trees. Tree removals and stump grinding also become ideal in the winter if you are looking to plant a new tree in its place, since it provides plenty of time to prep the area to plant again in the spring. If you wait until spring, the optimal window for planting will have passed."

Panetta notes that a little winter landscaping TLC can be hugely beneficial for plant life once spring returns, whether it's tidying up or introducing native species to your landscaping.

"Starting in the fall through now, it's nice to get all your plant material properly trimmed and pruned back to make sure the snow doesn't do any damage to your plant material," he explains. "Make sure your grass is all cleaned up and there's no grass clippings or leaves on it so when spring comes, it has a better chance to germinate and a better chance to thrive."

"If you're OK with digging through the frozen ground, you can do transplants," Panetta continues. "They'll just kind of stay dormant until springtime, which is when you'll have to revisit them and make sure everything's coming in properly. We've done a lot of pine plantings and spruce plantings this time of year. They're all in their element, so they'll be dormant until they start thriving in the spring."

Some Final Words of Advice

The frozen ground, snowy runoffs, soggy daytime conditions that refreeze at night, and the overall harshness and unpredictability of Northeastern winters make it a suboptimal time to break ground on a new walkway or steps. It is, however, a good opportunity for examining cement, concrete and other hard fixtures for signs of weathering and wear so you know exactly



what you need replaced or repaired.

Most high-quality construction should be fine after just one winter, though the introduction of salt and other de-icing agents can be what rapidly ages those features. "The one thing that really hurts everything in the winter is the chemicals and salt you use, which could do damage to certain materials," Panetta explains.

The kind of winter weather we have will definitely impact the kind of spring maintenance you'll have to do. To minimize the damage of harsh winds, driving snow and inclement weather that can kill plants, Pasquarello has some proactive tips to ensure your yard's plant life lives to see another spring.

"Protect trees and shrubs from snow and ice, which can bend and break branches," he says. "Many evergreen varieties of trees and shrubs become extremely weighted with snow and ice and become damaged beyond repair. Simply tying outer smaller branches to inner central leaders will give an added strength to withstand the stresses of snow and ice load."

With the uptick in landscaping services' demands, now is the time to start talking with professionals and snagging your place on their schedules before it's too late.

"In a normal year, if you called in January, you could probably expect to get your work done by late spring or early summer but now, with the pandemic and the volume of calls and leads, I'm working on projects that I started last summer," notes Hock. "And it's not just me: It's across the board with anyone in the business and construction because there's been such a big explosion of demand, which is a blessing and a curse."

No matter what your landscaping goals are, the size of your property or the features you want to personalize your outdoor space with, the must-dos remain the same, according to Malik.



"If there's one thing every homeowner should keep in mind when it comes to caring for their homes' outdoor spaces, it's to prioritize preventative maintenance and yearly inspections," she says. "They are both extremely important." **H&H**

RESOURCES

D. Panetta Contracting
Randolph, N.J. | (973) 659-9374
DPanettaContracting.com

Elite Landscaping
Berlin, N.J. | (856) 753-1944
EliteLandscaping.com

Joshua Tree Experts
Souderton, Pa. | (215) 798-9520
JoshuaTreeExperts.com

Ronni Hock Garden & Landscape
Lawrenceville, N.J. | (609) 844-0066
RonnisGarden.com





CARRANO

AIR HVAC CONTRACTORS, INC.

WE ARE HIRING IMMEDIATELY

HVAC TECHNICIANS

GROW WITH OUR FAMILY

-INSTALLERS

-RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL SERVICERS

• $$$ Sign On Bonus $$$ • 5+ Years of Experience in HVAC is Required • Competitive Salary • Medical, Vision, Dental Insurance and More • Uniforms, Tools and a Company Vehicle • Paid Holidays and Paid Vacation • PTO • Training Programs

Contact us for more information

732-329-3784

INFO@CARRANOAIR.COM

Visit our new interactive website www.housemagazine.com



- Find local home improvement companies for all of your needs
- Search a database of beautiful design ideas and add them to your personal idea book
- Ask personal questions to experts in their field
- Interact with your local home improvement companies
- Read our online digital monthly magazine
- Check out the latest home improvement trends

AND MUCH MORE!

STORMS LEAVE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WITHOUT POWER EVERY YEAR!





NEVER LOSE POWER AGAIN

Whole House Power $12,999

- Inventory In-Stock!
- Provide full-service from selection to installation
- Financing Available
- 100% Satisfaction

COLONIAL GENERATORS

COLONIALGENERATORS.COM 844.376.9374

GENERAC Cummins KOHLER GENERATORS Cummins Onan

House & Home Magazine
700 E. Main St. 2nd Floor
Norristown, PA 19401

PRSRTD STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 956
Harrisburg, PA

