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Volume 20, Issue 9



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As a family-owned business serving the tri-state area, Blue Haven Pools & Spas by Calvitti takes pride in any pool project—from new installations to renovations. Their team of designers can transform a dull pool or empty backyard to an outdoor oasis. To find out more about their pool designs and new technology features, turn to page 15. Cover image courtesy of Blue Haven Pools & Spas by Calvitti



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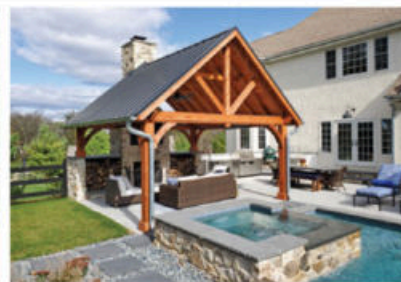


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You Dream It, They Create It

CKC Landscaping Inc. creates the outdoor living space of your dreams. *by Ruth Cohen*

For more than 20 years, CKC Landscaping Inc. has been shaping and beautifying outdoor spaces: from smaller projects that increase curb appeal, to full-scale projects that transform your yard into breathtaking and functional outdoor living spaces that are a true extension of the inside of your home.

A family business, co-owned by brothers-in-law Steve Compton Sr. and David Connors, CKC Landscaping Inc. is a West Chester-based one-stop-shop whose mission is to deliver beautiful outdoor living spaces, with the highest quality of workmanship, on budget. General manager Steve Compton Jr. says, “We are much more than just a traditional landscape company.”

Large enough to handle your biggest projects, they are still the small family company that can give you that family company feel. And they’ve got plenty of experience. “Most homeowners usually only do one big outdoor landscaping project in their lifetime, I do 100 of these per year,” he says. “When you choose CKC Landscaping, you are getting many years of experience and dedication. Our employees have been with our company for years. We ensure they are well trained and have the best equipment so that they can consistently provide the highest level of quality workmanship.”

CKC Landscaping sees itself as a company that shapes and defines the landscape in the customer’s yard to give them the most enjoyable, lasting outdoor space. They can do just about anything you can imagine, including decking, pergolas, roof extensions and coverings, fire pits, fire places, outdoor kitchens, patios, stone walls, pillars, lighting, trees, shrubs, flowers—everything you want to see when you walk out your back door.

The relationship doesn’t end when the project is finished. To extend the life and enjoyment of the work they’ve done, they

will clean stone walls and patios once a year, and seal them every three years. They’ll come out every spring and do an outdoor lighting diagnostic and make adjustments that are necessary. They also give their customers a five-year workmanship warranty, and insist on using only products that come from companies that have been in business for more than 30 years and offer lifetime product warranties. “We put the time in up front to ensure there won’t be any major problems,” Compton explains.

“In my first meeting with a new customer, I start by looking at the space inside the house. I look at the sightlines from the heart of the house to see how the outdoor space interacts with the indoor space. I look at the homeowner’s style and taste and note what types of cabinets, tile and flooring they have.”

Outside, Compton and the homeowners discuss both the features the homeowners envision for that space and how they imagine they want to be able to enjoy the space. Do they want a fire feature? Do they want to be able to eat outside regularly? Do they want a fixed outdoor kitchen/bar area? Maybe they envision spending lots of time relaxing at the pool listening to music, or want separate space for grownups and children. The technical aspects of the yard—including things like water runoff, downspout location, rainfall drainage and where sunlight falls—are also noted. With all of this information, and the homeowners’ wish list and budget, Compton creates a design and prepares an estimate that includes all aspects of the project. Back at the site, Compton and the homeowners go over the design to ensure the final product is not only what the homeowners want, but is something they will

truly enjoy.

Compton explains, “There is often a need for carpentry, refinishing or expanding asphalt driveways, pool installations, electrical, plumbing or other specialty subcontracting. We keep all of those moving parts working



together smoothly so that the homeowner doesn’t have to deal with individual subcontractors—only with us. We put schedules together, handle permits and inspections, and oversee all contractors in a complicated project. I am on every job site at least once a day for quality control and to ensure that industry standards and our standards are being met.”

Compton says, “It’s our experience and attention to detail and quality, from our owners to our work crews, that ensures we deliver a space that makes our customers say, ‘I’m so happy that I picked up the phone and called CKC Landscaping.’” **H&H**

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Whether installing brand new or fixing up an older pool, Blue Haven Pools & Spas by Calvitti Northeast will make sure you're swimming by summer.

An investment such as a pool requires the homeowner to have confidence in the company completing the design and installation. Not only should the pool look and feel like a dream come true in its first year, but it should be something families can enjoy for decades.

Blue Haven Pools & Spas by Calvitti Northeast offers this peace of mind with every pool project. A family-owned business based right here in our tri-state area of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, Blue Haven has become a name homeowners trust when it comes to their swimming pools—no matter what age.

New Pool Installation

When the dream of installing a pool gets closer to reality, homeowners will find inspiration through online research, finding pool styles, shapes and features to incorporate. But the process to get that pool in the ground is more complicated than digging a hole and pouring concrete, which is why homeowners need a veteran company by their side.

Dominic DiCesare, general manager, says there are quite a few compliance-related hoops to get through first—township requirements, engineering, setback distance codes, to name a few. “We first need to come out and look at your property,” he says. “Some townships have more rules than others, but we always want to complete a topographical survey and check out stormwater management to make sure there are no issues. A new pool can’t just be planned and done in a month if done the right way. It can be a drawn out process.”

Homeowners may also be unsure of which material is best for a pool, and they all have their place, but Blue Haven works exclusively with concrete (gunite) pools. Fiberglass pools have a finite life to them and can’t be updated, says DiCesare, and vinyl pools have the thinnest barrier between the ground and the water.

“Our focus is on inground, custom gunite pools because they are a permanent structure,” he says. “Over the years, renovations

can be made to these pools to update the look or features or make it look brand new. It’s more valuable for homeowners to invest in this type of pool.”

Renovations and Features

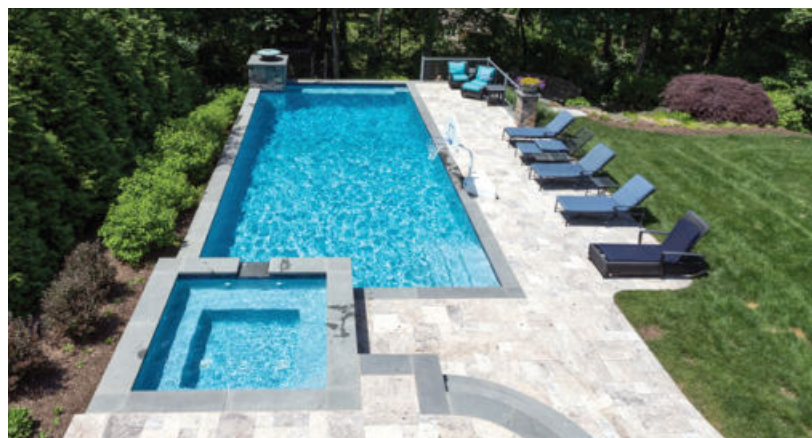
Blue Haven takes just as much pride in renovating older pools as it does installing new. It’s unique to see a company that has a division dedicated to these repairs and upgrades.

The most commonly requested or required repairs include structural cracks, broken tiles, pool coping and plumbing equipment. Blue Haven’s crew can review your existing pool and fix those elements if needed, as well as modernize it with added features.

“We can take it from a basic pool renovation to an island paradise,” says DiCesare. “We have a full landscape design team that we can come in with and we can basically redo the whole backyard. This goes for pools that are 20 to 30 years old, even. We can bring it up to modern times.”

DiCesare says customizations include adding a shallow end or sunshelves—a popular option for placing chairs to lounge on or for younger kids to play—a swim-up bar area, grottos with waterfalls, slides, water and fire features. Blue Haven can also change the shape of the pool or the stone, tile or brick. LED lighting is another one of their most requested updates, making the pool a true nighttime paradise as it’s illuminated in a full spectrum of vibrant colors, and with the use of SmartControl™ technology, homeowners can have full automation and control over the lights.

Some of the features Blue Haven can add may not be aesthetic, but they are technologically advanced, creating a better swim-



ming and maintenance experience. The company’s SmartFeatures™ product line helps save water and energy with over 10 options to install, including the SmartPure® Ozonator, which uses a natural process of ozonation to cut down on the level of chlorine in your pool, giving the water a silky feel, and the SmartPure® Salt Sanitizer, which uses electrolytic conversion of natural salt to produce a stable, pure and efficient form of non-liquid chlorine.

“We also have SmartFilter™ with Microban® that is exclusive to our company,” DiCesare says. “This filter is coated with Microban® to resist mold, mildew and bacteria. Even when your pool is not running, there’s no chance for bacteria to grow.” Blue Haven also offers products that can pre-filter the water to extend the life of the pool’s filter, and a water softener that can reduce maintenance cost.

Blue Haven can make all of this and more possible, says DiCesare, with only one limitation—your imagination. **H&H**

Imagine the possibilities
that could come
to life in your
backyard.



DREAM-WORTHY DECKS

If you're thinking about having a deck designed and built, then you're likely looking for tips and ideas. We've rounded up lots of advice from local experts who can help guide you to building the deck of your dreams.

By LINDSEY GETZ



Start with Your Wants and Needs

"Deciding on what size, shape and type of deck you want starts with asking some important questions. What do you want the deck to do for you? Do you want a private retreat for your immediate family or an oasis for extended family and neighborhood parties? This will dictate where to begin."

Omar Stoltzfus,
director of sales and marketing
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Image courtesy of Deck Craft Plus, LLC



Think Shade

"Customers today ask for many options beyond just a plain deck—often including a shade option on their deck. In many cases this means a roof over the deck or a pergola with customized 'retractable shades' to provide solid shade when it's needed. Both of these options make existing or new decks much more usable. Thus, we end up installing these options both over existing structures as well as brand-new decks. Both of these options also add some architectural interest to what is otherwise a plain, flat surface."

Juan Cardona, owner
Archadeck of Chester
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Find the Ideal Size and Shape

"The size of your new deck depends on a lot of factors. In my opinion, the house and yard both dictate everything. The deck size should never overpower the house. It should be in proportion—and its shape should match the surroundings. If your yard is sloped, a bi-level deck would enhance that; or, if you have bay windows, an octagonal bump-out would look perfect. A deck should be constructed in a way as to enhance all of the features of both the house and the landscape. Grill bump-outs and octagonal bump-outs don't add a lot of square footage to the project and can really set a deck off. The grill bump-outs tuck the grill in to keep it away from children running around on the deck and it keeps your useable space wide open."

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DREAM-WORTHY DECKS



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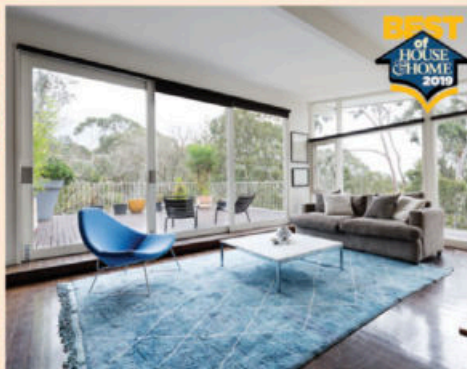
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Winter's dreary weather—high winds, ice, snow and hail—can cause serious damage to a home's exterior, causing shingles to fly off, roofs to leak, gutters to split and so much more. And while this past winter was relatively mild in our region, it's still important to ensure your home's exterior is equipped to handle spring's elements.

House & Home spoke with local experts on ways homeowners can detect and repair areas of their

home's exterior just in time for the spring season.

CHECK THE EXTERIOR

As the weather begins to warm up, the first thing a homeowner can do is go outside and inspect their home. Check the roof, the siding, the gutters, the windows and the doors to see any signs of damage.

"If you walk around your house and you see missing granules, that is a tell-tale sign of when your roof

needs to be replaced," says Dave Lyons, owner of DNA Roofing & Siding. "See if you have missing shingle pads—sometimes you can see them in your yard if they blew off."

A lingering moisture issue or obvious leaking in the attic or upstairs are other signs of a roof gone bad, but could also be caused by damage to the siding rather than the roof.

"The most important thing is to check for any winter weather

damage,” Adam Parnes, vice president of marketing at Global Home Improvement, says. “Ice can destroy gutters and melting snow can cause leaks to your roof or get behind your siding.”

Gutters can be tricky because ice can build up behind the downspouts causing them to separate, which will eventually fold the gutter off the home entirely, allowing water to get behind the siding and cause a leak.

If there are no obvious signs of damage, a homeowner should consider freshening up the exterior anyway. After months of built-up ice and snow, the siding will look faded behind a layer of dirt and grime.

“One of the big things you can do is to power wash your home on the outside because dirt can build up throughout the winter and then in the summer months, that’s where you get mold,” says Jaime Fiel, production director at Renewal by Andersen of Philadelphia and South Jersey. “Check your shutters and the weather stripping on your windows. Everything should have a thorough cleaning every spring for sure.”

DO YOU NEED ROOFING OR SIDING REPAIRS?

When it comes to exterior repairs, the two major projects are replacing the siding and the roof. Although the roof may not be leaking, there are signs to look out for that could cause problems later down the road.

“Roofing should always be replaced before you have serious leaks,” Parnes says. “Some signs to look for are curling shingles or shingles that are missing granules. You can also take a peek in your attic to see if the plywood has any signs of water damage.”

If there are any signs of damage the best thing to do is have a professional inspect it and either replace or repair it. A reliable roofing contractor would ensure all layers of the roof are inspected before installing new shingles.

“What we would do is go in and tear off the old roof down

to the wood deck. Then we would inspect your existing wood sheathing and see if any of that needs to be replaced,” Lyons says. “We always do ice and water shields to the eaves and valleys to see if there’s any roof penetration and check around chimneys. Then we use some type of synthetic felt or regular felt depending on what kind of price point you are looking at for your roof. We make sure all the flashings are right, replace flashings as needed, new pipe collars, the chimney, and then start installing the roof. We always install to the manufacturer’s specifications depending on which shingle you’re purchasing.”

When it’s time to replace the roof, a homeowner should think about what type of shingle they want, whether they are only interested in the most cost efficient, if they want a certain aesthetic or simply the shingle that will live up to its lifespan. The three most popular shingles and roof styles are asphalt, wood shake and a metal slate roof.

“We replace roofs with either asphalt for a more economical option or metal slate roofing if you want that wow factor for your roof,” says Parnes. “Metal is the best material because it has three times the life expectancy of asphalt, doesn’t stain or discolor and looks great too.”

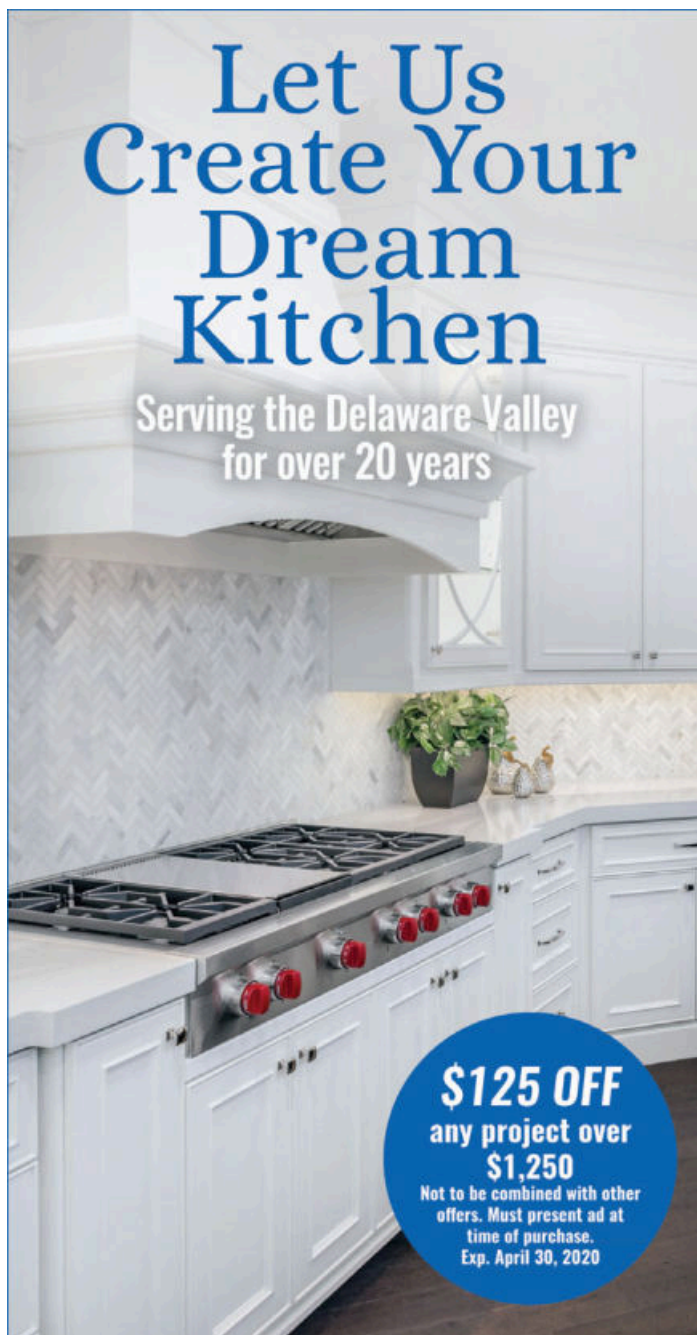
But there is more to consider than just the shingles during a roof replacement. Everything underneath the shingle needs to be installed correctly and made of the best materials to allow the shingle to withstand its lifespan.

“We install all our jobs with GAF Deck Armor, an underlayment that goes under shingles. It’s the most premium stuff. It’s moisture proof, UV proof and breathable,” offers Mike Iannelli, owner of M&J Roofing. “It’s important to have not only the shingles but the important accessories of the roof—the premium materials such as underlayments, ice and water shield and the drip edge.”

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Begin with a Fresh Start

time to replace it is when it is no longer functioning the way the homeowner wants, if it is fading, has been damaged, if it is dated, or even if it has asbestos shingles.

"[Asbestos shingles] should definitely be replaced with high-quality vinyl or fiber cement siding depending on your aesthetic goals and price range," James Russo, owner of Lawrenceville Home Improvement, says. "Older vinyl or aluminum siding can also suffer from fading or wear and tear, which also makes a siding project something to consider. Siding technology has really advanced over the past 20 years and homeowners can take advantage of the energy efficiency attainable through insulated siding."

ARE THE WINDOWS AND DOORS INTACT?

One of the biggest tell-tale signs that a home is in need of new windows or doors is if there is a



noticeable draft throughout the home or if the glass begins to fog. If a window is over 15 years old and has a frame made of either vinyl or wood, then it is definitely time for a replacement.

"Drafty or noticeably leaky windows are easy [to identify]. Fogged window units can be a sign of further issues, rotten wood or sills, and any kind of poor performance with hardware—latches, balances, tilting, etc.," says Ben Weaver, general manager of Alderfer Glass.

If a window is no longer functioning the way it is made to,

then it is time to replace it before further damages ensue.

"You want to make sure your windows work the way they're supposed to, that they slide up and down and the locks work properly," Lyons says. "And if the window is fogging up, it's no longer a Low-E window—it's not energy efficient anymore."

Low-E windows are made to reflect heat, either by reflecting the heat back outside during the summer months or keeping it indoors during winter. But there are other options that could be more suitable for homeowners' needs.

"[Andersen] developed a product called Fiber-x. It's a composite material that stands up to all kinds of different types of climate," says Fiel. "It's almost indestructible and they created it to be part of the original windows and doors."

When it comes time to replace the window frames, there are numerous aspects to consider such as the material used—wood, aluminum, fiberglass—the type of style, the function, how easily it can be installed and so forth.

"Our Marvin Signature line, with wood interior and aluminum-clad exterior offers the largest number of options for colors, styles and functions," Brian Finley, owner and president of SpringHouse Window and Door, says. "Marvin's Elevate line is constructed of high-quality fiberglass with wood interior to give the look, feel and warmth of a traditional wood window at a lower price point. If you're looking for a vinyl window, Sunrise Windows are the best that we've found."

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fiberglass replacement windows. Of the three materials, fiberglass is clearly the strongest, most energy efficient and most sustainable,” offers Russo. “Once you replace your windows with fiberglass, you will never need to replace your windows again.”

Doors can be analyzed the same way that windows can, by making sure they are functioning properly, they are not creating any drafts and that they are not out-dated.

“One of your key things to look at is when you close the door, look in the bottom corner and the top corner to see if you see any daylight. If you do, there’s a good chance that the panel is warped and moved,” Lyons says. “Check the weather stripping and see if it is cracking, check the lamination on the panel, see if it is coming apart. If it’s a sliding door, check how it’s rolling; if it’s not rolling nicely anymore then it’s time to replace it.”

ASK ABOUT WARRANTIES

Whenever a home is about to un-

dergo major repairs, the homeowner should consider what types of warranties are offered so they are best protected in the future.

“We offer the full lifetime warranty on the whole project, so you never have to worry if there’s any issues or anything that goes on with the window that’s in your home. As long as you’re there, we take care of it,” says Fiel. “We do offer a lifetime warranty on the installation. The product warranty is 20 years on the glass and the frame. Anything that goes wrong with the product itself for 20 years, it’s taken care of at no charge.”

Although not every contractor may offer their own warranties, each manufacturer will carry them for the individual product. Not only should they consider the types of warranties that are offered but whether or not that company will be easily reached in times of need. They should look for a contractor who is reliable and lives up to their word.

“If there is ever an issue or problem related to the installation, we will fix it free of charge as



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long as you own the house,” Finley says. “If a window or door ever needs attention for a warranty issue, we will handle it for you. If

you ever forget how to tilt your windows out for cleaning, we’ll be happy to stop by and show you.” **H&H**



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AAA Hellenic

by Liz Hunter

Countertop materials are essentially the icing of any kitchen or bathroom project, providing both the functional value of pulling the room's components together and something pleasing for the eye.

Choosing that perfect stone countertop takes careful consideration, and the guidance of someone who knows the product. At AAA Hellenic, customers can turn to professionals who have decades of experience designing and installing stone in kitchens, bathrooms, foyers, fireplaces and even in outdoor living spaces. Mike Werner, sales manager, is one such expert who has been with the family-focused company for more than 10 years.

House & Home spoke with Werner about the lifestyle factors that contribute to selecting stone, and why AAA Hellenic's slab yard inventory is second to none.

When you meet with clients, what are some things you need to know about their lifestyle to guide their selection?

Most individuals typically have saved pictures they found online or in magazines to establish an idea of their design preferences. We also want to know about what's going on in the space where the stone will be used. Every household is different. Materials they might like or find attractive might not be the best choice for their home. For instance, granite is great for



EXPERTISE: MARBLE, GRANITE AND TILE



Mike Werner, sales manager

families with kids and people who like to do a lot of cooking. Granite is very dense and durable. It is heat resistant and scratch resistant, with minimal maintenance. You simply need to re-seal your granite every two to four years, depending on which granite you select.

Marble is a classic choice with unrivaled beauty and gives you a timeless look. It may be a little softer than granite, but will still give you a very durable surface for your kitchen. It's heat and scratch resistant, but may etch if you cut something acidic directly on your marble, so you simply need to remember to use a cutting board. As long as your marble is sealed properly, it is still stain resistant. We've been doing this for a long time, but once we get to know some of these factors, we can bring the whole project together.

Is granite still king when it comes to countertops?

Engineered quartz has gained popularity over the past couple of years, but natural stone is still the most requested for its beauty and durability. It unquestionably adds value to the home when you see a beautifully installed granite countertop. It comes in a wide selection of unique patterns so no two stones will ever be the same.

What are the color trends for stone in 2020?

For so long the lighter tones and whites have been popular, but we're starting to see this shift in 2020. People still want lighter and brighter but now they are looking for more cool colors—soft grays and blues—to introduce warmth back into the color palettes of kitchens and bathrooms.

How integral is your inventory in your slab yard to the customer's design journey?

Walking them through our slab yard is one of the first steps in the process. Once we have a few preliminary things identified, we'll go take a look in the yard and see what catches their eye. We have all kinds of materials—marble, granite, soapstone, quartzite—we have one of the best selections of quartzite in the region and that is incredibly popular now. We have about 200 different colors on display, and our stones are directly imported from places like Italy, Brazil and Africa, which allows us to give customers very competitive pricing.

With spring's arrival, would these products also make good choices for outdoor living?

Yes, these products can be applied to patios and outdoor kitchens. Natural stones are perfect for those applications because they are rocks and hold up well in all the elements. **H&H**

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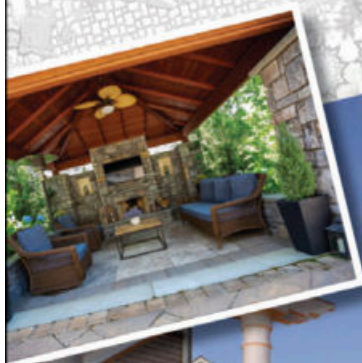
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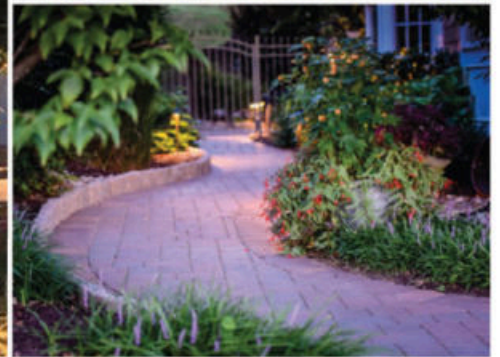
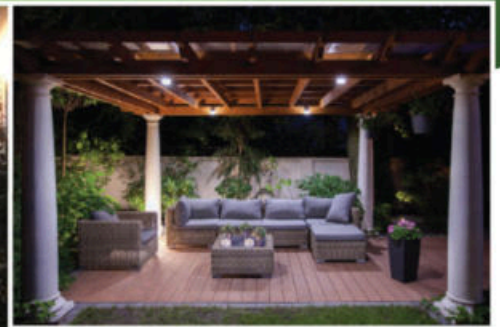
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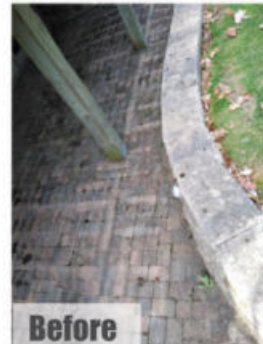
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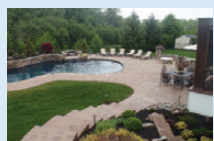
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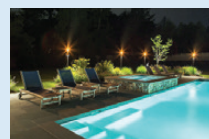
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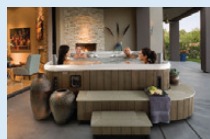
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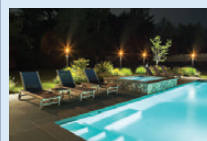
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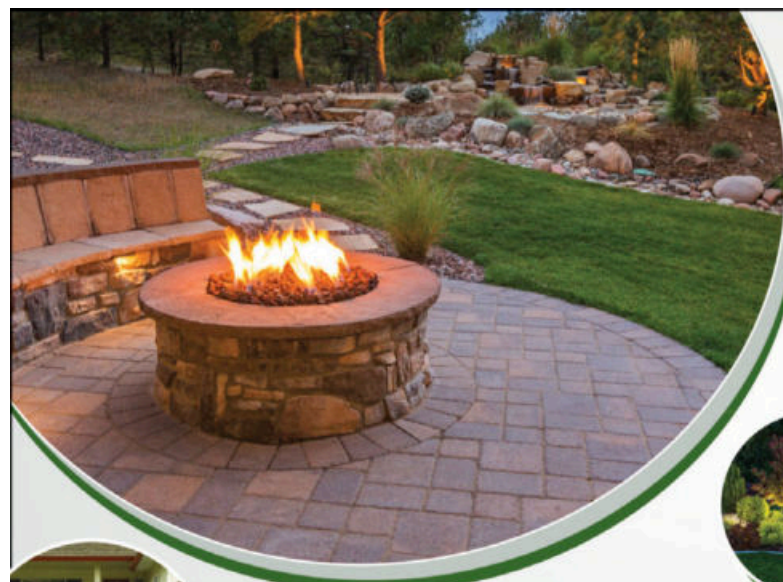
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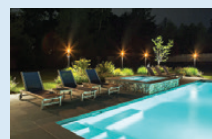
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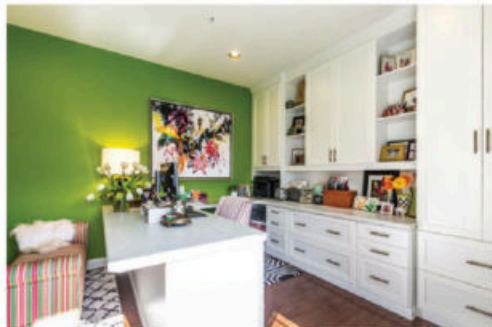
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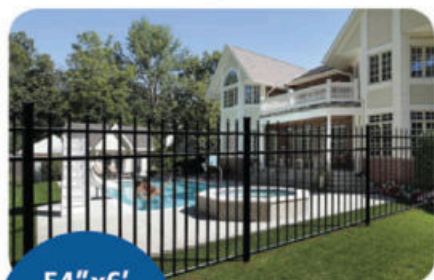
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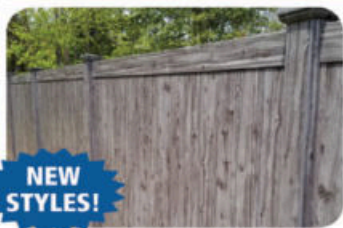
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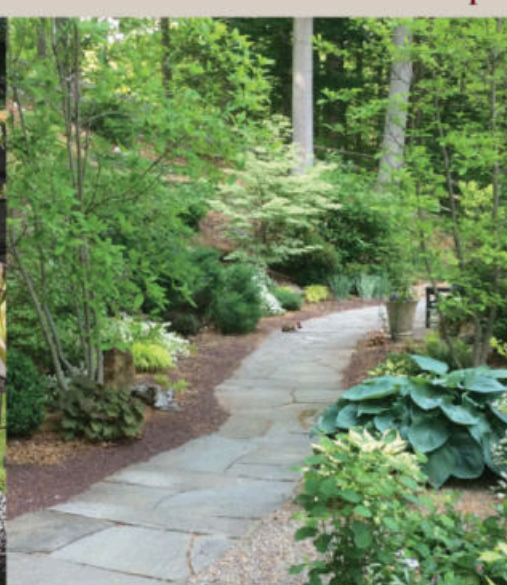


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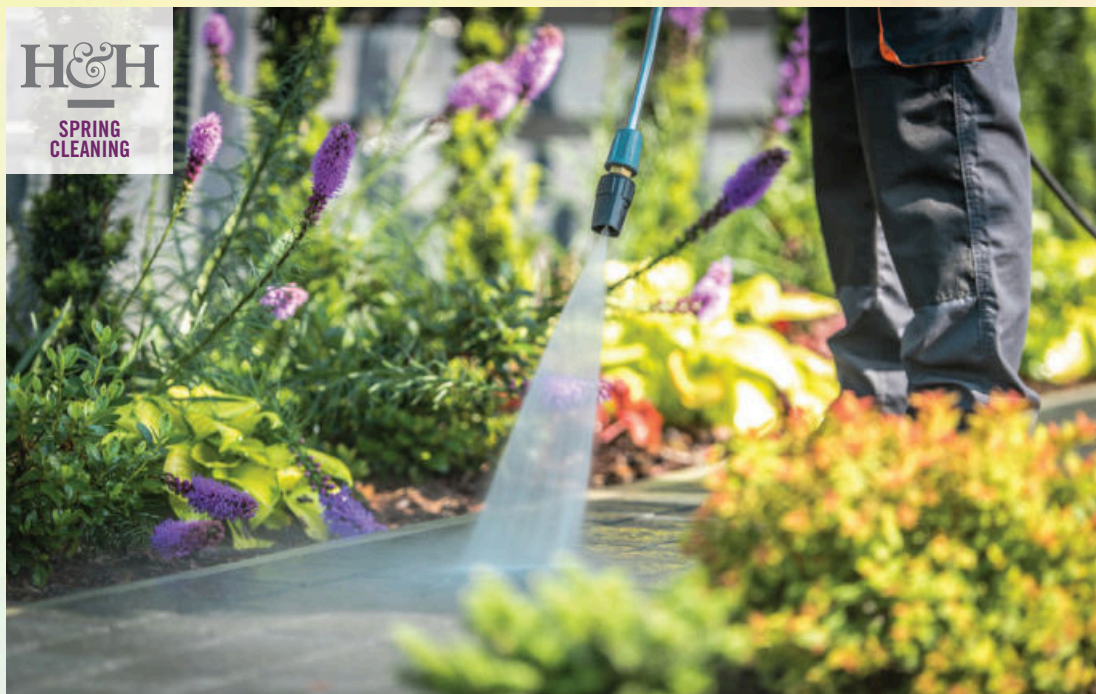
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WASHING WINTER AWAY

Bringing back the sparkle in
your home just in time for spring

by Daniel Sean Kaye

It's that time of year again! The sun is warming us up, grass is turning green and flowers are blooming—in short, it's spring. What better way to embrace the transformative power of this time of year than a little outdoor cleaning?

Looking around your property, there are quite a few areas that may need TLC before they have their time in the spotlight. Not only does your yard need its usual attention, but so do your siding,

sidewalks, patio, deck, roof and even driveway. Our trusted experts offer their advice on how to tackle these tasks without getting overwhelmed.

LANDSCAPING AND HARDSCAPING

"A spring cleanup is the best way to get your property looking good for the season," says Chris DeMato, owner of Rock Bottom Landscape and Fencing. "First, clean all the debris, leaves and

general garbage that may have accumulated over the winter. Raking is the best way to clean your lawn and get rid of any loose debris that can be damaging it," he says, adding that leaf remnants can create bare spots in your lawn. "Planting beds should be re-sculpted and mulch should be cultivated (turned over with a heavy metal rake) at this time. You can judge whether or not you may need fresh mulch, and prune any dead branches."

Hard surfaces around your home should have regular maintenance too. "Power wash hardscape surfaces such as patios, walkways, pool decks and driveways," says DeMato. "This extends the life and the look of a brick paver, stone or asphalt surface. ... After power washing pavers, revitalize your surface with new poly sand and sealant products, which also extend the life of the product. Also, any repair work to patios, steps or walkways should be done prior to power washing."

Beyond just cleaning, Steve Compton, general manager of CKC Landscaping (Paver Restoration too), says to focus on restoration and enhancement. "Whether it's stone, paver work, decking or older projects once done by contractors, we clean them, treat organic stains and pressure wash. For flat surfaces such as

decks/patios/pavers we remove organic debris often sitting there for months, staining the surfaces. We clean it to restore luster and take years off the look by removing dirt and gunk out of the pores."

DECKS

"Clean your deck. If you don't, the shady parts get slippery and the wood on the sunny side can dry out and split. If the boards are damaged, you'll have to replace them. You'll also have to re-stain everything since it hides the difference between new and old boards," advises Matt Gallagher, owner of Squeaky Clean Services.

Use someone who understands restoration/enhancement, says Compton. "Our crews are certified craftsmen who can make repairs on decks, retaining walls and patios. Get a company that can do minor and major repairs. It'll save you from getting rid of everything and starting over from scratch. If something during the winter made things bad or weakened an area, this work stops it from getting worse," he says.

ROOFING, SIDING AND MORE

"Winter wreaks havoc, so you may have a lot to do to get your house looking good," says Deven Robillard, owner of Bright Services. He suggests power washing the house and gutters, but also fixing and staining to add longevity to your home's materials.

"It's important to get rid of the algae, mold and moss," explains Shawn Tiller, owner of Sparkling Image Roof and Exterior Cleaning. "Do your basic window washing, maybe wash off the roof and clean the gutters."

"For gutter cleaning, you need to flush everything out with water, repair seams that have worn since parts lose their seal over time," he says. "Cleaning extends the life of stucco, so waterproof it, bridge hairline cracks, use uniform coating and patch water stains."

While there are many areas to deep clean, Tiller says many roofs don't need to be cleaned that often. "Yes, they will be dirtier on their north side, typically the most shaded side of the house, but once

every 10 years should suffice. More serious fixes include cracks in siding, gouges in wood, holes in stucco, etc.," he says.

USING PROFESSIONAL HELP

Many people think they can handle these tasks themselves, but that can only lead to more damage.

The main reason for using a professional is peace of mind, says Robillard. "Professionals minimize the damage. So often, homeowners do things themselves that end up costing them big down the road. If they use a trained, affordable service now, they'll spend hundreds but will save themselves from paying thousands."

This couldn't be more important than when it comes to power washing. "When you get into power washing, you need to use low pressure," Robillard says. "No matter if it's vinyl, steel, stucco or other products, deep cleaning doesn't mean blasting or using high pressure. Professionals know to rely on cleaners and using the power washer to rinse things off. If you use a company that relies on high pressure instead of detergent because it's cheaper, they could damage everything."

Many homes in this region have stucco exteriors, which require special methods for cleaning. "Professionals know it's very important to 'soft clean' stucco, since high-pressure power washing can seriously damage the material," says Gallagher. "[Professionals know how to] spray on cleaner at a higher concentration, and then use high volume of water at low pressure. That's the best way to clean stucco as high-pressure can create damage." Stucco also can get dark stains on areas that get wet and stay wet, resulting in fungus. On the sides that get sun, the UV can take away the color and break down the material. "If you don't take care of it, you won't be able to fix it without extensive work," he says.

In addition to exterior power washing services, it's crucial to find a company that repairs and

seals areas that may have been damaged over the winter, says DeMato. "A beginner may waste a lot of product while learning how to install it properly," he says, adding now is the time to have an expert address your brick paver and step sinkage, which is very common with our region's changes in climate.

For the vast majority of homes, expert cleaning and professional repairs make a huge difference. "Don't think you have to replace everything and start over," says Compton. "A trained specialist knows how to clean things right and repair things so they last." Find someone with many years in the field who uses products with long lifespans. "If you're sick of how dirty and grimy things are, let an expert fix it and seal it properly so you can enjoy your property for years to come," Compton says. **H&H**



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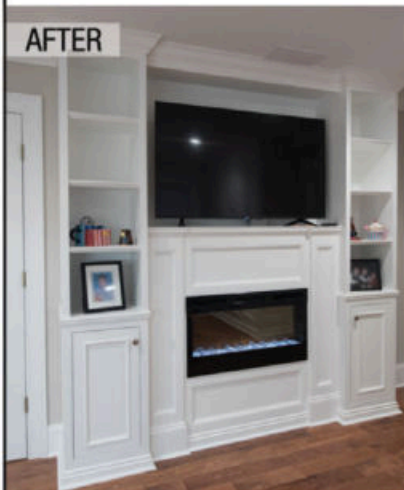


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