

Home Improvement Newsletter

WESTMORELAND CONTRACTOR REFERRAL SERVICE

Your One Source for All Home Improvement Projects



TIP OF THE MONTH:

PERSONALIZE WITH PAINT

Painting is an easy and inexpensive way to make a dramatic and instant impact on a room. When choosing a paint color, find one that is going to inspire you, make you happy and create a desired mood.

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Save on Heating Costs

Looking for a way to cut back on heating expenses this time of year? And make those furnace filters last longer? I like to take my vacuum cleaner curved hose nozzle and suction off the dust and etc. build up from my furnace filter at least once a month! I find this helps those filters last a long time, as my vacuum's hose suction leaves the filter looking good as new! Helps your furnace get more heat out for less

Bathroom remodeling Creating more space

When there are two of you trying to get ready for work, the early morning bathroom bottleneck can rival the rush hour commuter traffic. The impatient knocking on the door is reminiscent of honking car horns. The steam from the shower is a precursor of the exhaust fumes you'll encounter later. Tempers can grow short. Is this any way to start the day? Of course, you could sit down and work out a minute by minute his-and-her schedule to make things go more smoothly. That can work out nicely if you're both as precise as a Swiss clock and neither of you ever, ever oversleep. On the other hand, you might consider breaking the bottleneck at the source and giving yourselves a roomier, more luxurious bathroom where two can move as freely as one.

Creating a master bath to do double duty isn't a particularly difficult or expensive. Depending upon the existing space in your bathroom, you may want to go all out and convert



adjoining areas into part of the new master bath. Or you may opt to rearrange what is already there with an eye toward increased convenience and comfort. In either case, the working rule is to design it for two people with individual needs. Form follows function in this instance and since no room in the house is more functional than the bathroom.

Begin with the basics. Two sinks with a double vanity will provide plenty of room for her to apply makeup while he shaves. An oversized mirror creates the illusion of a larger space for relatively little cost. Lighting fixtures attached to the side walls will add a dramatic, highlighting effect to help brighten up any morning. Now if only the traffic cooperates, getting to work will be a breeze. A double-sized, walk-in shower with dual entrances makes for added convenience and a sort of tag team approach to washing for those occasions when you're truly rushed. A separate, sunken bathtub can be outfitted with whirlpool sprays for more leisurely times. And the two toilets you put in can be compartmentalized for extra privacy. Now if only the traffic cooperates, getting to work will be a breeze.

What is the Value in Remodeling?

To say the housing market hasn't been too strong lately might be an understatement. If you have been debating between "move" or "improve", there are myriad sources that can help you evaluate the options. One such source is Remodeling Magazine. Each year the publication puts out a "Remodeling Cost vs. Value" report that analyzes national statistics for job costs and resale values. They present the findings in a table that is broken down by region and job type to show what percentage of the project cost is recouped.

Below is a look at the findings for eight different projects (in the midrange and upscale levels),

taken from the latest study, published in November 2007.

Remodeling Cost vs. Value

Midrange	Job Cost	Resale Value	Cost Recouped
Basement remodel	\$62,801	\$38,398	61.1%
Sunroom addition	72,276	37,833	52.3
Window replacement (vinyl)	11,011	7,894	71.7
Window replacement (wood)	12,146	8,758	72.1

Keep in mind that these are averages over a broad region. It's always a wise idea to check with a trusted realtor to get an up-to-date assessment of the home values in your area.

FEATURED SERVICE:

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN COMBINE THE ENERGY SAVING BENEFITS OF INSULATION WITH PEST CONTROL?

PEST CONTROL INSULATION OFFERS MANY BENEFITS:

- CONTROLS PESTS
- SAVES ENERGY & MONEY
- ABSORBS SOUNDS

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Gutter Tips:

Clean gutters: Anyone who's cleaned out a gutter knows it's a messy job with an even messier time cleaning up the debris on the ground after it's been cleaned out of the gutters. But it's a seasonal task that is necessary for your gutters to be able to drain moisture away from your roof and foundations during the winter months.

Here is some information to help you learn more about gutters and find the right service professional to clean your gutters:

Reasons to clean: Water doesn't drain from the downspouts when leaves and other debris clog at the elbows and downspouts, causing overflow. Cleaning this is an easy, do-it-yourself job. Simply insert a hose from the bottom and stuff the opening around the hose with rags so that all the water's force goes upward toward what ever is blocking the pipe.

When water overflows from gutter and drips from joints, the leaks can be sealed with caulk. There's no substitute for cleaning out your gutter system in the spring and fall. Your gutters and downspouts direct rain and snowmelt away from the foundation of the house. When your gutter is clogged with leaves and needles, the water can overflow and collect near the house, seeping through the foundation walls and into the basement.

In the spotlight:

This Months Spotlight Guest:
Kristina - Householder Lifestyle Consulting, LLC

Kristina provides on-site consulting and administrative analysis for businesses looking to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their business office with a focus on bookkeeping with QuickBooks.

Krista serves as the Hospitality Consultant to Clubs and Restaurants.

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** It is always a pleasure to share with you the wonderful people that I have met.

About us:

Westmoreland contractor referral service is your one source for all home improvement projects.

Why call us?

- ✓ When you call we answer
- ✓ Our contractors show up on time
- ✓ We stay with you until the job is complete
- ✓ Our contractors respect you and your property
- ✓ We care and don't rest until your 100% satisfied
- ✓ Free service for the homeowner

List of services:

Additions & remodeling	basements
Bathrooms	cabinets
Concrete overlays	Counter top
Concrete stamping	decks
Driveways	drywall
Electrician's	fences
Garage doors	game rooms
General contractor's	insulation
Kitchens	landscape
Pro-painters	patio's
Pest control	roofing
Retaining walls	sidewalks
Siding	sunrooms windows

....and much more !!!