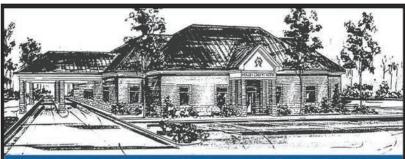


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(Family Features) In the aftermath of the COVID-19 lockdown, labor shortages and access to certain products affects numerous industries, including remodeling. Even so, after extra time at home and delays caused by the pandemic, there is high demand for home renovation projects.

If you're planning a home remodel or construction project, consider these tips from professional remodelers to avoid frustration and ensure your vision comes to life.

### Do Research & Plan Ahead

Mapping out your project early and thoroughly can help you avoid delays. This is especially important when it comes to materials, said John Brown of Bliffert

Lumber and Hardware.

"The quicker a homeowner can make selections, the sooner we can get it on order and get it in," Bliffert said.

Some contractors are adjusting the way they approach planning to offset delays. For example, selecting materials and finishes at the outset, instead of as you progress through the project like you normally would, may mean the materials are available when you need them.

"The design process has really changed," said Robi Kirsic of TimeLine Renovation and Design.

"We're still designing based on homeowners' wishes and dreams, but we're also modifying by providing options



based on what's available."

### Know Where You're Willing to Compromise

Whether you're able or willing to compromise often comes down to why you're doing the renovation in the first place.

"Some homeowners are specific about what they want," Kirsic said. "They've been waiting for a long time to do this project and they're not doing it to compromise. Others have a time constraint for one reason or another; they don't have the luxury of waiting."

It's a sentiment echoed by others, who caution that you may be able to get an item you have your heart set on, but you may need to be willing to wait.

"If you have your heart set on a certain bathtub, it might be a 6- or 8-month wait, but another one might be available sooner," said Jason Hensler of Marvin Windows and Doors.

### Avoid Making Changes

Once your plans are set and your materials have been ordered, avoid unnecessary delays by changing your project scope or material selection. In this environment, project timelines are extremely tight and even minor changes can create significant disruptions, especially if there's a delay in obtaining different materials or your new ideas require a different crew that wasn't already scheduled for your

### Choose a Trustworthy Partner

While these are unusual times, having a reliable contractor can make the project run more smoothly and help you feel more comfortable as the project progresses.

"Use someone you trust, someone who is part of a reputable group like the National Association of the Remodeling Industry," Brown said.

That way, if you

encounter unexpected bumps along the way, you can be confident they will be handled professionally and appropriately. Brown encourages his teams to communicate early and often, which helps homeowners understand and trust they're doing everything possible to keep the job on track.

### Be Patient

Above all, understanding these are unusual times can go a long way toward a more successful project.

"Patience will help it go a lot smoother," Hensler said. "That may mean accepting longer wait times than you anticipated and a later completion date than you hoped."

The sooner you get your project started, the sooner your contractor can start mapping out a project timeline. Find contractors in your area at RemodelingDoneRight. com.







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## Men At Work



Electric and Water Department crew members working on lines in the courthouse lawn.

# What to know Work Home's Siding

(StatePoint) With climate change spurring an uptick in extreme weather events in recent years, homeowners today know that to keep their property -- and the people in it -- best protected, the siding they select matters.

"Not only will the right materials better insulate against extreme temperatures, but durable materials will also help guard against wicked weather and storms," says Jon Lapp, siding project manager, ProVia. "And of

course, siding has a major impact on the look of your home exterior."

The good news is that you don't need to sacrifice curb appeal in the pursuit of high-quality siding. Here's what to know when maklation, minimal maintenance and long-term beauty and durability, it's a favorite choice among installers and homeowners. Just be sure that the siding you select is formulated with weather- and heat-resistant materi-

"Your choice of materials can impact how you feel about your house for years to come. Consider the most popular home siding material, vinyl siding. First introduced in the 1960s, its popularity is no accident. Thanks to its low cost, ease of installation, minimal maintenance, and long-term beauty and durability, its a favorite choice among installers and homeowners."



ing this important upgrade:

 Materials: Your choice of materials can impact how you feel about your house for years to come. To that end, consider the most popular home siding material, which, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Construction, is vinyl siding. First introduced in the 1960s, its popularity is no accident. Thanks to its low cost, ease of instalals, as well as UV blockers to protect against color fade.

• Insulation: Did you know that most wall insulation is placed only between the studs? Since wall studs represent up to 25% of the wall surface of an average home, that's like having one entire wall with no insulation at all. Insulated siding blankets your home, providing continuous insulation between the



wall of your home. Look for insulated siding options that are tested and proven to increase the R-value (a measure of a material's resistance to heat flow) of an exterior wall. One such option is CedarMAX insulated vinyl siding from ProVia. the color selec-One of the most energy-efficient exterior claddings on the market, it can help reduce your energy bills. It's also built with a strong, rigid foam backing that can bridge the subtle bows and dips present on almost every wall. This will make for longer, straighter panels for increased curb appeal, as well as greater impact resistance against rain, hail and contact with your child's fastball. And because it resists fading, chalking, cracking,

studs and exterior

peeling and thermal expansion and contraction, it will have a longer, more environmentallysustainable life.

• Color: Color and beauty are huge factors in your home improvement decision. To get it right, start by using tion tools on your manufacturer's website. It's important to know that the monitor settings on your device can impact the way the color displays, so contact the dealer to see real color samples made from its actual products before making a final decision. Choose from classic whites, earth tones, bright and colorful shades, or bold, darker hues. Just be sure your beautiful new siding contains antiweathering ingredients that prevent

weather and sun

exposure from causing it to fade.

Additional siding information and resources can be found by visiting provia.com/siding.

"Approach this home improvement project carefully. With the power to boost your home's beauty and energy

efficiency, new siding can offer a great return on investment and protect your home for years to come," says Lapp.





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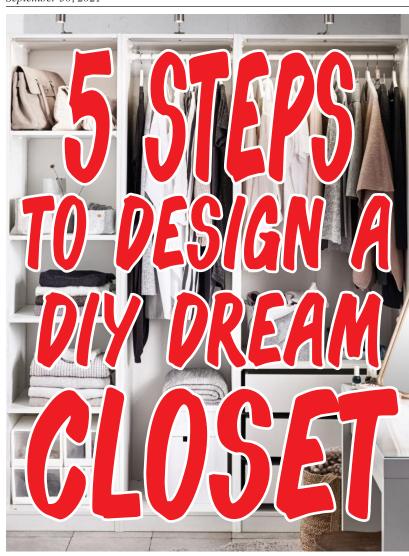


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(Family Features) Whether you're a stylist with an eye for fashion who chooses each garment carefully or the laid-back type who can rock the first outfit you find each morning, the closet provides a location for inspiration. Turning bland closet space into a truly eye-catching room calls for a little planning and DIY creativity.

### PLAN IT OUT

Creating the perfect closet space begins with your ideas. Think about the details such as how you want the space

to look and the amount and type of storage you need. Envision everything from colors and finishes to the physical shape.

### FOCUS ON PRACTICALITY

Once you've dreamed up your ideal closet, compare your ideas with the space you have available and adjust your plans to fit your footprint and budget. This step allows you to get creative with ways to maximize your space and use every available inch to create a closet that gives

you the function and aesthetic you desire.

### KEEP IT ORGANIZED

A beautiful closet likely won't mean as much for you if it isn't functional, and organization is a key to true functionality. Keep your space organized in a stylish manner with an option like the ClosetMaid Revolution Storage Ottoman, a convenient, easyto-assemble, multiuse piece designed for closets or any area of your home. Able to hold up to 12 pairs of shoes,

its rotating design maximizes storage for functional appeal. Remain detailoriented

It's not just the structure that can bring your dream closet to life; little touches can add up in a big way. Upgrade your light fixture, for example, and look for other ways to personalize the space for a look that's all yours, such as shelving to display treasured photos or keepsakes, or a spot on the wall for a vision board to draw inspiration from as you begin each day.



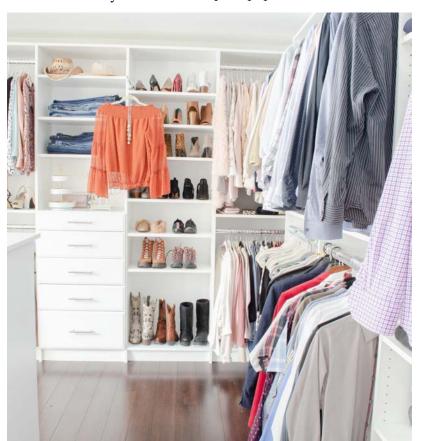


### CHANGE UP THE COLOR

Introduce light and personality into elements. On-trend your closet with finishes can help rich color and style. with the structural elements. On-trend finishes can help make the space pop

Add accent color on the walls behind your clothes or incorporate color with the structural elements. On-trend finishes can help make the space pop by complementing the colors of your wardrobe.

Visit closetmaid. com to find more DIY closet inspiration.



## Getting ready for Fall!



Fall is the best time to renovate and repair around the house. David's Home Improvement will make everything perfect during the holidays.

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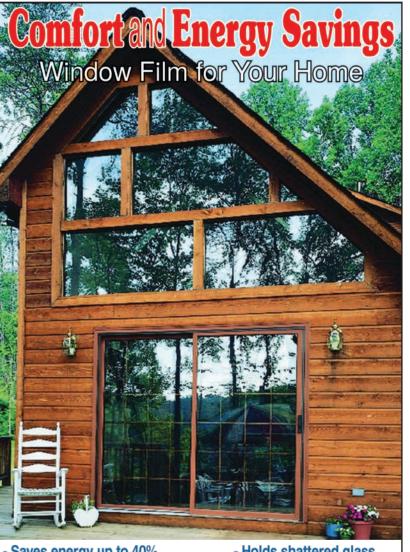
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(Family Features) Upgrades happen for all kinds of reasons, but one of the most common purposes of a home renovation is to make essential spaces like kitchens and bathrooms more modern.

Modernizing your spaces isn't just about the aesthetic, although that is a major advantage, especially when

it comes to resale value. Updating your kitchen and bath is also an opportunity to introduce new technology and enhancements that improve the function of these hightraffic rooms.

Modern styles simplify everyday living and can make contemporary entertaining more enjoyable.

The sleek lines of modern design lend themselves to a clean look, which is supported by hidden features that make organization easier.

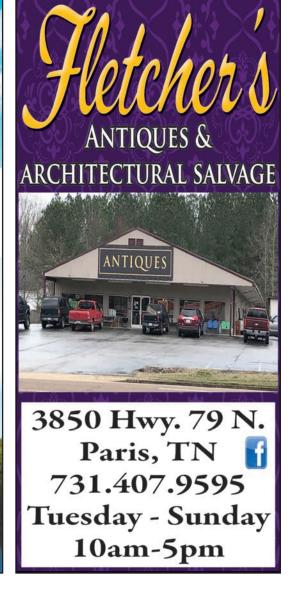
Smart Technology

Although the idea of a connected home isn't new, technology is

steadily improving. This means smart features are now often more affordable, easily integrated into the rest of your home and available to help manage a wider range of household items.

In the kitchen, you can add smart technology in numerous ways, from appliances and climate con-





trol to lighting and window treatments. For example, touch-to-open and push-to-open doors and drawers create a sleek, modern design while opening and closing with either a push or touch of a button for convenience.

Similar diversity is available in the bathroom, where you can incorporate connected health and fitness monitors, touchless toilets, mirrors that double as information centers, towel warmers and even showers that automatically adjust to your preferred temperature.

### Paint

Changing the colors in a space is one of the most effective ways to transform the decor, but the walls aren't the only place where paint can make a big

in rooms like the kitchen or bathroom, where the cabinetry can make

Black is a hallmark of modern design and installing cabinetry with a black finish can instantly upgrade a room. To create visual interest, consider incorporating accent cabinets in a coordinating finish. For example, you could pair Wellborn Cabinet's Midtown wall cabinets finished in Matte Ebony with upper center cabinets finished in Putty Oak. An island in Bel-Air can incorporate both dark and light tones for a cohesive look.

### Wood-**Flooring**

a bold statement.

the gold standard, but thanks to improvements in the quality and appearance of laminate and vinyl products, you can find alternative flooring in even high-end homes. Laminate and vinyl planks give the same look as wood (or stone, if you prefer) to complement a modern aesthetic, usually at a lower

with greater durability over time.



An exposed range hood is a trendy look that can add sophistication to your kitchen. Treating this functional element as a state-



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ment piece gives you another place to showcase your style and create a sleek and modern look. If your hood is covered, consider making the cabinet door a focal point with a material such as backpainted glass.

# **Multi-**

While your sink

has some obvious functions, you can upgrade the space for even more practical use. Some of the latest sink design innovations include built-in features such as cutting boards, colanders, bowls, drying racks and compost areas. In addition, motion activated wastebaskets with separate compost or recycling containers provide hands-free access to reduce unwanted messes.

### Touchless **faucets**

Public restrooms aren't the only places you can benefit from a touchless faucet. At home, the feature may come in handy when your hands are full or filthy. An automatic water flow is convenient and can help keep germs and grime under control. For the most on-trend, modern look, coordinate your faucets with other bathroom elements finished in gold hues, such as a laminate veneer vanity in a high-gloss gold finish.

of most kitchens. Since kitchens tend to be the hub of the home, it's important to maintain a homey feel while adding the luxury of modern features. Using warm colors, gold-toned hardware and sleek door styles can deliver a glamorous yet welcoming

design.

biggest component

For example, Wellborn Cabinet's Aspire Full Access Frameless line features flat moulding and flush lines to create a thoughtfully integrated flow throughout the kitchen. A Morristown door in the Smokey Walnut finish and Serenity metal doors in Sand Gloss Glass marry heirloom quality and contemporary finishes

for a beautiful and functional space.

### Free-Standing Tubs

A luxurious soaking tub is a top demand for many homeowners, and trends are moving toward freestanding options that create a focal point in an oasislike bathroom. You may be envisioning an old-fashioned claw-foot style, but there are numerous modern takes on the traditional version that can fit seamlessly into your modern design scheme.

Find more ideas to modernize your living space at wellborn.com.





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(Family Features) Often positioned near the primary point of entry, mudrooms are a popular addition to many family homes. These organizational dynamos are the perfect place to catch muddy boots, backpacks, sports equipment and dirty paws before they make it all the way into the main living areas.

Luxurious mudrooms in high-end homes can sometimes boast custom cabinetry, full bathrooms, laundry facilities, showers for pets and direct pantry access.

Regardless of whether your mudroom is an actual room or just a small space near the front door to hang bags and jackets, the organizational basics are the same:

CORRAL CUTTER: One of the most important items

in any mudroom

is storage for shoes, pet supplies, backpacks, and other items. If built-in storage isn't in your budget, put up a sturdy shelving unit with a bin or basket for each family member.

GET PROOKED: Securely anchor a row of strong hooks along the wall for coats, hats, scarves or other seasonal accessories that may otherwise find them-

sporting equipment



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selves dropped on the floor upon arriving home.

MUD HAPPENS: Mudrooms are meant to handle dirt so nix the carpet and lay down tile or hardwood

flooring. Pick a stylish rug to catch dirt in its tracks while also adding a design element to the space.

SHOE SPACE:

Place a wooden bench or sturdy coffee table near the door so everyone has a place to sit while removing shoes. Slide a few

baskets or bins underneath as an alternate location for storing backpacks and other gear when not in

### TAKE COMMAND:

Create a family command center by adding a small cabinet or desk with a corkboard above. It makes for a perfect spot to stash keys, charge cell phones, open mail, sort school papers and post the family calendar.

Find more organization tips at eLivingtoday.com.





(BPT) - Events from the past year have all of us reconsidering what we want and need out of our homes. From work and play to wellness, our homes have become the epicenter of, well, everything - leading to an emergence of design trends focused on adapting to a new normal. The design experts at Wilsonart, a world-leading provider of engineered surfaces, have identified three new lifestyle trends that

are affecting lasting design changes.

### 1. Back to Nature

It's no secret that nature has the power to inspire, invigorate, restore and refresh. Research has shown that interacting with nature can offer mental health benefits, including decreasing stress and relieving anxiety. Likewise, incorporating elements of nature into the home has

been proven to improve happiness and well-being.

Whether as a room's canvas or a pop of color on an accent wall, paint is an easy and affordable way to bring nature's beauty into the home with colors that evoke a sense of calm and serenity. "Dark blue hues reminiscent of water and the sky are trending, along with lush greens that infuse spaces with the fresh essence of grass

and foliage," says designer Gwen Petter. "Earthy neutrals, such as tans and beiges, are also in high demand for their ability to ground us and surround us with soothing natural tones."

Beyond color, 40% of people report that they want a connection to nature, particularly in their kitchens, according to a survey by the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA). Home-



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owners are choosing nature-inspired materials for focal areas like countertops, cabinets and islands. Wilsonart® Home offers beautiful, on-trend options for virtually every surface in the home with performance features and price points to suit any lifestyle and budget. The expertly curated collection includes environmentally sustainable materials such as highpressure laminates and performance veneers that deliver the authentic looks of exotic woods, stone-inspired solid that comes with surface options and non-porous engineered quartz.

### 2. "Resimercial" and Rustic

Fueled by the drastic decline in domestic and international travel during the pandemic, homeowner interest in replicating the sophisticated style and comforts of an upscale hotel

or luxury resort in their home has continued to grow. From plush towels and perfectly plumped pillows to spa-worthy bathrooms and chef-quality kitchens, commercially inspired designs are increasingly crossing over into the residential arena.

Carrara marble continues to be one of the most soughtafter surfaces to achieve this clean, sophisticated, "resi-mercial" look, but not everyone desires the cost and maintenance the natural stone. The Wilsonart® Solid Surface Crafted Collection combines nature's beauty with cutting-edge design innovation to deliver the look of authentic marble in an ultradurable acrylic solid surface. This series of movement designs captures the beauty and drama of marble typically only seen in natural materi-



als like quartz and stone with virtually limitless design applications for the kitchen, bath and beyond.

Scandi Noir is another "resi-mercial" design approach that is gaining traction, particularly in kitchens. This style features looser rules and is characterized by the use of dark cabinets combined with dark countertops or contrasting dark and light surfaces. "Kitchen cabinets are still predominantly white, but more homeowners are adding a pop of color with contrasting island cabinets. In fact, searches for black and navy kitchens are up significantly," notes Petter.

### 3. Sustainable Style

As our lives become increasingly home centric, our homes need to perform on a level they may never have before, and this includes incor-

porating materials that work as hard as we do. "Today's homeowners are seeking surfaces that will live up to the rigors of everyday life," explains Petter. "There also is growing interest in sustainable alternatives to natural products, which can contribute to deforestation and degraded air quality from sourcing and mining operations. Human-made composite materials offer appealing options that often outperform natural

materials, delivering greater durability, less ongoing maintenance and fewer harmful environmental impacts."

Alternative materials like laminate, solid surface and quartz mimic the best of Mother Nature without impacting the environment, offering appealing options for eco-conscious consumers. Many of these engineered surfaces are UL GREENGUARD Gold Certified to



meet low chemical emissions limits for better air quality. Additionally, many laminate products are made with a

combination of fibers from FSCcertified, fast-growing, sustainably managed woods and post-consumer recycled content (PCRC). For more information and inspiration, visit Wilsonart.com.

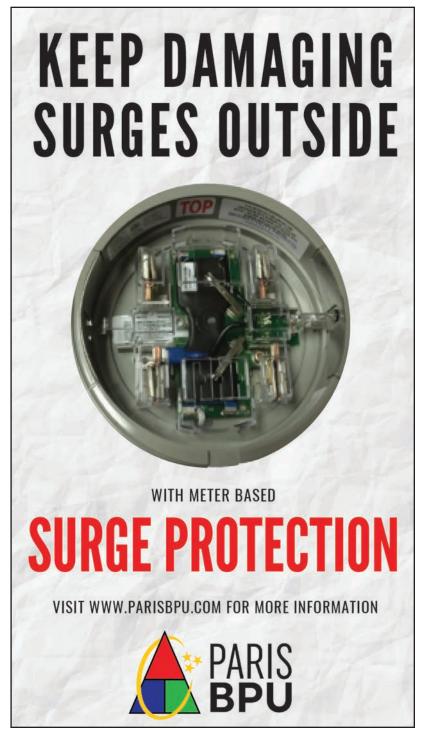


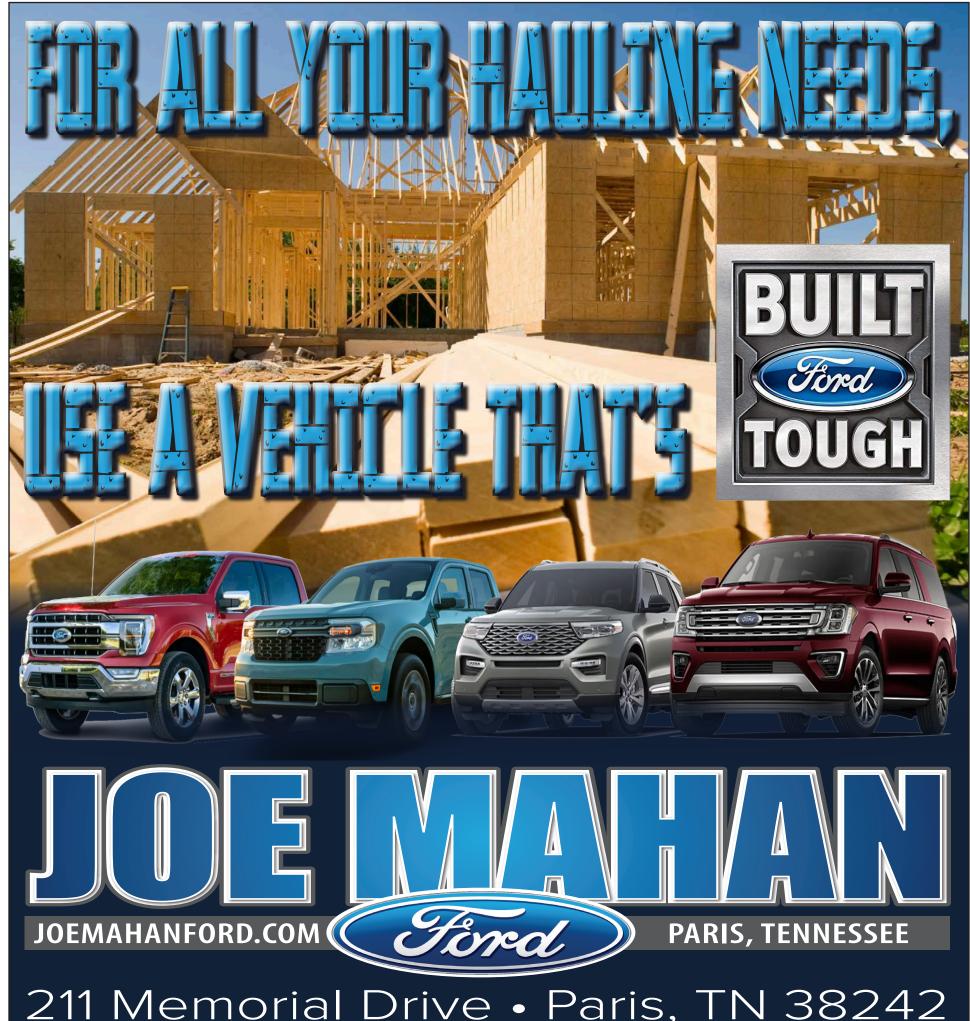


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